

# **North Platte Basin Roundtable**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 19th, 2024**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Basement of SCD Building, 312 5th Street, Walden

### **7:00 - 7:10 pm      Call to order, Introductions & Agenda Review**

In person: Mike Allnutt, Tammy Niswender, Ty Wattenburg, Pat VanValkenburg, Jimmer Baller, Barbara Vasquez, Kari VanValkenburg, Aleigh Aurin

Online: Erin Light, Russ Sands, Michael Hein, Robert Sakata, Amy Ost diek, Jeff Rodriguez, Jackie Daoust

### **7:10 - 7:15 pm      Approve minutes of March 19th, 2024 meeting**

Minutes were approved, moved by Barbara Vasquez, seconded by Jimmer Baller

### **7:15 - 7:25 pm      Officer Elections**

Kari VanValkenburg was recommended for President. She was nominated by Pat VanValkenburg and the nomination was seconded by Barbara Vasquez. It was all Ayes for Kari as the President of the NPBRT.

Ty stated that he would be Vice Chair, Pro-Tempore until the next meeting. Pat moved for this motion. Barbara seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed with all ayes.

For the Reporter Ty made a motion for Aleigh to remain as the reporter. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

### **7:25 - 7:55 pm      Colorado River Project Team**

Trans evaporation studies were discussed first. In 2005 was the last time information was released about consumptive uses and losses. In 2015 there was more information on lower basin consumption. Evaporation and transit losses are greater when Lake Mead is more full. There is about 1.3-1.5 million acre feet of evaporation transit loss in the lower basin. Upper basin calculates differently by including the losses in the consumptive use numbers.

Releases from Flaming Gorge and other large water sources was part of the drought contingency plan of 2019. Flaming Gorge and Blue Mountain had water released for Lake

Powell. The Bureau of Reclamation made a unilateral decision for the release. The decision was for around 161,000 acre feet to be released to prop up Lake Powell in the middle of the summer. This left a huge impact at Blue Mesa. A year later the upper division states came up with a plan to release from Flaming Gorge around 500,00 acre feet for Lake Powell. Consequently, some of the water from Flaming Gorge was released to the lower basin based off of what went into Lake Powell.

**7:55 - 8:15 pm            CWCB Board Member Updates**

Barbara Vasquez

Decision was made to hold the CWCB meeting in Walden on July 17th and 18th. It will be held in the Wattenburg Center. The public can attend. The agenda will be out in the next week. There is potential for a tour of the refuge and the floating solar array at the water treatment plant. This type of set up at the water treatment plant is the first one in Colorado. Local conservancy district has previously done something after hours for the attendees. There is a dinner in the river rock back room for attendees scheduled as well. Maybe Tuesday night or Wednesday night will work for a after hours get together, but that will get discussed with the convergency.

On May 15th and 16th Andrew Rickert presented on weather modification with North Park's aerial seeding program and ground base work for cloud seeding. Barbara will send YouTube link with time stamps for members to watch based on the presentation.

**8:15 - 8:30 pm            CWCB and IBCC Comments**

There was an IBCC meeting yesterday June 18th. Kari joined online. The highlight of the meeting was discussing how to make better use of IBCC, what is it that IBCC can be used for, and what can IBCC accomplish. The discussion brought up the 2013 No and Low Regrets Plan. This led into the 2015 plan to identify policy and projects. The goal is to identify things that can be accomplished. Looking at doing that project again, a 2.0 Low No regrets plan. This would include criterias for IBCC to be met for it to be completed. Something that came up was sometime this summer, before the C-9 Summit, looking at airborne snow observations and airborne cloud seeding elsewhere. What would need to be done to complete this? They want to present to our basin roundtable this summer about project ideas. Stay tuned. This could be a presentation at the roundtable meeting or a recorded webinar. They will keep us posted about it. Barbara stated that when listening to the presentation from the meeting to listen to the end about ethicacy, questions, and discussions.

Barbara was going to share images of paths from the presentation with cloud seeding.

Jeff gave a plug for the C-9 Summit on October 1st and 2nd. It will be in Crested Butte. Day 1 will include tours and activities. Day 2 will include the meetings of the conference. They are currently building the agenda now. It will be a packed summit with a lot of interesting conversations and things like that.

Don't forget about Federal Technical Assistance and Wildfire Watershed Ready Program. These are still accepting applications. Deadlines are July 1st for the Water Plan, WSRF next deadline is August 1st. CWCB guide has a draft posted on Engage CWCB website to go look at. Comments and questions can be submitted on the engage page or email/text/call Jeff.

Russ Sands wanted to thank Ty for all his services over the many years throughout all programs including CWCB and the Basin Roundtable.

**8:30 - 8:40 pm          Old Business**

Barbara was contacted by Colorado Water Education about not having a PEPO. She provided the documents for Kari. The idea of asking Sydney Pryor, the extension agent, was brought up.

**8:40 - 8:50 pm          New Business**

**Next meeting**

It was discussed to meet at least quarterly. Tuesday evenings work well for meetings. We will wait and see about the next meeting and email when needed for it.

**Adjourn - 20:09**