

AGENDA // **ACTIONS TAKEN IN RED**

The Poudre Runs Through It Study/Action Work Group

January 4, 2019

TAMASAG (4825 County Road 52E, Bellvue)

7:30—8:00

Breakfast—Dialogue

8:00—8:20

Setting the Stage for the Day and Looking Forward—Reagan

- Congratulations to Jen Kovecses/Coalition for the Cache la Poudre Watershed for receiving the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for work on water quality and stewardship.
- Financial Update—thanks to those who have made their contribution to our base funding.

8:20—9:00

What Is Happening on the Poudre?

- Round Robin Reports from Members
- Poudre Heritage Alliance looking for Poudre Pub speakers

9:00—9:45

Initiatives and Other Actions Reports

- Poudre River Forum
 - Poudre Pioneer Award—choose among those recommended by the Poudre River Forum steering committee

The group reviewed the qualifications of the candidates and discussed the interest that PRTI has in honoring those with influence on both the healthy river aspect as well as those with influence on the working river aspect, as well as the importance of, over time, honoring those along the full stretch of the river. In light of this discussion, John Stokes made a motion, seconded by Ray Caraway, that we have two awardees—Loren Maxey and Tom Shoemaker. Though we usually do not make decisions by a formal vote, we did follow through on this with a vote, which resulted in a decision to have two awardees. We are asking everyone to keep this confidential until the forum.
- FLOWS Initiative

John Stokes reported that recently the State Engineer's office is expressing some concerns about the legality of the augmentation/flows approach. Members discussed with John the possibility of whether some legislative action might be needed to overcome the SEO's concerns. We are

supportive of the continued discussions underway including all the parties involved.

- Diversion Improvements
- Other?

9:45—10:00

Break and group photo

10:00—10:30

New Actions to Consider

1. “Poudre Flows Coordination Conversation” —Brad Wind
The group discussed the prior meeting’s presentation on the Colorado River HUP call, and whether PRTI might adopt something similar. The group agreed that such communication about flows would likely need to take a completely different shape and form here on the Poudre—perhaps beginning with just communication among diverters prior to planned releases from Horsetooth. Brad took the names of those interested in continuing conversation about this and agreed to call a meeting. Asked if PRTI should adopt an initiative on this subject, Brad recommended we wait until the March meeting to see what folks are thinking from their initial meeting.
2. Poudre Basin Information Platform--Steve Malers
Steve shared with the group a two-page document about his proposal (see attached.) The group discussed what audience Steve has in mind for this information platform and the importance of PRTI members working with Steve to determine what products can best meet the needs of the determined audience(s.) The group determined to adopt this as a PRTI initiative. Steve suggested that, to begin, he will draw on the same members who signed up for the meeting to discuss Poudre Flows Coordination Conversation. Steve will begin bringing information products to PRTI meetings for review and comment.
3. Water Savvy Citizens—Julie and MaryLou
MaryLou discussed an idea that PRTI has been floating for some time, specifically the idea of an educational program (in addition to the Poudre River Forum) to meet a broader audience over a longer period of time than the Poudre River Forum. Reference was made to the very successful Osher class conducted a few years ago. Given that we would be hearing later in the agenda about a regional water dialogue, and that this regional effort might be an avenue for pursuing a “Water Savvy Citizens” effort, no specific action was taken.

4. Flushing Flows—Ken Kehmeier

Ken discussed that this initiative would have a lot to learn from the FLOWS initiative and how it maneuvers its challenges. Also, that flushing flows is a concept introduced in Northern's mitigation plan for NISP. Because of these two things pending, he will keep bringing this up from time to time, but he does not have a proposal at this time for the membership to act on.

5. Others?

10:30—10:50

Katie Wallace, New Belgium: What is New Belgium doing in regard to the Poudre? Are there ways PRTI and New Belgium might work together in the future?

10:50—11:55

Roy Otto, Greeley City Manager and Ray Caraway, Community Foundation of Northern Colorado—A Regional Water Dialogue for Northern Colorado?

