



Waverly Community Group, Inc.

WAC Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 25, 2007; 7-8:30pm

Turning Point at Waverly School, 10431 NCR 15

Present: Committee members: Helen Boggs, Jane Clark, Sue Foster, Ron Splittgerber, Barb Staples, George Wallace, Karl Zeller, Bob Zimdahl. (8/13 WAC members present)

13 Community residents: Vicki Splittgerber, Nancy Wallace, Tom McMillan, Jim Foster, Cindy Tunney; Jack and Barbara Ferguson, Tom & Rosemary Niichel, Adrian, Susan and Maureen Weaver, and Travis Vierra.

Absent: Jud Brown, Harold Hagen, Andy Hatch, Cate Meyer, John Ostheimer.

Special Presentation: Mark Easter of the Sierra Club presenting on the feasibility of the Glade Reservoir Project. (Mark Easter; 2820 Cherry Ln, FC 80521)

There are currently (3) proposed projects for the Poudre River: Additional water storage projects on Halogen and Seaman Reservoirs and the North Integrated Glade project. The Glade project is funded by 16 front range cities and water districts, extending from the Denver suburbs to Ft. Morgan.

The official website is Savethepoudre.org. There are four main concerns with this project:

1. Poudre River water drainage and death of the June rise
2. City debt in some areas would rise to \$20,000 per individual
3. Water tap sales to repay city debt would fuel additional growth of water users along the front range and increase development.

1. At present there are 7 areas of dry winter riverbed on the Poudre River, located downstream of major diversion structures. Further downstream from these diversion structures the groundwater seepage in and fills the Poudre back. Due to the current drought there has been a cumulative water table deficit. SavetheRiver proposes flow management protocols to benefit the Poudre as well as the water users.

The new Glade Reservoir would hold 177,000 acre feet of water. It would be filled from the Poudre's peak flows. The historic June water rise of 2000 cfs would be reduced to a flow of 500 cfs if the peak flow was taken to fill Glade reservoir. Peak flows down the river are necessary to maintain the water quality and the biology of the fish and wildlife. Wetlands are recharged during peak flows. There are both cold and warm water fisheries downstream, and both of which would be affected by reduced peak flows. A balance is needed to meet the needs of the Poudre and the other water users.

Filling the Glade reservoir is estimated to take 1-2 years. Recreational boating would be prohibitive because of the vast fluctuations of the water level.

Another part of this project is the purchase of 20,000 acre feet of senior water rights from farmers in Eaton who would receive Denver effluent pumped to them in trade for their Poudre irrigation

water. The Eaton Ditch Co. has not yet agreed to the trade. Denver effluent water to be traded for mountain runoff water is not viewed as a very equivalent trade.

2. The Glade Reservoir project has an initial estimated cost of \$400 million which, with interest, would come to an overall cost of ~\$825 million. Most users will be out of the Poudre River Basin. The Northern Water Conservation District (funded with your tax dollars) is proposing to back the loan for the Glade Water Storage project. Participating communities would need to grow at their maximum rate to retire their portion of the loan. At present most of the participating communities have no cash assets and many have already maximized their credit.

3. The Sierra Club Proposal is that **Conservation** can recover the amount of water to be provided by this water project so that it is not necessary. Aurora has managed a 40% water savings over 10 years and has reduced their gallons/capita/day from 200 to 120. If conservation measures were implemented and the Glade reservoir avoided, this would avoid the conversion of irrigated ag land to dryland. Additionally by achieving just a 15% reduction in ag water usage, a 30% increase is produced in available water. Having municipalities finance ag improvements and conservation measures is 2-10 times cheaper than reservoir construction.

Small towns cannot enact water conservation programs on their own, and the Sierra Club is working in Glade subscription communities to provide this assistance.

Historical. The Two Forks Dam on the South Platte was derailed by public comment and because (efficiency) conservation was not included in the study. The Corps of Engineers and EPA denied a permit for it.

