

Minutes of NPBRT Agricultural and M&I Subcommittee Meeting: 6-9-20 Wattenberg Center (7:00 – 9:00 PM)

Members Present

Ty Wattenberg
Wade Allnut
Barbara Vasquez
Kari VanValkenberg
Jimmer Baller

Others Present

Kara Sobieski (Wilson Water Group)
Brenna Mefford (Wilson Water Group)

Virtual Participants

Russ Sands (CWCB)
Sam Stein (CWCB)

I. BIP Update

-Kara Sobieski, Wilson Water Group

Kara handed out paper copies of a 7-page document that summarized the short-term schedule of the BIP Update, IPP projects from the 2015 BIP and additional items that could be pursued using BIP Update funding. It was clarified that the Subcommittee would be making recommendations to the full Roundtable for consideration for the BIP update. The Subcommittee set the date for another subcommittee meeting on June 22nd from 7 to 9 pm at the Wattenberg Center to finalize those recommendations. During this meeting, the subcommittee will walk through section by section of the Work Plan. The Subcommittee talked about having a full round table meeting on July 7th either in person or virtually depending on the then current County and State COVID-19 regulations.

Kara walked through the following list of additional items that maybe pursued using BIP Update Funding, as budget and schedule allowed:

1. Expand the North Platte Decision Support System modeling to include the Laramie and Sand Creek Water Districts. These areas are currently not included in the consumptive use or surface water modeling datasets used in the BIP Update and would need to be included in the models to analyze gaps and future projects in those areas.
2. Develop a North Platte BRT Website
3. Develop additional educational/outreach items (i.e. short films, brochures)

4. Participate in cross-basin analyses with other Basin Roundtables; potential topics include weather modification, forest health studies, or agricultural economic studies.
5. Further investigate climate-adjusted conditions (e.g. allow for longer growing season, different crop types) to provide more information on how the climate-adjusted conditions may affect agricultural in North Park in the future.
6. Assist with identifying and developing a plan for ditches without measurement devices so that water users can be in compliance with Division of Water Resources measurement requirements.
7. Conduct a diversion infrastructure assessment to identify additional structures that would benefit from modification or rehabilitation.
8. Conduct environmental assessments to identify areas that would benefit from river corridor, habitat, or water quality improvements.
9. Develop a 'white paper' on how irrigation return flows are reused throughout the system, including how increases to agricultural efficiency would impact those return flows.
10. Assist with writing grants for planned projects in the basin
11. Create a 'BRT Coordinator' role that would provide administrative support to the BRT and potentially assist with advancing the projects identified during the BIP Update by working with project proponents and identifying funding opportunities.
12. Create materials to promote tourism (fishing/hunting) opportunities in the basin.

Ty suggested that hiring a coordinator (item No. 11) could be combined with building a BRT website (item No. 2) and assisting with writing grants for planned projects in the basin (item No. 10). Some comments were made that it might be difficult to find one person with all the requisite skills. Each subcommittee member picked the three projects they wanted to recommend to the BRT to pursue. Below is the ranking of the items after the vote:

- Item No. 9 (Irrigation return flows white paper) – **Four Votes**
- Item No. 4 (Participate in a cross-basin analyses) – **Three Votes**
- Item No. 2, 10, and 11 Combined (Hire a BRT Coordinator that can help develop/maintain a BRT website and assist writing grants)– **Three Votes**
- Item No. 8 (Conduct environmental assessments) – **Two Votes**
- Item No. 7 (Conduct a diversion infrastructure assessment) – **One Vote**
- Item No. 1 (Expand the NPDSS) – **One Vote**
- Item No. 2. (Develop a NP BRT website) – **One Vote**

Barbara suggested waiting until after the Environmental and Recreation subcommittee met to narrow down the recommendation to the BRT to only three items.

The Subcommittee then walked through the table of Consumptive Use Projects from the original BIP and the Recently funded WSRF projects. The subcommittee determined if the project was completed, valid and on-going, no longer pursued or if we need more information. Below is the table with the original BIP projects and a table with the recently funded WSRF projects. Both tables have a “Status” column added with the results from the discussion with the subcommittee.

The subcommittee was asked to bring forward any additional consumptive use projects that should be added to the list for the BIP update. These can be sent into Kara by email so they can be added to the list for the scope of work.