11:55—12noon

Closing and Adjourn—Reagan

Proposal to Implement the Poudre Basin Information Platform (2 page summary)
Open Water Foundation, Steve Malers, steve.malers@openwaterfoundation.org, 970-988-1447
2019-01-04

Overview

The Open Water Foundation (OWF) is proposing to implement a web-based Poudre Basin Information Platform that will have the following outcomes, depending on the level of funding that can be obtained:

1. Enhance education of the PRTI members, its stakeholders, and the public about important Poudre Basin water resources issues.
2. Implement a web dashboard to provide access to cross-jurisdictional datasets for the Poudre Basin, integrating datasets from various entities in the basin and providing links to datasets:
 - a. Historical data to provide context for important water resources topics such as drought, trends, and sector water use.
 - b. Current/seasonal products that help to understand recent history, now, and near future, **for example, to support a Poudre River “stand up” coordination call.**
3. Implement data-driven stories for important topics, to provide a foundational level of information.
4. Support the efforts of the PRTI by encouraging a more informed membership, help with onboarding.
5. Support and integrate with specific technical efforts such as **Stream Management Plan** (CPRW?).
6. Integrate with PRTI member organizations. For example, link to historical/educational resources of the Poudre Heritage Alliance, link to organization websites as a general resource.
7. Demonstrate that PRTI and the Poudre Basin as a whole is innovative and collaborative by implementing projects such as this project.
8. Advance tools that could be applied to other basins in the State, such as via CWCB programs.

Deliverables

1. Poudre Basin Information Platform website, hosted by the Open Water Foundation
2. Training and demonstration meetings and webinars, starting with PRTI members and then others based on opportunity and impact

Cost and Schedule Considerations

- \$25,000 - “bare bones” prototype to illustrate utility of the web application and refine approach
- \$50,000 - solid core components, such as entity map and one or more stories
- \$100,000-\$150,000 - implementation of multiple features described in this proposal
- it is recommended that funding beyond \$150,000 is delayed until some level of implementation is complete and can be evaluated

OWF has staff resources that can be focused on this project. The schedule will depend on funding. OWF expects implementation to take 3-12 months depending on the size of the project.

Examples

The Open Water Foundation has made progress on various projects to implement solutions similar to those proposed for this project. This experience will be leveraged to implement the Poudre Basin Information Platform.

Dashboard

A basin-wide dashboard or dashboards will be implemented as a “one page web application” with maps, tabs, and other features to represent the geographic area of the Poudre, with access to useful data. This dashboard can be the landing page from which other resources are accessed. For example, the dashboard could provide season-appropriate information such as snowpack conditions (winter and early spring), reservoir levels and other information related to drought conditions (spring and summer), and flow levels relative to various criteria (all year with different focus for recreation, minimum winter flows, etc.). OWF has developed a one-page web application for snowpack conditions that provides an example of the concept: <http://snodas.cdss.state.co.us/app/index.html>.

Stories

One or more stories will be implemented to educate on important topics. Examples of such stories are available on the Open Water Foundation website (<http://stories.openwaterfoundation.org/>) and have also been published on the southplattebasin.com website (<http://southplattebasin.com/colorado-water-plan/stories/>). Potential story topics for the Poudre include:

- Poudre Basin water entities (municipalities, ditch and reservoir companies, nonprofits, industry, etc.) shown on maps, with links to the entities.
- How is the Poudre administered (story of Mark Simpson’s decisions and other administration)?
- How CBT and NPIC provide unique opportunities.
- Explain important projects such as NISP, Halligan, Seaman, Thornton pipeline in a neutral way.
- Highlight success stories such as river corridor restoration, agricultural water rentals, etc.
- Show spatial extent of important master plans such as stream restoration to illustrate the high level of activity in the basin.

The following image illustrates municipal water providers in the South Platte. A refined version of this map could be provided that shows the service areas of the entities within the Poudre Basin. Similar maps could be produced for agricultural service areas, etc.

