

Wood River Water Collaborative Meeting Minutes 1/16/2018

Attendees: Pat McMahon, Evan Robertston, Kelly West, Brett Stevenson, Justin Stevenson, Mark Davidson, Chris Johnson, Richard Carr, Patti Lousen, Amy Trujillo, Bob Simpson, Greg Loomis, Josh Johnson, Carl Pendleton, Rod Hubsmith, Kevin Lakey, Peter Anderson, Jim Phillips, Maggi Kraft, Ron Abramovich, John Stevenson, Brian Wood, Pat Purdy, and Bill Hazen. On Phone: Sharon Lee, Keri York

Snow and Surface Water Prediction Presentation by Ron Abramovich (NRCS)

Ron reviewed data available to the public through the Idaho Snow Survey Program on NRCS's website, including year to date snow and precipitation levels from SNOTEL sites in the Big Wood Basin. Ron developed a Snow Index for the Big Wood River above Hailey (handouts attached) from historic snow survey data, which can be used to find similar years to aid in prediction efforts. Ron also discussed the SWSI (Surface Water Supply Index) for the Big Wood above Hailey, and showed the group how to find other data available on the NRCS website, including a 7-day precipitation forecast, Peak Streamflow information, and Water Supply Outlook report.

Mark Davidson asked the group would be most helpful from the data Ron has available. The group determined that it would be helpful to know by March 20-25 what curtailments are anticipated so growers can plan for crops. The group suggested the following links be added to the WRWC website (and updated monthly starting in January) for use by the partners:

1. Idaho Update Report
2. SWSI Big Wood Basin
3. Big Wood Projection Graph with non-exceedance values
4. Water Supply Outlook Report (SWSI available 5th weekday of each month)

The SWSI for the Big Wood at Hailey needs an "Adequate Irrigation Supply" benchmark. Ron needs acre-feet data from users to get a rough estimate of usage for the Adequate Irrigation line. This would require a farmer interview process to find out how much they need in the Bellevue Triangle. Kevin?? Keri will coordinate a subcommittee to do this in February. (Subcommittee members: Keri, Kevin, Chris, Pat Purdy, Justin Stevenson, Rod Hubsmith and Ron Abramovich). Rod asked to include the Little Wood when talking about the Bellevue Triangle. The subcommittee goal is to come up with a SWSI with a benchmark line of anticipated surface water supplies, and potential shut off dates by March 25. Next meeting of this subcommittee is Feb 15th at 10 am at the TU office.

Wood River Collaborative Website

- Patti thanked Greg Loomis for creating the site (found at either www.woodriverwater.com or www.woodriverwater.org). Greg is also providing 3 years of maintenance and web domain. Michelle Stennett gave \$1,000 to fund a portion of the site. Many thanks to both.

- Greg took participants through the site. He will add the NRCS water data links specified above. Date from stream flow gauges are already uploaded to the site. Partners should let Greg know if they find glitches on the site or if there are changes they'd like to request.
- Patti mentioned that there is a grants section on the site where partners can find the grants submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation. These include maps and relevant narrative information if the partners would find that useful for their purposes.
- An email will go out to the group when the new requested links are up on the site.

BOR Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Grant

- Patti reported that the NGOs will not be applying for the drought contingency planning grant, but will be applying for a Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning grant. We received positive feedback about the 2015 CWMP grant, and will be incorporating the BOR's feedback that we describe the work in a more holistic manner. These grants help groups like the WRWC develop collaborative solutions for water conservation. There is no cost-share required. The grant will be for \$50,000 over 2 years. New criteria for the grant include addressing conflicts over water supply, declining resiliency, and water shortages. Our grant will focus on continued outreach, including public outreach; collecting baseline information for project development; identifying restoration needs; mapping and technical analysis (i.e., model requests); working with members and agencies; analyses regarding project priorities and identifying sites; and some site-specific design and engineering to help guide in project selection. (This grant is for planning only, not for project implementation.)
- The grant is due January 31st. Patti will be contacting partners for letters of support and will send out the grant when it is completed.

Updates and Announcements

- NGO staffing changes – Patti reported that she is retiring from Wood River Land Trust. She will stay on the modeling committee. Amy Trujillo is the new Deputy Director at Wood River Land Trust and will be working with Mark and Keri on the Collaborative moving forward.
- There is a Groundwater model request subcommittee meeting 2/7/2018 at 10:30am at the WRLT office (119 E Bullion St., Hailey).
- Land Use Subcommittee – Mark will be facilitating this subcommittee moving forward. No date set yet for the next meeting, but there will be one soon. The subcommittee will be looking at the impacts of annexations on water issues. Subcommittee members include: Jim Phillips, Brett Stevenson, Justin Stevenson, Chris Johnson, and the municipal working group (20 entities).
- Hwy 26 (Silver Creek) Project Update – Mark reported that Sun Valley Water and Sewer are working on a hydraulic analysis, looking at current conditions and capacity under the highway and whether increasing capacity under the highway will provide more flow.

Additional Member Updates

- There are a couple pesticide CLE courses coming up: February 8 in Burley and February 16. See Keri for details on the Feb. 16 training.

Meeting was adjourned 2:30pm.

Next Meeting – Feb 27th at 10 am. Focus on member projects that the Collaborative can support.