

NPBRT Meeting Minutes: 10-19-21

Members/Liaisons present

Aleigh Aurin (CSU Extension)
*Jimmer Baller
Paula Belcher
*Jim Dustin
*Bryce Russell
*Carl Trick
*Kari VanValkenberg
*Pat VanValkenberg
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg (Chair)
*Rick Wyatt

Members/Liaisons not present

*Mike Allnutt
*Wade Alnutt
*Coby Corkle
*Mark Hackleman
*Randy Miller
Christopher Old (USFS)

(*NPBRT voting members)

Non-RT members present

Beth Albrecht
Brian Anderson
Matt Canterbury
Jeff Derry (CSAS)
Blaine Evans
Erin Light (Div. 6 Engineer)
Russ Sands (CWCB)
Kara Sobieski (Wilson Water Group)
Amy Ward
Sam Stein (CWCB)
Russ Sands (CWCB)
Michael Hein
Robert Sakata (Governor Appointee: IBCC)
Matt Linburg (Brown & Caldwell)
Coy Meyring
Elizabeth Schroder (CWCB)

This meeting was multimodal with people attending physically as well as by zoom. Thanks to Sam Stein & for Aleigh Aurin for the support for remote participation.

1-Agenda Review

Agenda accepted as distributed.

2) Review/Approval of draft minutes for Sept 2021 meeting.

Approved unanimously by members present.

3) Finalize North Platte Basin BIP Update

Kara Sobieski, Wilson Water Group

Kara opened the review of the NPB BIP update. The 2015 BIP has been used as the basis for the current North Platte Basin BIP update with the RT making the explicit decision to minimize effort. Vol. 1 update included replacement of the term 'Nonconsumptive use' with 'Environmental and Recreational use'. The state has made a few clarifications in Vol.2 on citing: a) Three States Agreement, Colorado's Plan for Future Depletions, and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP)

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b) Supreme Court decisions

c) Wyoming v. Colorado decision and administration in the Laramie River

Based on discussions in previous meetings, Stream Management Plans have been included in the BIP Vol.2 Section 5 to maintain them as a potential future tool for the basin.

Rick Wyatt suggested wording changes to strike references to Environment and Recreation in several locations. Barbara responded with a suggestion that retaining explicit references to E&R would be appropriate and could be valuable when applying for certain types of project funding. Kara led a group discussion to finalize the proposed changes. Rick made a motion to approve the changes presented and discussed. Carl second the motion and it was passed by the majority of voting RT members present.

Kara explained the next steps required for finalizing the BIP update. The Vol 1 & Vol 2 of NPB BIP are open for public comment on the CWCB website. Between Nov 16, 2021 and Jan14, 2022, staff will compile the public comment and provide them to the BRT which can review and decide how to address them. The BIP documents will then be finalized between Jan.15 to Jan 31.

4) Colorado Dust-On-Snow Project

Jeff Derry, Exec. Director, Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies
(see attached application)

Jeff introduced the RT to the Dust-on-Snow and Avalanche project. Most of the previous work has focused on a single basin, monitoring snow depth and dust-on-snow. The data has been used to develop a 'dust-on-snow' decision tool to help forecast runoff.

For more information go to:

a) Colorado Dust-on-Snow (CODOS): <http://www.codos.org/#codos>

b) Mountain System Monitoring Program: <https://snowstudies.org/>

He is seeking equal funding from 9 basins (\$15k each), \$90k from the statewide account for a WSRF funding total of \$225,000 for a 3 year project totaling \$430,500. He was sked how many monitoring sites would be established in the North Platte watershed. There is currently as site on Willow Creek Pass which has been actively monitored since 2006 and working in conjunction with USGS since 2011. The project has developed the ability to determine sources of the dust based on mineral content. In 2020, the project identified microplastics in the snow.

Jeff explained they've been providing ground-validation for NASA's Airborne Snow Observatory ('Eyes on Snow') in the Conejos Watershed since 2013. And the USGS has installed their Next Generation water Observing System adjacent to the CSAS station and have used CSAS data for calibration.

Jeff made the point that advancing the science and forecasting ability would benefit basins across the state.

The Colorado Dust-on-Snow Project (CODOS) is an applied science effort on behalf of the Colorado water community. Senator Beck Study Basin (SBB) is the "sentry site" for dust-on-snow monitoring but the Project spans multiple basins in the Colorado Mountains:

- Park Cone
- Red Mountain
- Spring Creek
- Wolf Creek

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- Hoosier
- Grizzly Peak
- Berthoud Summit
- Willow Creek
- Rabbit Ears
- McClure
- Grand Mesa

After the informative presentation, several RT members indicated they were unwilling to spend the \$15,000 of basin funds for data-gathering, preferring to save those funds for infrastructure projects. After Ty called for a vote, the majority of voting members present voted not to recommend funding from the NPB.

5) North Park School District: 1% sales tax presentation

Amy Ward, North Park School Superintendent

Amy appreciated the opportunity to explain the 1% sales tax which voters will see on the November Ballot. It is designed to augment state funding. Info can be seen on the school district's web page. Given the lack of direct connection to water activities, the details are not included in the minutes.

6) Old Business/New Business

None

Next meeting

Next meeting set for **Tuesday Jan 18** from 3-5pm in the basement of the SCD building.

7) Meeting adjourned