

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 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 listed below.**

Attendees

Online - Wendy Ryan, Jaqueline Daoust, Michael Hein, C. Craft, Erin Light, Russ Sands, Robert Sakata.

In Person - Cole Bedford, Kari VanValkenburg, Barbara Vasquez, Jimmer Baller, Ramon Torres, Ty Wattenberg, Bryce Russell, Mike Allnutt, Jeff Rodriguez, Kay Weismiller, Aleigh Aurin

4:00 - 4:10 pm Call to order, Introductions & Agenda Review

4:10 - 4:15 pm Approve minutes of March 21st, 2023 meeting

Meeting minutes approval was moved by Kari and seconded by Bryce.

A funds update was given before grant proposals. We started with \$1m in October. The annual spending allocation is \$400,000. We have a balance of \$854,172.

4:15 - 4:35 pm WSRF Grant Application – Lysimeter Continuation

Grant

Wendy Ryan - Colorado River Engineering

The requested amount from Wendy is \$100,000. This will be a continuation of the study that took place from 2016-2022. The usable data from this time period took place from 2018-2021. This study looks and compares data to CoAgMet. The lysimeter shows more consumptive use in the study. The data compares against the alfalfa reference. The focus has been on when the period when water was being applied. In July the use was 24% higher. Some of the impacts on this study included height of the grass for the CoAgMet data. The lysimeter tends to green up faster and may have limited water availability. The three state agreement ac/ft is much lower then the data collected has shown. For now the tasks include equipment procurement, research and purchase of additional soil moisture sensors for surrounding fields, running and monitoring of lysimeters, and data analysis and reporting. There were no questions and the vote passed with all yes' for approval of the project.

4:35 - 4:55 pm CWCB Loan Program

Cole Bedford - CWCB

The CWCB Loan Program is a 52 year old program. There are lots of grants available. The loans are low interest. They are for design and construction of untreated water infrastructure projects. In the past there have been three projects to use this program in Jackson

County; 1981, 1990, and 1994. The loan reviews are six times a year. There is a feasibility study required and this can be difficult. The Michigan River has used this and it was helpful. Contact information is Cole Bedford, P.E. 605-939-5816 or cole.bedford@state.co.us. The second contact is Matt Stefan's, P.E. 720-501-7805 or Matthew.stearns@state.co.us.

3:55 - 4:05 pm Elections

Barbara nominated Ty for Chair. Jimmer made a motion to keep officers the same and recorder the same. There was no discussion. Barbara seconded the motion. Ty Wattenberg will remain chair, Kari VanValkenburg will remain vice chair, and Aleigh Aurin will remain the recorder.

4:05 - 4:20 pm CWCB Board Member Updates

Barbara Vasquez

There was discussion at the last CWCB Meeting about the Colorado River Compact. The six states agreement was also discussed. The lower states are needing to step up with evaporative losses among other information. This Department of Interior is asking for each state to bring ideas to the table. Barbara asked if there was anything anyone on the Roundtable wanted brought to a meeting. One was the Graph Contingency Bill Status. There is not much consensus on the bill and it was not introduced. It is still in draft form.

4:20 - 4:40 pm CWCB and IBCC Comments

Other CWCB updates from Kat were the drought summit on May 31st to June 1st. The C-9 Roundtable Summit is November 14th in Denver. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9DXHTV>. The spring forecast showed 23 counties in drought. There will also be flood bulletins daily. The reminders were Wildfire Ready Watersheds Grants are going. WSRF Grant deadlines are June 1st for the fiscal year cap. The PEPO Statewide Initiatives are available.

There was a question about looking for a new director. They are still working through this. At this point there is no new director position planned. Director Mitchel will be doing both positions.

4:40 - 4:50 pm Old Business

4:50 - 5:00 pm New Business

Some potential projects for the next meeting and this funding cycle were discussed. The next meeting will be May 15th at 4pm.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 16:58