

Laramie County Control Area Steering Committee

Meeting Summary

October 5, 2015

Herschler Building, Cheyenne, WY

Draft for Review

Approved

Participants:

Bill Bonham, *Laramie County Stock Growers*
Jim Cochran, *LC Conservation District*
Bill Edwards, *Southeast Wyoming Builders Association*
Greg Gross, *Ag/Irrigators*
Brenda Johnson, *Alternate*
Judy Johnstone, *Small municipalities*

Jim Lerwick, *Ag/Irrigators*
Leslie Mead, *South Cheyenne Community Development Association*
Joe Patterson, *Southeast Wyoming Builders Association*
Bonnie Reider, *South Cheyenne Community Development Association*
Troy Thompson, *Laramie County Commissioners*

Facilitators:

Shannon Glendenning, *UW Ruckelshaus Institute*

Agenda:

1. Welcome; Steering Committee member introductions; Agenda review & approval; Announcements
2. Review and adoption of the 09/21/15 meeting summary
3. Discussion of public input in management areas in creation of objectives and management strategies
4. Discussion of Groundwater Management Plan Guidance Document Sections 1—3
5. Adjourn

Handouts:

1. 10/5/15 Draft Agenda
2. 9/21/15 meeting summary
3. Map of Laramie County Control Area map with newly defined management areas
4. Draft update to plan

Action Items Pending

Revisit the name for the Wyoming area of the lodgepole drainage

Summary:

Q=Question R=Response C=Comment

1. Welcome; Steering Committee member introductions; Agenda review & approval; Announcements

Shannon Glendenning opened the meeting and introduced the agenda. Committee members introduced themselves.

There was a request for a continuance of the hearing for the petition to expand the Control Area and may be presented at the November meeting of the Control Board.

Phillip presented a correction New information about how the political voting districts can be changed. The district boundaries can be changed via a petition to the State Board of Control, and does not require a change in statute as previously reported.

2. Review and adoption of the 09/21/15 meeting summary

No changes to meeting summary.

3. Discussion of public input and management area boundary delineation

Q: do we need to change the boundaries to address the issue? I don't think so, unless it makes it easier for the State Engineer's Office. I don't think they'll want to see Albin as its own district.

Phillip: we're happy with the current district boundaries now so it's up to the committee

C: We could change where the red line that moved from east and west further north, but it's not a critical piece.

C: I thought we wanted to make the district boundaries similar to the drainage basins.

R: Yes

C: it was my thought that if we made the districts and the drainage basins similar then the people affected by decisions would be represented by people who are in the same area.

C: That's my concern, if you look at this it's possible that 5 people could be elected for each district and not a single one live in the lodgepole drainage.

Shannon: We can look into the rules about petitioning these areas.

C: looking forward, if the control area boundaries change then using the drainages it makes it easy to adapt and make specific recommendations for each area.

C: If you took the line of District 3 and moved it north close to where the yellow meets the orange that makes the districts similar size.

R: That makes sense to me.

C: I want to make sure that this is representative, so an elected official knows who they are representing.

R: I think that's important

C: We need to review that we are still on board with the thought process of the drainages.

R: There's a problem with the lower lodgepole, we might not want to be as restrictive on the upper end as the lower end.

Q: Is everybody on board with using the drainages

There was General agreement on the maps that were presented.

C: I think the drainages are how the areas should be defined

C: This is a good map.

In reference to the draft plan are there any changes to the management areas?

Q: 1.3.2.2 Lower Lodgepole creek (Albin Area) Where is that?

R: Pine Bluffs is the Upper Lodgepole Creek

C: We should consider naming it different since it's not very intuitive.

C: The names come from the HUC-8 names. The EPA's 8 digit names for these watersheds.

Q: WE need to change the Albin watershed name to make it clear. We'll come back to this point.

In regards to public participation

C: I think for the eastern edge of the southern area we have the beginning of a plan and a way to communicate. That plan has resulted in each of those areas having a group of people that will participate in sending information back to this committee how they want to develop their uses. They would like to see how we begin to coordinate with the upstream users, especially in the Lodge pole and crow creek drainage.

C: I think a lot of upstream users are sitting back and waiting to see what we come up with

4. Discussion of Groundwater Management Plan Guidance Document Sections 1—3

1.5 Purpose of the Groundwater Management Plan:

- reduce current and potential conflict over groundwater resources
- promote economic development
- “replace” the April 1, 2015 Order
- promote conservation

Additional ideas about the purpose of the plan:

- Understand and utilize existing framework of Codes, Covenants, and Restrictions and Homeowner's associations.
- Think about water banking as a way to manage water coming onto and leaving the system
- Look into expanding the current water supply from outside the area
- Develop Green Zone maps that capture uncertainty in the system and surface and groundwater interactions

2.1 Plan Goal:

- Include language of doing no harm to persons non-signatory to the agreement
- include language about improving on the April 1, 2015 Order

2.2 General Plan Objectives

There was discussion that the Steering Committee should create broad objectives for the entire Control Area, and then let the management areas decide how they want to manage the areas.

2.2.1 Manage for drawdown stabilization, or recovery for the entire Control Area

- Each area must have a goal
- There was much discussion about generally aiming for conservation, but letting each area decide what that looks like for themselves.
- Include language that the objective for the whole Control Area should prevent the emergence of excessive drawdown areas

2.2.2 Conduct Groundwater monitoring and assessment

- There was discussion about what monitoring would look like. It was agreed that the committee needs to know more about the costs associated with management activities before making a decision.
- There was general agreement that there should be groundwater monitoring and assessments in the Groundwater Management Plan.

There was discussion about the makeup of the committee, since attendance has been low. All people on the committee are encouraged to attend. Those in attendance felt comfortable making decisions and developing the plan.

The addition of an irrigator from the Carpenter Area was discussed and those in attendance thought it would be a good addition, as long as that person was informed about this process and the committee's progress so far.

5. Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting

Date: November 2, 2015 5:30-8

Location: Herschler Building, Room 1699 "Hearing Room," 122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY