

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15th, 2022

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Basement of SCD Building, 312 5th Street, Walden

**For those who would like to participate
virtually by Zoom or phone, the link is at the end of the agenda.**

Online

Jeff Rodriquez
Bryce Russell
Barbara Vasquez
Greg Peterson
Erin Light
Ben Krause
Michael Hein
Kara Sobieski

In Person

Ty Wattenberg
Aleigh Aurin
Casey Setash
Wendy Ryan
Keeley Lopez
Mike Allnutt
Paula Belcher
Kari VanValkenburg
Jim Dustin
Ramon Torres
Coy Meyring
Will Ettema

3:00 - 3:10 pm Call to order, Introductions & Agenda Review

3:10 - 3:15 pm Approve minutes of April 2022 meeting

Meeting Minutes from April were approved as written. 1st Jim 2nd Kari

3:15 - 3:30 pm North Platte River Irrigation Water Usage

Erin Light, Division Engineer, Water Division 6

Erin spoke on the water use records for our Basin. Water use for the 2021 was outlined.

The preliminary numbers for 2022 were presented and discussed. The importance of reporting water usage and the documentations of water was brought up. Ways to report and deadlines were outlined. Numbers and the presentation were shared with the Roundtable following the meeting.

3:30 - 3:45 pm Waterfowl Use of Irrigated Meadows in North Park

Casey Setash, CSU Researcher

The project presented discussed the three goals of the research. These included evaluate nesting duck habitat use across North Park, evaluate food availability for breeding ducks across habitats in North Park, and identifying population trends of ducks using North Park. Field methods that were used were covered. Some of the results were Gadwall are the most abundant species, pair counts are highest on reservoirs and ponds, and number of ducks is positively associated with food availability. These results are taken directly from the report. The largest predator of the nests are Ravens. The raven population is increasing in North Park. Normally there are ten eggs to a nest and a hatching rate of 80-90%. Other information can be found in the presentation shared with the Basin Roundtable.

3:45 - 4:05 pm Repair of Legal Tender Ditch near Lake John

Will Ettema, Regional Engineer, Ducks Unlimited

The Legal Tender Ditch Repair was completed last spring. The Basin Roundtable was updated on the process of the project, what was completed, if there were next steps, and the final project description and photos. One question was about bentonite life span and where it comes from. The life span was given to be 30-40 years or more. Bentonite comes from mines throughout the US including Wyoming. More information can be found in the presentation shared with the Basin Roundtable.

4:05 - 4:20 pm Lysimeter Project

Wendy Ryan, Colorado River Engineering Senior Project Manager

The lysimeter project has been taking place since before 2017 in Cowdrey. The goal of the project was to determine the amount of water being consumed by the grass. This information was then compared to the CoAgMet weather station alfalfa reference calculations. With the current data, a depletion analysis was completed. The crop coefficients developed in the study and the using alfalfa reference were both above the three states agreement. The next steps of the study include two options. The study can be discontinued or with the support of the Roundtable, more research can be completed. Some of the questions the Roundtable members were asking included does reference change based on location of CoAgMet and lysimeter, can we use crop coefficients with other weather stations, and are we coming in the ballpark of other weather stations. The answer to this last question was that Wendy would feel better with more data but what does the basin want to use it for? This needs to be discussed more and will be done at a later time.

4:20 - 4:45 pm Old Business

There was no old business.

4:45 - 5:00 pm New Business

Greg Peterson is helping farmers and ranchers write grants and track money for projects, he will pretty much write the grant, go through contract process, etc. any size project lots of funding out there, fee schedule is not a fee

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

The next meeting will be Jan 17th 3-5 pm.