

Laramie County Control Area Steering Committee
Meeting Summary
January 5, 2015
Herschler Building, Cheyenne, WY

Draft for Review

Approved

Participants:

Bill Bonham, *Laramie County Stock Growers*
 Randy Bruns, *Econ Development*
 Jim Cochran, *LC Conservation District*
 Greg Gross, *Ag/Irrigators*
 Kristi Hansen, *Academia*
 Jim Hastings, *Alternate*
 Gary Hickman, *Cheyenne/Laramie County Health*
 Scott Horgen, *Industry*
 Jim Lernick, *Ag/Irrigators*
 Les Mead, *South Cheyenne Community Development Association*
 Max Minnick, *Cheyenne Board of Realtors*
 Jim Murphy, *Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities*

Joe Patterson, *Southeast Wyoming Builders Association*
 Bonnie Reider, *South Cheyenne Community Development Association*
 Dale Steenberg, *Chamber of Commerce*
 Lars Story, *Industry*
 Mike Sullivan, *City of Cheyenne*
 Lisa Tabke, *Cheyenne Board of Realtors*
 Tom Taylor, *Private Property Owner*
 Troy Thomson, *Laramie County Commissioner*
 Tim Wilson, *Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities*
 Scott Zimmerman, *Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*

Facilitators:

Steve Smutko, *UW Ruckelshaus Institute*

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Steering Committee member introductions
2. Agenda review and approval
3. Review and adoption of the 12/15/15 meeting summary
4. Review, discussion, and adoption of Steering Committee Charter
5. Steering Committee Goals and targets (desired future conditions)
6. Identification of information needs and sources

Handouts:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft Meeting Summary 12/15/14 Meeting
3. Draft 1.1 Steering Committee Charter (on projector)
4. Map of baseline drawdown scenario from AMEC report

Action Items Completed:

1. Agenda approved
2. Meeting Summary approved
3. Steering Committee Charter approved

Action Items Pending:

1. Desired future conditions of the aquifer
2. New maps showing watershed boundaries, hydrogeological characteristics, and wells by type.

Summary:

Q= Question

C= Comment

A=Answer

R=Response

1. Welcome, Steering Committee member introductions

Steve Smutko opened the meeting with introductions of the committee and making sure all members of the committee, primaries and alternates, are at the table.

2. Agenda review and approval

The draft agenda was approved with no discussion.

3. Review and adoption of the 12/15/14 meeting summary

The December 15, 2014 meeting summary approved with no discussion.

4. Review and discussion of Draft Steering Committee Charter

Draft 1.2 of the Steering Committee Charter was introduced, which contained suggested changes discussed at the December 15 meeting and additional changes submitted by representatives from the City of Cheyenne.

Substantive changes were focused on Section 3, correcting the procedures for submitting the Steering Committee's recommendations to the State Engineer. Specifically, the committee's recommendations will be submitted directly to the State Engineer who will then issue a finding. Based on the comments in the State Engineer's finding, the Steering Committee may choose to amend their recommendations and resubmit them. All Steering Committee members who support the recommendations must sign them, and identify whether they are an appropriator of groundwater in the Control Area.

Section 4 was also amended, limiting the geographic scope of the issues before the Steering Committee to the Control Area rather than the entire county. There was considerable discussion about this issue, with some committee members concerned that limiting its scope to the Control Area may constrain their approaches to reducing groundwater consumption. It was agreed that if the Steering Committee wishes to broaden the scope beyond the Control Area, they may do this by consensus.

The Steering Committee voted to have the following individuals represented on the Process Subcommittee: Bill Edwards, Judy Johnstone, Jim Lerwick, Bonnie Reider, Tom Taylor, and Tim Wilson. The Process Subcommittee will provide guidance to the facilitator, make process recommendations, and meet periodically with the State Engineer to provide updates.

5. Steering Committee Goals and Targets (Desired Future Conditions of the Aquifer)

The purpose of this discussion was to define desired future conditions for the aquifer (e.g., a managed rate of future groundwater decline, stabilization of groundwater levels, or recovery of groundwater levels). At their December 15 meeting, the Steering Committee had come to the conclusion that management goals and recommendations should be designed to correspond with the prevailing aquifer characteristics, watersheds, and withdrawal patterns that are unique to each part of the control area. Hence, goals and targets may differ by geographic location. The Laramie County GIS office created two maps that overlaid the AMEC model results of the baseline withdrawal scenario and withdrawal scenario #4 onto county township-section maps. The AMEC withdrawal scenarios incorporate hydrogeological characteristics, recharge estimations, and withdrawal projections into one image. The Steering Committee discussed how they might use these maps and other data to define boundaries for differentiating their recommendations.

The discussion centered on whether and how to incorporate watersheds into the recommendation boundaries. It was asserted that hydrogeological characteristics and surface water flow affect recharge in some parts of the Control Area, and that watershed boundaries need to be incorporated into the definition

of recommendation boundaries. There was considerable discussion on this issue, with no agreement reached on how to define boundaries for goals and recommendations. The Committee agreed that they would like to see a map that incorporates the following information:

- Watershed boundaries
- Aquifer characteristics
- Well types (users)
- Future uses

The Steering Committee agreed to take up the issue of identifying goals at a future meeting.

6. Identification of Information Needs and Sources

The Steering Committee began their discussion by identifying the issues that they would likely be addressing in future meetings. These included (a (D) indicates existing data that can be brought before the committee):

- Goals and how to get there
- Groundwater use by type (who is using), location, and quantity (D)
- Defining net water use and offsets
- Timeline of use; balancing water use over time
- Strategies for stabilizing water levels
- The State Engineer's temporary order
- Economics of policy alternatives
- Hydrogeological recharge and conductivity (connectivity) (D)
- Case studies from different communities dealing with groundwater allocation (D)
- Relationship between the City and County with respect to water supply and use

It was suggested by one committee member that the North Cheyenne Groundwater Study should be posted on the Steering Committee website.

Next Meeting

Date: January 19, 2015 6:00 pm

Location: Herschler Building, Room B63, 122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY