

North Platte Basin Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 30th, 2025

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

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

In Person Attendance: Annette Quill, Kari VanValkenburg, Wade Allnutt, Mike Allnutt, Ty Wattenberg, Mark Hackleman, Coy Meyring, Rick Wyatt, Jimmer Baller, Bryce Russell, Blair Rynearson, Jim Dustin, Randy Miller, Jeff Niswender, Tammy Niswender, Kade Waldron, Sharron Harvat, Aleigh Aurin, Barbara Vasquez (joined at 7:20)

Online Attendance: Kelly Morgan, Jeff Rodriguez, Erin Light, Amy Hohnholz, Jacie Carano, Michael Hein

7:05 - 7:10 pm Approve Minutes of June 17, 2025 Meeting

Ty made a motion and Jimmer Baller seconded. It passed with all ayes.

7:10 - 7:55 pm CDPHE Dredge and Fill

Annette Quill

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dredge-and-fill>

An update was given on the program implementation. You can visit the website for helpful links, temporary authorization training, and temporary authorization application. Issuing temporary authorizations: The application reviews project analysis, authorization terms and conditions, such as mitigation. More information can be found on the website.

Rick Wyatt had a question: What is the definition of dredge? The Army Core of Engineers definition is what they follow. This includes any discharge of dredge material dirt included. What about an authorization for cleaning a beaver dam? If you needed a 404 permit before you will need one now. This project is covering waters that are no longer covered after the Sackett decision. There is a fee if a notification is required. If not disturbing over certain acreage there is usually not a required permit. Discussion continued. There were a lot of exempted activities that do not require over site.

Rule making hearing status: Anyone can join as party status or come in December for public comment. Voices can be heard through public comment (written comments, personalized letters, oral comments) or become a party to the hearing (pre hearing statement and attendance at final hearing). They are still having stakeholder meetings, with the next being Thursday Oct. 23rd.

Regulation 87 is 12 sections. This presentation was focusing on scope and applicability today. The funding is 60% from state funds and 40% from fees.

State exemptions are broader than federal level exemptions. Non WOTUS state waters will not require an exemption, but need to stay in the same general footprint. Municipalities or industrial purposes are not exempt. See slides for more information. Randy Miller asked: If agriculture users want to increase irrigation area with ditch expansion is that exempt? Yes was the answer. Jim Dustin asked: What are some examples of other waters that are not except or exempt like municipal settling ponds? It was stated that there are 14 exempted activities but check the regulations. Excluded water features vs exempted are some of the things to check on. 11 features are excluded. See section 87.3 of the regulation. Jim Dustin asked: What is the anticipated budget? The total overall is not known. \$190,000 shortfall is what is expected that they think fees will help cover.

Bryce Russell asked: What does the cost of the fees look like? In section 87.12 it shows a tiered structure based on project type and authorization type. Annual fees will be assessed for the project as well. Ty Wattenberg asked: Does it affect CDOT? It will mirror the federal regulations, but they are working closely with CDOT. The counties will probably be similar. Instead of doing it with the Army Core of Engineers, they will do it with the State. Barbara Vasquez asked: How were you able to model the program, funding, and what is to come? Staffing and structure of staffing was also included in this question. They coordinated with Core of Engineers, confines of legislature funding/cashflow, and permits that were covered under policies. More applications will lower the fees. Rick Wyatt asked about removal of willows. The answer was if you needed a permit before you will need one now. If you did not need a permit before, you should likely not need one now. Bryce Russel asked for an example of a project going on now that needs a permit. The example was a housing development project with waters of the state that run through the middle of the project. They had to fill the feature with material to cover it, so required pre authorization. It was small enough it did not require mitigation. Jimmer Baller asked: What about creek crossings or river crossings? If you

add a bridge now you will need a permit. The state will mirror the nationwide permits and it could be under one of the authorizations but not need a permit or preapproval. It is more focused on development. Focus on 87.3. This is a good place to start.

7:55 - 8:10 pm Project Updates - Aqua Fria

Sharon Harvat

They had to clear away silt and debris to get to the bottom of the dam. They had 5 guys up there working on the project. This was a maintenance project. They dug out the loose rock and concrete, put rebar in there to tie in the new material, and did the left hand side first. The rock that was already up there was used. A protection structure was added. The only thing that is not completed is the staff gauge. They wanted to thank the NPBRT for the help for the grant and show that it is finally done.

