

North Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 25th, 2024

7:00 p.m. - 9:20 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.**

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

In person attendance included Mark H, Jimmer Baller, Pat Van, Kari, Ty, Jeff R, Bryce Russell, Jim Dustin, and Aleigh Aurin.

Online attendance included Barbara, Russ Sands, Michael Hein, Erin Light, JoJo La, and Randy Miller.

7:05 - 7:10 pm Approve Minutes of June 19th, 2024 Meeting

Ty made a motion to approve as presented and Pat seconded.

7:10 - 7:50 pm Dredge and Fill Discussion

CDPHE - JoJo La

This program will be implemented based off of HB 24-1379. It was signed in on May 30th. It is being controlled by the Water Quality Control Division and Water Quality Control Commission. The WQCD are staff to the WQCC who develop and purpose regulations. They implement commission regulations. The WQCC is made of nine volunteers appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The WQCC establish the regulations. The timeline is outlined in the PowerPoint. They are working on stakeholder meetings. There is a meeting on October 1st. There are around 70 exempt ag activities. Bryce asked what it is exactly and Ty asked for more explanation on the exemptions. A list can be shared with the NPBRT of the exemptions. Ty also asked for a list of the commissioners. Jim Dustin asked what grunted there is that it will be followed. The Division will implement and have ideas. Jimmer asked about exemptions, specifically headgates. Are they exempt and how does it work on private. They advised at looking at the house bill. Kari asked if the exclusions are different based on the stream or activity. This depends on the definition of state water. There was a question if there are exceptions for small cities or small population areas. This will focus on economics viability but is not on the current radar, but they will bring it back to the team. Jim Dustin also asked why this was necessary to do this. There was conjecture that CO felt that it needed to protect

wetland or streams and the instability at federal level with administration. They were asked to come present again. The last question asked was if if CWCB will be making a comment. Jeff will ask.

7:50 - 7:55 pm Change of Grantee on Lysimeter Project

Kari VanValkenburg and Jeff Rodriguez

There has been a change in the grantee for this project. Colorado River Engineering does not have the capacity anymore. POBA Water Consultants are the new company. Wendy Lind changed firms.

Other CWCB discussion was made during this topic. The Hunter Reservoir Project got the go ahead from CWCB. Expected completion is Aug of 2029. The water supply res funding grant is allowing more generous funding for local projects. Jeff stated that they revised the WSRF in 2022, stabilizing agriculture infrastructure project. State funding now has a bucket for drought resilience projects. Barbara added that the Weather Mod budget is tight for CWCB with \$500,000 as of last year.

7:55 - 8:25 pm Airborne Snow Observation/Cloud Seeding Presentation

Jeff Rodriguez

The Drought Resilience Action Plan through IBCC is building a new No and Low Regrets program based off of the 2013 program. This is a modernized version. They want to create strategies with round tables and build from there. IBCC want to build cross basin collaboration. Ideas for this program include snow measurement. They would use LiDAR to measure the snowpack. Should we do the CASM and Cloud Seeding/Weather Mod or explore other ideas? Would it make sense to spend money on seeding if we know it worked instead of money on accurate measurement? Accurate measurement for forecasting and the cloud seeding go together. Are there are ideas for other strategies? Could we provide educations on Cloud Seeding and Measurement to the assembly to get more money for the programs? It could be shown the one basin cloud seeding program is helping other basins with the drift and expanded work of the program. Ty feels the measurement program could be helpful. Kari asked if there was a website with the information on measurements, would it be used, specifically with ranching? Ty and Jimmer both said yes. Jimmer feels it should be a high priority with drought resiliency. The long game with the weather mod would be to get federal participation.

**8:25 - 8:55 Data Requirements for WSRF Grant Project Database and
NPBRT Projects Under Review**

Jeff Rodriguez

<https://engagecwcb.org/project-database>

Above is the link for the project database. Before each new BIP these projects are normally gone over. It was discussed to devious Tier 1 projects between 2020 and now. The ones being gone over are in "review" status. There are missing data requirements; i.e. location, project description. There are 21 required data requirements. All the projects on the list brought to the NPBRT have a start date that has passed. Ty asked if we can still approve if not on this list. Yes we can. Many of the projects are Forest Service projects. Ty asked if we wanted to spend state money on FS projects. Not really was the contentious. Jimmer asked if we can remove things off the list. Jeff said yes we can. The wish list is not bad to have but if it doesn't help the goals of the basin maybe it's not worth having on the list. Kari said it can be useful to maintain info and keep an eye on issues. This review has been done before now, so how do we tackle it now? The completed go to their pwn category if CWCB is aware they are done. They are not in a complete easy list, they are scattered around. Jim Dustin asked how we remove them from he list. Do we need a motion? No, not necessarily. A few projects were maybe completed, but it needed checked on. The idea was to look for better basin projects. CWCB cannot use projects for data if there is no information/data in the information for the projects. The plan is to have a meeting and go over the projects for evaluation. It will be discussed if they will be researched into more or removed from the list. The point was made that it is out list so make it show our priorities.

8:55 - 9:00 pm CWCB and IBCC Updates

The C-9 Summit is October 1st and 2nd. The registration is still open with travel and lodging funding available if needed. It will be in Crested Butte. The schedule is a half day, followed by a full day. The Colorado Ag Water Alliance Drought Resiliency Program is open and information is on the webpage. There is a new effort to build infographics for the PEPO's to use. The Turf Replacement Grant Program is still open through October. CWCB is building their guide still. The draft is out now. On the Engage.cwcb.org website there is a draft available to view. They would like to finalize it by fall. If you have questions or comments you can reach out to Jeff. They would like feedback. Here is the link - <https://engagecwcb.org/cwcb-guide>

9:00 - 9:10 pm Old Business

None

9:10 - 9:20 pm New Business

Town Board asked Jim Dustin to still be a part of the Basin Roundtable to fill their seat. Does the board need anything from the town board to continue, as he is representing but

not the Mayor anymore. The NPBRT said he is still good as the rep since he was asked to be. He will get a letter saying he can be rep since he is not mayor anymore.

Adjourn