

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 7-7-20
Wattenberg Center (5:00 - 7:00 and 7:00 – 9:00 PM)

5-7 pm Session

Members/Liaisons Present

*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt
Deb Heeney (NRCS)
*Randy Miller
*Kari VanValkenberg
*Coby Corkle

Non-RT member participants

Kara Sobieski (Wilson Water Group)
Brenna Mefford (Wilson Water Group)
Jim Dustin (Town of Walden)

Members/Liaisons – Virtual

*Carl Trick
David Graf (CPW)
Matt Sinclair (State Forest State Park)

Non-RT members-Virtual

Sam Stein (CWCB)
Russ Sands (CWCB)
Matt Lindburg (CWCB)
Debbie Alpe (OMP)

7-9 pm Session

Members/Liaisons Present

*Ty Wattenberg
*Mike Allnutt
Deb Heeney (NRCS)
*Wade Allnutt
*Jimmer Baller
*Barbara Vasquez
*Pat VanValkenberg

Non-RT member participants

Kara Sobieski (Wilson Water Group)
Brenna Mefford (Wilson Water Group)

Members/Liaisons – Virtual

Non-RT members-Virtual

Sam Stein (CWCB)
Russ Sands (CWCB)
Matt Lindburg (CWCB)
Debbie Alpe (OMP)
Erin Light (Div. 6 Engineer)

This meeting was kind of an experiment. It was held in two separate sessions to at once accommodate an in-person meeting format and to also comply with the 10 persons or less rule for indoor meetings currently in force in Colorado due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although sincere attempts were made to conduct each session equally, the sentiments expressed and decisions made in the first session significantly informed the outcome of the meetings regarding the Basin Implementation Plan.

I. WSRF Grants

Both sessions:

Deb Heeney presented a new WSRF grant application that includes the following structures: (1) Hanover Ditch – install a new headgate and 5' flume, (2) Sales Ditch – install a new 4' flume and (3) Damfino Ditch – install a new 3' flume. The total grant request for WSRF funding is \$66,219. The total cost of the project is \$102,831. For the grant application to meet the CWCB deadline for the September board meeting, the RT would need to temporarily suspend the BRT rule that requires submission of the application at least 20d prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted on.

5-7pm Session

Rick Wyatt motioned to suspend the BRT rules and Randy Miller seconded the motion. As her family would be the recipient of a portion of the grant via the Damfino Ditch improvements, Kari VanValkenberg recused herself from voting. The remaining BRT members voted unanimously to suspend the BRT rules. Rick Wyatt motioned for the BRT to approve the grant request; Randy Miller seconded the motion. The remaining BRT members voted unanimously to approve the grant request. There was question regarding whether Jim Dustin, as the Mayor of Walden, is a voting BRT member. Ty Wattenberg indicated that the Town of Walden would need to designate the Mayor as their representative before he could be considered a voting member. Jim Dustin indicated he would work with the Town to accomplish this.

7-9pm Session

Following a presentation of the WSRF application information, it was explained that the earlier session voted to suspend the 20d rule and voted to approve the application. Jimmer motioned for the BRT to suspend the rules, it was seconded by Pat. It passed with one no vote by B. Vasquez who felt that the RT could have considered it at a later meeting without hampering the successful submission of the application to CWCB in time for construction next year, as planned. Jimmer motioned to approve the grant request, it was seconded by Pat and passed unanimously by the 6 voting members to forward the application to the CWCB.

Jimmer indicated that Michigan River Water Conservancy District was developing a WSRF grant application, with the help of Greg Peterson from Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (CAWA), for approximately \$15,000 for a storage study in Meadow Creek Reservoir. The group discussed the CWCB and BRT deadlines for reviewing and approving the grant application. Jim Baller indicated he would circulate the application for BRT review soon.

II. BIP Update

-Kara Sobieski and Brenna Mefford, Wilson Water Group

Both sessions:

Kara began by summarizing what the subcommittees (Ag+M&I, Env & Rec) had discussed in two meetings each over the past month as well as the purpose of the Work Plan and how it is essentially a scope of work for Wilson Water Group. Kara walked through Task 1 of the Work Plan and described the recommendation of the two

subcommittees to have Wilson Water Group populate the consumptive use projects, and the E&R project proponents will populate their spreadsheet and have Wilson Water Group review. The BRT agreed with this recommendation.

5-7pm Session

David Graf asked about the costing tool and whether he should be using that instead of his best guess. Kara responded that we would use the costing tool as a last resort and that we would rely upon project proponent costing information if it were available before using the costing tool. Deb Heeney echoed the concerns that more accurate costs could be provided by project proponents or gathered from WSRF grants, and that a costing tool would likely not result in accurate costs. The group briefly discussed the tiering matrix that would be applied to each IPP; Coby indicated the ranking values in the matrix currently reflected in the Work Plan did not seem to add up to the tiering totals. WWG indicated they would address this concern in the next version of the Work Plan.

Kara then walked through Task 2 of the Work Plan, which describes the BRT meetings that would need to occur to cover all the topics in the Work Plan.

The BRT then discussed how it could meet with the current Covid-19 restrictions. Many BRT members indicated they did not have sufficient internet capabilities to attend a virtual meeting and if they were to call into a virtual meeting, the sound quality made it difficult to participate in the meeting and see meeting materials. The following options were discussed:

1. The BRT forms a BIP subcommittee that acts as the liaison between Wilson Water Group and the full BRT. The BIP Subcommittee would be limited to a total of 8 people if Wilson Water Group would attend meetings in person or 10 people if Wilson Water Group would attend remotely/virtually. Work continues on the BIP Update as planned.
2. The BRT currently halts any BIP Update progress until Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.
3. The BRT does the minimal effort to complete the BIP update and only holds 3 meetings through April 2021 because of the restrictions in place for meetings during Covid-19.

The BRT decided to go with option number three and do the minimal to complete the BIP Update. If Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, the BRT will revisit if they want to do more of the BIP update effort. The BRT agreed to the following three meetings:

- Meet in September to review and finalize the IPP database
- Meet in November to review and revise the Technical Update assumptions and results.
- Meet in April to review materials developed by the General Contractor for the North Platte basin.

7-9 pm Session

Kara walked through Task 1 and Ty and Kara explained that the first meeting session had strongly rejected the proposal of the Subcommittees to take the middle path. Instead, they chose to make minimal effort on the BIP update due to the difficulties of meeting in person and the inability or difficulty of meeting virtually for many living with rural broadband service. Most of the members attending this session agreed. Barbara commented that CWCB may be looking state-wide, independent of basin, for projects to fund first that score the highest in their new tiering structure. With the additional limitations on funds brought on by the COVID-19 economy, if we don't have the BIP updated, could we be hurting the North Platte Basin's opportunities for funding? E&R folks will probably decide to meet virtually in order to complete the project spreadsheet to provide to WWG.

Both Sessions

Kara said she would revise the Work Plan to take into account the BRT's new path forward for the BIP Update. Kara will email out the updated Work Plan and mail paper copies to the County building for BRT members to pick up and review if they prefer that over electronically reviewing. BRT members will need to provide comments back to Wilson Water Group electronically or over the phone.

Additionally, Brenna indicated that she will email out the initial list of IPPs for the group to review and mail paper copies to the County Administrator's office for BRT members to pick up and review if they prefer hardcopies. The BRT members will need to let Brenna know if they have any changes or additions to the list.