Jimmer asked: What about the pipe and stuff there for the protection structure? Are you worried about it being shifted with the ice? The horizontal part of the structure is about 2ft into the dam and the bottom uprights are cemented. They are hoping it does hold up. In all the talk that was done prior, there was not much guidance on the best way to complete it.

8:10 - 8:25 pm Project Update - State Forest State Park

Blair Rynearson

High tree mortality has been happening. The places they had completed treatment were not hit as hard. Lodgepole is the predominant forest type. Why Thin: competition between trees slows growth, as stands mature there is a greater risk of fire, and otherwise it shades out understory plants. The water yield benefits include increased snow water equivalent, decreased transportation, and decreased interception and sublimation. They are monitoring the results with the snow water equivalent. Rick asked about a 10x10' distance between trees. This project had 9-9.5' and 8'x8'.

The project had the Seed funding from BRT. Funding included the NPBRT for \$200,000, State Land Board Enhancement Fund for \$100,000, State HPP for \$100,000, North Park HPP for \$40,000, and CPW for \$50,000.

Phase 1 was 259 acres thinned at 9x9' with pile and slash burn prescriptions. Cost per acre was \$970.00

Phase 2, which included our funding was 360 acres that were thinned to 8x8 ft spacing in a lop and scatter technique for \$484/acre.

They will be monitoring the snowpack. CWCB wanted to see monitoring of the impact. There are three snow courses established in stands. They are the three areas that were thinned to 8x8ft lop and scatter, 9x9ft pile and burn, and a no treatment. Barbara asked how long we will

monitor the areas. They will be monitored as long as there is the monitoring service but hopefully long term.

8:25 - 8:30 pm Project Update - Owl Mountain

The Chapman Ditch application just got notice to proceed.

8:30 - 8:40 pm New Member Discussion

Kari brought up some possible new members. Coy Meyring is interested as a water rights holder. Discussion continued. Coy agreed to being interested in the position. Rick made a motion and Ty seconded the motion. It passed with all ayes.

Tammy and Jeff Niswender were also interested as water rights holders. It was discussed that it would be ideal for only one of them to be on the board. Jeff agreed he was interested. Ty made a motion and Jimmer seconded the motion. It was passed with all ayes.

8:40 - 8:50 pm IBCC and CWCB updates

CWCB had a hearing on the Shoshone water with parties from both slopes. There was no movement to a settlement. Colorado River District gave them a break on making a decision. The decision will now be in November. There is more information on the Shoshone webpage. Ty later came back with questions on this project. He stressed the importance of keeping the water on the western slope. They believe in keeping the water in the river.

C9 summit: It will cover DWR Ag Protection Water Rights Meetings, Wildfire & flooding emergency loans contact information. Information available at engagecwcb.org/c9-summit.

There were a huge number of water plan grants in this cycle. There were more than a full years worth of submissions. None of them were from our basin roundtable. It is a different "color" of money than the other grants. The roundtables will get funded again using a savings account that has three years worth of funding for roundtables.

Other important links:

Water Conditions Monitoring Webinar

cwcb.colorado.gov/Water-Conditions-Monitoring-Committee

Fluvial Futures Webinars

www.casfm.org/2025/06/05/fluviat-futures-webinar-series/cwcb-fluvial-futures-webinar-series20250522/

DWR Ag Protection Water Rights Meetings:

dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=4462805&dbid=0

Shoshone Webpage: cwcb.colorado.gov/2025-shoshone-isf-acquistion

Wildfire & Flooding Emergency Loans: coloradoriver.com or contact Matt Stearns matthew.stearns@state.co.us

IBCC - There has not been a meeting since the last basin meeting. They are still working on a “no and low regrets” updated program. They are also looking at an Increased demand in the lower water world. She will be bringing a variety of topics over the next few years for discussion.

Jimmer asked what our balance of funds is for the basin. It is \$664,375.

A question about the deadlines for construction on a project, if they come to the roundtable in November was asked. They then clarified if they would they have the funding to get the project done next fall. Yes, the CWCB deadline would be Dec. 1st, then it would be heard in March, and contracting is 30-60 days.

Barbara had cloud seeding questions on the cloud seeding for Wyoming. There was discussion on impacts we will have with changes they are implementing.

8:50 - 8:55 pm Old Business

No old business.

8:55 - 9:00 pm New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

There will be a meeting in November.