

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17th, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Basement of SCD Building, 312 5th Street, Walden

7:00 - 7:05 pm Call to order, Introductions & Agenda Review

Attendance In Person: John Sanderson, Kari VanValkenburg, Tammy Niswender, Jeff Niswender, Paula Belcher, Jimmer Baller, Coy Meyring, Wade Allnutt, Ty Wattenberg, Mark Hackleman, Mike Allnutt, Jeff Rodriguez, Aleigh Aurin, Jacqueline Daoust

Attendance Online: Michael Hein, Erin Light, Sydney Pryor, Robert Sakata, Barbara Vasquez

7:05 - 7:10 pm Approve Minutes of May 15th, 2023 Meeting

Minutes were approved by Mark Hackleman and Jimmer Baller.

7:10 - 7:30 pm Grant Application – Hunter Reservoir Phase 2

Tammy & Jeff Niswender

With the first phase it was discussed to do this project in two phases and build two reservoirs. Through the projects dirt will be brought in and soil from the original dam to be used. This will help to avoid it being a jurisdictional dam. The ditches downstream are also being reworked to improve downstream. This phase will help with the second reservoir. With the original grant, they were able to improve the flow to keep it from entering the roadway. This phase will work to do the same improvements just on the lower reservoir. This will also improve storage levels. The ask was for \$119,400. Ty asked where the materials were coming from. They will come from the property and Big Creek Ranch. Mark asked what this irrigates. It irrigates the hay fields to the west, as well as loops to Big Creek Ranch and back into the pastures of the property. It will increase the amount of possible hay fields as well. Jimmer asked about the estimated acreage increase. It was stated to hopefully increase around 100 acres and allow them to work to get water to the other side of the roadway. It passes unanimously. The amount approved was \$119,400.

7:30 - 7:50 pm North Sand Creek Project Presentation

John Sanderson - Center for Collaborative Conservation

This presentation was to inform the NPBRT about the project that they are working on at the North Sand Creek. This project intersects with four sections of the BIP. More information is in the presentation. It is considered water quality impaired by the 303D. The project is working to improve the amount of sand that is coming down the creek and work to

allow a measuring device to work properly. Currently it is filling with sand at a rate that does not allow water to move through the creek. There are many partners including BLM, Stateline Ranch and CSU. There has been a fence put in to limit traffic in various areas to increase forage. Mark asked if the number one goal is to keep ATVs out of the creek. Yes this is a goal. It was asked about why BLM hasn't fenced out more of the stream access, why the state is opening a trail over the creek, why they are doing this and the concern is the erosion. Paula stated that the parks are supposed to be putting fencing up that limits movement up and down the stream. It was asked about Coon Creek. John stated he will be speaking with the state about it. Damage to the creek through vehicle movement or the movement of trees, etc. out of the waterway looks to be the largest cause of the down flow of sand. It is a very unusual situation. The idea was given of bridges for the crossings as well. Wade asked if where there is fencing, if it is respected by riders. The answer was mostly but not always. They are hoping to connect with other user groups and work with BLM to design signage that is bilingual. They are also continuing to work to identify how much sand is getting into the water and moving down stream. There was also a question on if closing more area on the streams would have an economic impact on the county. This was something John will look into.

7:50 - 8:20 pm WSRF Grant Mexican Reservoir

Coy Meyring

It was presented to the NPBRT about a second phase of enlargement to the Mexican reservoir. There are two decrees off of this reservoir if they can improve the water storage. If improved they can keep a portion of these rights. The reservoir will still have a low hazard rating with increasing the dam height. The goal is to raise the dam height three feet, increasing the capacity to around double the current. There will also be an increase in the spillway to handle potential flows. They will also replace and modernize the outlet with plastic pipe. There will also be concrete walls put in for erosion. This reservoir is on stream for Mexican Creek. It fills and spills in the early months. Jimmer asked about the diversion structure below the reservoir or irrigation only. The outlet directly feeds the Mexican Ditch. The matching funds are 25%. Wade made a comment that the enlargement would allow more irrigation of what is now dry sage brush. At some point this could increase irrigated acres. It has this potential. This also would allow them to water later in the summer. The estimated increase would be 60-70 acres. All board members voted yes and it was approved. The basin approved \$265,500. The matching amount is. \$90,500.

8:20 - 8:35 pm CWCB Board Member Updates

Barbara Vasquez

Jeff gave the updates for Barbara, as she was virtual.

There was a change in leadership for CWCB. Lauren Ris is the new director and Anna Mauss is the new deputy director. The new IBCC Director is Becky Mitchell. The C-9 Summit will be taking place November 14th. They do have funding to support attendance. The draft agenda is on EngageCWCB. To attend, they ask they people RSVP through the QR Code. Some reminders were the Drought Summit has recordings available online. CWCB has deadlines of Dec. 1st for WSRF and WPG grants. Wildfire Ready Watersheds are accepting applications. Technical Assistance is accepting applications. Climate Change is Colorado report will be released in late 2023. We are back at our \$750,000 cap and will probably get the full allocation amount next year. There was some funding added to the statewide account for the coming grant year. There is a reserve built to allow funding for the next three years.

8:35 - 8:45 pm CWCB and IBCC Comments

There are no IBCC updates.

8:45 - 8:50 pm Old Business

None

8:50 - 9:00 pm New Business

None

Next meeting will be scheduled when needed.

Adjourn