

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17th, 2023

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.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

3:10 - 3:15 pm Approve minutes of Nov. 15th, 2022 meeting

The meeting minutes from November were approved as written by Bryce Russell and Jimmer Baller.

3:15 - 3:35 pm WSRF Grant Application – Gibbs Ditch

Deb Heeney, Own Mountain Partnership

A presentation from Deb Heeney was given on the grant application for Gibbs Ditch. The plan includes raising the ditch and adding 8 independent structures spaced through the 1,050 ft section of ditch. The goal is to level the ditch and control erosion. In the plan a 20 ft pipe is listed to be used. Kari VanValkenburg asked the reasoning for this size. The decision is based on a formula used to decide on material. 20 ft pipe is usually a minimum size used. The pipe will have anti seep collars to control seepage, as well as the guard on the pipe. The ditch should have 13cfs -16 cfs. Currently the water is undercutting the banks and has had the base drop. Barbara asked if other upgrades were needed. The ranch has done some themselves but this project is more than they want to do themselves. Without the work the ditch might erode to the barrow ditch. This project will fix this ditch. They have been patching it for a long time. Willie asked if the repairs would affect the measurement device. The answer was no.

The ask is for \$50,369. Balance on account is estimated to be around one million dollars.

A side note given was that the deadline for this fiscal year is June 1st for WSRF. The fiscal year starts July 1st.

The grant application passed unanimously.

Deb mentioned that the big grant from Owl Mountain partnership is completed.

3:35 - 3:55 pm WSRF Grant Application - Hunter Reservoir Rehabilitation

Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Tammy and Jeff Nicewinder

The grant presentation is in regards to a reservoir just south of state line on Highway 125. Tammy and Jeff Nicewinder acquired the property from family in the last few years and are working to figure out the water situation. The holding capacity has greatly decreased. The reservoir allows for around 149 acre

feet. Currently there are around 40 acre feet. There is a large amount of usable water that is lost through flooding into the state right of way. The water is being used for irrigating hay fields and watering livestock. The water should be able to travel through the ditch to a pasture on the other side of the roadway. Currently there is not enough water for this. The main goal is to raise water capacity. They have also been supplementing with their well. Currently the reservoir is very eroded, including not being able to get water between the sides of the reservoir or through the head gate properly. The head gate does not have proper placement when compared to the build of the water storage. With the project they will dredge the reservoir and use that material to build up a better dam. They plan to raise the dam to 10 ft. The family does have first water rights on three mile. This reservoir has a history with the abandonment list. They were able to get it removed previously, but do not want to lose water. The improvements will also have an overflow gate. Willie asked about restrictions on dam. He noted and clarified that there may need to be an intent for dam safety. There was also a question on why they chose to ask for state money. The grant chose to ask for state money to utilize the resource for infrastructure.

The Grant application for \$13, 639.00 from the Basin Roundtable and the State request for \$6,820.00 were approved unanimously.

3:55 - 4:15 pm CWCB and IBCC Comments

CWCB and IBCC Staff and Representatives

Jeff Rodriguez gave an update on the water plan. It went to print last week. It will need the board approval at the board meeting January 23rd and 24th. There will be a water plan celebration party on the 24th as well in downtown Denver. Here they will also recognize the Basin Hero and Community Water Hero.

CWCB is finalizing the wording to clarify the 10% basin funds match. This 10% basin match can be included as part of the applicants 25% match. The criteria and guidelines will be updated. These will all be clarifications not changes. A FAQ (frequently asked questions) page for grant programs will be coming out.

There is a new regional Water Plan Grant Manager for North Platte, South Platte, and Metro. Jackie will be one of four in the state to support this. Below will be listed some important links from Jeff that were discussed in the meeting.

Barbara wanted to share the Water Budget Packet and Governor's Budget Supplemental. A copy of that will be sent in an email in case the first time it was sent was missed. In the email it outlines the proposed increase in funding. There are also added FTE's coming to DWR, CWCB, Executive Director's Office, and other departments. These will include GIS specialist and Water Plan GIS specialist. There is a proposal for the position tied to the Upper Colorado Colorado Commissioner to separate and have each a designated position. Ty asked who made this decision and was informed it came from the Executive Director's Office.

Water Plan Celebration: <https://engagewcwb.org/colorado-water-plan-launch-celebration>

Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/>

DOLA- Local Community Funding Guide: <https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-technical-assistance/local-community-funding-guide>

Water Funding Navigator: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQVmVJW2huhKOOzvPbFT9IK5_5f5Tj7N7fFJux-6aFwjEnH5B4_52H_AvzGQm-CKZ7xKvpovsNeSVTI/pubhtml

4:15 - 4:30 pm Old Business

There was no old business.

4:30 – 4:45 pm New Business

The next meeting will be scheduled when there is business to attend too. Some ideas for future meetings included examples of watershed projects, agriculture plans, and forest plans.

Carl Trick and Deb Heeney were nominated for the Basin Hero Awards.

Measurement rules are in litigation with 7 protests. There is no hearing date set at this time. When a hearing date is set it will be shared with the basin. This information came from Ramon Torres.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Attendance (* indicates online attendee)

Pat VanValkenburg

Barbara Vasquez

Ramon Torres

Jimmer Baller

Bryce Russell

Deb Heeney *

Chris Olds *

Paula Belcher *

Robert Sakata *

Willie Summers - DWR *

Clinton Whitten - NRCS *

Greg Peterson

Mike Melhan - USFS

Jeff Rodriguez - CWCB

Mike Allnutt

Kari VanValkenburg

Tammy and Jeff Nicewinder

DRousch (Online Screen Name)

Jackie Daoust - CWCB