

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15th, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Basement of SCD Building, 312 5th Street, Walden

4:00 - 4:05 pm Call to order, Introductions & Agenda Review

In Person: Sydney Pryor, Kari VanValkenburg, Barbara Vasquez, Mark Hackleman, Jimmer Baller, Ty Wattenberg, Mike Allnutt, Jeff Rodriquez, Aleigh Aurin, Blair Rynearson

Online: Amy Hohnholz, Michael Hein, Robert Sakata, Jacqueline Daoust

4:05 - 4:10 pm Approve minutes of March 21st, 2023 meeting

Approved by Barbara, Seconded by Kari. All approved.

4:10 - 4:30 pm WSRF Grant Application – State Forest State Park

Blair Rynearson - State Forest State Park

This presentation was an extension from the previous meetings presentation. It will be funding for tree removal at the State Forest State Park. They will handle the bids, picking the most cost efficient. The projects will take place on Owl Mountain and State Forest. There will be a State Land Board match to funds. The request is \$100,000 and Blair is optimistic of obtaining this money. This funding will fund the projects on Owl Mountain. The CPW will also match funding. Their match will be close to \$90,000. \$50,000 will come from CPW HPP funds and \$40,000 from CPW Oil/Gas funds and mitigation funds. The State Forest will do an in kind value for the management, administration work, and other ground work. This project fits into the BIP under forest health. This project will have around half completion this year and finish the second half next year. There are still a few companies in Colorado that do this work, so hoping for numerous bids. If the price is too high for the project and funding it will go to rebid. Owl Mountain was last mitigated in the 90's. Lodge pole trees will be the focus on this project. When asked about the continuous nature of the project, it was stated that the goal was to continue with these efforts. The funding is going to be the challenge. The State Land Board is able to help with public lands and the Colorado State Forest is not considered under this. Historically there have been higher timber markets, aiding in funding. Currently the markets have slowed and it cannot generate enough revenue to fund. Blair is hopeful for an increase in these markets in the future to assist with funding. The ask was for \$200,000. It was voted on and results as follows; Kari yes, Barbara yes, Mark yes, Jimmer yes, Mike Allnutt no, Ty yes. The reasoning for Mike's no was that he felt it is a bandaid and the State Land Board needs a tourniquet. 5/1 passed.

4:30 - 4:45 pm CWCB and IBCC Reports

The IBCC meeting will be on June 8th. CWCB meeting will be May 17th and 18th.

Jeff also gave some updates. June 1st is the WSRF Grant deadline. This is also a deadline for PEPO grants, as well as Dec. 1st. Drought summit will be May 31st through June 1st. It will be recorded and available after. Stream Bill 270 was brought up. Also the Governors budget passed. The CWCB Director position is to open. It was discussed how it will be appointed and who will have a say in the hire. The drought task force passed. The flood bulletin is live. The balance of the NP Basin's account is \$654,172. A question was asked about what is happening with Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Jeff did not know the answer. The releases stopped a few months ago. For the compact, they are still collecting information.

4:45 - 4:50 pm Old Business

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Our next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Adjourn at 4:40 pm