Consumptive Use Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Status
MacFarlane Reservoir	Outlet work and toe drain improvements to existing reservoir (WDID 4703614)	Completed
Evapotranspiration Project	Continued support of climate station operation and lysimeter data collection to develop high altitude ET coefficients	Valid and On-going
Walden Reservoir	Dredge reservoir bottom to increase capacity for new use (WDID 4703627)	No Longer Pursued
Basinwide Augmentation Plan	Develop basinwide plan to augment various uses, potentially including augmenting depletions from livestock, industrial or municipal development in the basin	Valid and On-going
Hanson and Wattenberg Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (1,612 acres) potentially served by rehabilitated Hanson and Wattenberg Ditch or new North Platte diversion	No Longer Pursued
Proposed Streamgage Installation	Identify and potentially install new streamflow gages at key locations	Valid and On-going
Storage Protocol	Protocol for storage under the Equitable Apport. Decree	Valid On-going
Irrigation Season Protocol	Protocol to define irrigation season in the basin	Valid On-going
Irrigated Acreage Assessment Protocol	Protocol for delineating irrigation acreage under the Equitable Apport. Decree	Valid On-going
Proposed Willow Creek Reservoir	New reservoir near Willow Creek crossing of Highway 125, potentially filled from Willow Creek or Illinois River	No Longer Pursued

Dam Ditch Headgate Improvement	Redesign/replace existing headgate to increase capacity, ease maintenance issues and improve fish connectivity (WDID 4700582)	No Longer Pursued
Canal Maintenance and Improvements	Process to easily identify and fund needed canal maintenance and improvements	No Longer Pursued
Instream Diversion Structure Identification	Process to easily identify, prioritize, and fund the redesign of existing diversion structures whose instream infrastructure impacts fish connectivity	No Longer Pursued
Lost Creek Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (1,646 acres) potentially served by existing or enlarged Darcy Reservoir or new Willow Creek pipeline (WDID 4700737)	Valid and On-going
Cumberland Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (544 acres) potentially served by rehabilitation of existing Cumberland Ditch siphon under Canadian River (WDID 4700577)	Valid and On-going
Independence Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (5,215 acres) potentially served by enlarged Independence Ditch and/or rehabilitated Big Creek Reservoir (WDID 4700683)	Valid and On-going
Cleveland Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (1,097 acres) potentially served by rehabilitated Cleveland Ditch or new Spring Creek diversion (WDID 4700559)	Need more information
Wolfer Ditch Acreage	Irrigable acreage (431 acres) potentially served by existing Wolfer Ditch (WDID 4700961) or existing or enlarged Butte Reservoir (WDID 4703598)	Need more information
Bona Fide Ditch Acreage	Historically irrigated acreage (31 acres) served by rehabilitated Bona Fide Ditch (WDID 4700515)	Valid and On-going
Butte Reservoir	Enlargement or repurposing of existing reservoir (WDID 4703598), South and East reservoir sites	No Longer Pursued
Proposed Colorado Creek Reservoir	New reservoir near confluence of Colorado Creek and Grizzly Creek (CR 1B and Hwy 14)	No Longer Pursued
Proposed Grizzly Creek Reservoir	New reservoir site near CR 28 and Hwy 14 on the land of John Rich. Site would inundate prime pasture land and may be affected by pending conservation easement. Same location as Richland Reservoir (WDID 4703500) water right. Adjacent to, and may back water up on BLM land.	No Longer Pursued
Proposed Little Grizzly Creek Reservoir	New reservoir near Little Grizzly Creek crossing of County Road 24	No Longer Pursued
Snow Fences	Construction of new snow fences to increase snow deposition, specific locations TBD	No Longer Pursued
Rock Creek Supply Ditch	Transbasin diversion from Willow Creek to Rock Creek; potentially use historical structure (WDID 4702082) for 10 cfs, abandoned in 1992	No Longer Pursued

Shawver Reservoir	Enlargement of existing reservoir (WDID 4703620), potentially use new capacity to supply augmentation plan	No Longer Pursued
Proposed Owl Creek Reservoir	New reservoir on Owl Creek, or potentially enlarge small existing reservoir in area	No Longer Pursued

Recently Funded Projects – WSRF Grants

Project Name	Status
Mallon Extension Ditch Bypass Structure	Complete
Stambaugh Reservoir Outlet Repair	Complete
Aqua Fria Reservoir Rehabilitation	Valid and On-going
Old SC Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Need more information
Darcy Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Need more information
Teller Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Need more information
Briggs Bohn Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Complete
North Platte Basin Airbourne Cloud Seeding Project	Valid and On-going
Coyte Reservoir Outlet Repair	Complete
North Park Irrigated Meadows Conservation Program - Phase II	Valid and On-going
Jackson County Water Structure Improvement Project - Teller	Complete
Implementation of Silver Spur Grazing Management Plan	No Longer Pursued
Big Grizzly Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Complete
Ross Reservoir Repair	Valid and On-going
Staples Ditch (VanValkenburg) – Water Structure Improvement Project	Complete
Rattler Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Complete
Squibob Ditch – Water Structure Improvement Project	Complete
Town of Walden Water Supply Improvement Project	Need more information