

PAC Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2021

In Attendance:

Callie Hendrickson
Chris Collins
Kendra Young
Alden VanderBrink

David Graf
Forrest Nelson
Linda Masters
Liz Chandler

Ed Smercina
Ian Wilson
Mario Sullivan

Ron Reich
Rosaly Coombs
Kari Brennan

By Zoom:

Deirdre McNab
Stu Massey

John Leary

Mike Dillon

Walt Proctor

Decisions

- Water 4 will be invited to present at a future PAC Meeting
- More information is needed about in-stream flow water rights. The PAC Coordinator will work with the CD office to bring in diverse presentations to help the PAC understand the full scope and impact of in-stream flows.

Diversion Assessment Update

Kari Brennan provided an update on the team training and public workshops. After the public workshops there has been an increase in interest by water rights owners to have their diversions assessed. Concern was expressed about well rights vs pump rights on the Lower White River. The team will suggest water rights owners contact the Division Engineer, Water Commissioner, or their attorney if they have questions regarding their water rights.

Riparian Assessment Update

Mario Sullivan provided an update on the upcoming team trainings and assessment plans. The Virtual Training will be July 13 and 14th and Field Training will be July 20 - 21st. The team will start their assessments on public access points and continue with private land as permission is granted.

Overview of Water Planning

Liz Chandler gave an overview of some of the more common water planning types. Please see Water Plans presentation on the Conservation District website.

Water 4

Chris Collins presented basic information about Water 4 and asked if the PAC would like more information. Water 4 is a group that is working to preserve wetlands for alluvial storage and migratory birds. It was mentioned that over 160 different species of birds migrate through the White River area in the spring and fall. The goal of the Water 4 group is to aid with irrigation efficiencies while still preserving flood irrigation and the ground water recharge that it provides. It was decided to ask Water 4 to present to the PAC.

In-Stream Flow (ISF) Filings on the White River and its tributaries

There are multiple new filings for ISF. The issue was discussed and it was decided to bring in multiple speakers so the PAC can more fully understand all of the implications of ISF. Names mentioned were Alan Funk, Rob Viehl, and a representative from the Colorado River District.

Trout Passage and Entrainment

Ian Wilson, Trout Unlimited, gave a presentation on Water Diversions and trout passage. Please click on the Fish Passage link on CD website to see full presentation. The presentation was very informative and provided good examples of obstructions as well as creative solutions to solve obstruction issues. Entrainment can be very expensive to mitigate depending on the size and orientation of the diversion. Because of this, salvage operations to remove fish from the ditch are more viable than screening the diversion intake in some instances.

Announcements

Public Input meetings will take place in August. Dates and locations will be posted on the District website.

Linda Masters stated that CSU has a lot of financial planning tools available online. These are designed to aid in decisions regarding the profitability of keeping your cattle. Deirdre was in favor of providing this information to ranchers.

Deirdre mentioned there will be a good article in this week's Herald about the historical vegetation present in the valley.

Members were asked to please e-mail, text, or call the PAC Coordinator with ideas on information they would like to hear at future meetings.