

GREEN RIVER BASIN PLAN II

BAG Meeting No. 3 Meeting Notes

May 22 6:00 PM

Municipal Courtroom
Lyman Town Hall

The meeting generally followed the format of the agenda distributed by the WWDO:

1. Introductions

Earl Degroot, Facilitator on the Planning Team, introduced the team and presented several logistical details about the meeting.

2. Description and purpose of meeting

Earl presented a power point slideshow outlining the purpose of the planning process, explaining the handouts at the meeting, and the methods through which the State and Planning Team was collecting input. That presentation is available at waterplan.state.wy.us

3. Consultant update

Murray Schroeder presented information and exhibits' showing the progress the consulting team has made making population projections in the basin. That information is available at waterplan.state.wy.us. There were several questions from the audience related to the methods used to make the projections.

4. Presentations

An important goal of the BAG Update process is to advance the BAG's identification and discussion regarding strategies for resolving basin water use issues. The previous 2001 plan identified many issues, but did not address in depth how those issues might be resolved. With a goal of identifying strategies, this and future BAG meetings are designed to have public presentations from a variety of BAG members. The presentations are intended to present the BAG

member's ideas about what their specific challenges are and what some of the strategies might be for addressing the challenges. By design, this public meeting setting is intended to foster an open discussion about strategies.

To this end, this meeting had two presentations, each followed by a strategies discussion in which ideas were recorded by the planning team. Those ideas were recorded on large paper flip charts (photos attached).

Presentations were as follows:

- A. Uinta County Conservation District; Karri Sabey, discussed the impaired stream classification on the Blacks Fork and Smiths For (sediment and fecal coli form) and the conservation district's strategies for correcting the problem.

There first strategy is to follow a watershed plan and they are implementing a couple programs that have come out of that plan. The programs include a septic system remediation program and an animal feedlot operations program. The septic systems program has been used to relocate or install septic systems near the streams where treatment was not being practiced. The feedlot operations program is used to evaluate and fund water gap construction, reconstruct corrals away from water bodies and drilling wells on the open range to encourage dispersing of cattle.

The second strategy to address the water quality issues in the area was to continue the data collection work they are doing at this time. Hopefully, with time, the efforts mentioned above will start to show positive improvements in the water quality data.

- B. Ken Fackrell, Bridger Valley Water Conservancy District, discussed the operation of the dams serving water users in the district, including Meeks Cabin and State Line dams. Ken presented many slides on the projects and facts concerning their design and operation.

The primary issue facing the group is the lack of water storage to meet needs. Strategies that are being performed to alleviate shortages include studies by the USBR and a paleo study of floods. The paleo study of floods may be used to document a smaller PMF than theoretically possible, allowing for more reservoir storage (Meeks Cabin) to meet delivery needs as opposed to temporary flood storage.

Ken mentioned that the West Fork of the Smith's Fork is not dammed and that they would like to catch that water. A possible study should be evaluated for this.

Ken also commented on the possible raise of Meeks Cabin.

C. In addition to listening to the issues and strategies presentations from above, the meeting included a broader discussion of the issues and strategies in the basin and these included:

- Issue of beetle kill in forest, reservoir sedimentation and resultant water storage loss in reservoirs. No strategies were offered to address this issue.
- Population increases and water demand increases. The question was “How to be prepared” for this condition. The discussion centered on how to justify storage projects without having actual demand. Mr. Tyrell commented that it is difficult to show need that exceeds current demands when it comes to agricultural projects. Municipal projects have more latitude to grow into water use.
- Water Right Protection to Protect Future Use. Strategies to address this issue that were brought up by the audience included the continued funding of basin and state water planning efforts. In addition, there seemed to be a consensus in the audience that the state ought to support smart projects with dollars.
- The issue of how consumptive use of water will increase with climate change was brought up, and the thought that it would apply to all use sectors including municipal water use and agricultural water use. The strategy mentioned to address this was to factor this into the planning efforts of the state.
- Finally, the Oil Shale issue was mentioned and its potential impact on the water supply. The audience agreed that this should be studied in state funded water planning.

D. Pat Tyrrell, SEO; Update on Colorado River Basin Topics

Pat gave an update on several issues affecting water use in the Green River Basin, including the much improved outlook for water supplies across the state this year. His presentation is available at waterplan.state.wy.us

UCD

ISSUE / PROBLEM

→ IMPAIRED STREAMS

- SED
- FEC

STRATEGY / SOLUTION

WATERSHED PLANNING

CONT DATA COLLECTION

RE-EVALUATE

BV

ISSUE

LACK STORAGE
TO MEET NEEDS

STRATEGY

RECLAMATION

PALEO STUDY -

BASIN WIDE

ISSUE

Beetle kill
SEDIMENTATION
STORAGE LOSS

STRATEGY

POP ↑ DEMAND

[MAY NOT BE ENOUGH
TO JUSTIFY STORAGE]

HOW TO BE
PREPARED FOR
THIS

ISSUE

WATER RIGHT
PROTECTION TO
PROTECT FUTURE USE

STRATEGY

o BASIN/STATE
PLANNING

o SUPPORT
SMART
PROTECTS
WITH \$

~~o HIRE SMART
STATE ENG~~

o EDUCATION

R
P.R.

~~PLAN FOR~~

CU ↑ DUE TO
CLIMATE VARIATION
CHANGE

MUNI / AG / RANGE

FACTOR THIS
IN PLANNING

ISSUE

STRATEGY

OIL SHALE
DEV. IMPACT ON
H₂O SUPPLY

PLAN

VALUE ISSUE