George mentioned the work of the Ag Advisory Board and Fort Collins in the production of a plan to retire land with marginal production whereby the acreage could be rented to the city on a priority basis. The City Attorney had a problem with land leases that favored some water rights owners and provided "unjust advantage", however the legislature has promoted a bill which would make such contracts easier so that owners could use them as bank collateral for borrowing.

Mark noted that CDOT has not yet made a ruling on the rerouting of 287. Using CR 70 has safety issues.

At present the project is still in Review with a half a dozen additional reviews to pass prior to complete approval. There is opposition from Fort Collins and existing reservoir owners. Commissioners Gibson and Rennels support the reservoir. The Environmental Impact Study, due last year, is expected to be released in April or May of this year. Routes for public comment are 1) the Public hearings which should be held this spring and 2) by writing letters to the Corps of Engineers (the address is available at the savethepoudre.org website).

Monthly support meeting. 4th Wednesday of the month at the Bean Coffee House. This is a meeting of the Sierra Club in collaboration with other groups.

Business meeting

WAC Visioning Exercise for February. Cate was absent but it was relayed that review materials would be emailed prior to the February meeting.

Ron presented the following components:

1. A traditional Statement of Community
2. Clear evidence of majority of community desires
3. Current message from planner
4. Liaison role to community.

Secretary's Report: The 11-30 minutes were accepted as presented. These will be posted to the website.

Treasurer's Report: was not given.

Old business

1. WCG brochure revisions noting work of NLCA. Helen's paragraph insertion was accepted provided it was not longer than the available brochure space.

2. Wellington Growth Boundary meeting (December: Jane and John).

Jane. If we don't define what we want, Wellington will do it for us.

Bob agreed. We have a corridor that is attractive to [Wellington] and supplies aesthetic appeal.

Jane later mentioned the need to have continuing dialogue with Wellington but that she could not do it and suggested Ron.

Jane also attended the recent Tuesday seminar Wellington held on IGAs.

Bob reiterated the need for public statements of the group's position.

Adrain Weaver. Is the Wellington Community Group willing to be against Glade? He would like to see the WAC/ WCG take a stand for the western alignment of 287.

Bob. We're for conservation and could promote a letter writing campaign to the Corps of Engineers.

A **motion was made and seconded** to form a subcommittee to communicate with Mark, get more data, and draft a position paper. Ron, Barb, George and Vicki are on this subcommittee.

Nancy recommended that we ask for a community-wide meeting (with mailers) after the EIS comes out and have presenters both for and against the Glade Reservoir project.

Tom & Rosemary Niichel may know a project proponent.

The Weavers expressed an interest in keeping in closer contact with the group. They will be put on the WAC email list.

3. 2006 Survey Results. **Helen** reported that the 2006 Survey Results document is now complete and had been emailed to the (3) county commissioners and Geniphyr Ponce-Pore. George wanted it delivered to some others. He and Ron will make up a short list and cover letter, to be signed by Ron. Bob volunteered to hand deliver these additional reports. [The list of these additional persons to whom the survey was delivered follows the minutes.]

New Business

1. Rural Enterprise survey by quadrant. **Helen** and **George** have completed the surveys of their quadrants. Helen will tabulate the results. Please email your tabulated results to her ASAP.

2. Kathay Rennels breakfasts (2nd Wednesday 7-8:30am), for December and January.

Bob attended the December breakfast, and reported that all the Bypass options are now back on the table with the repeal of the Fort Collins initiative which limited them.

3. Cultural Sites document (George). No report, although **Helen** did state that Joanne Blehm had mentioned that the domed roofed root cellar built by her grandfather should be considered a historical element.

4. Water document update (George). No report.

5. Boundary changes between quadrants 3 and 4. Quadrant 4 has the well over 100 residences and is the largest quadrant. Quadrant 3 has 30-40 residences. In the interest of making the quadrant load more equitable a **motion was made and passed** to move Greyhawk Knolls and the Strattons from Quadrant 4 to Quadrant 3, **subject to ratification by the WCG membership at the next Full Membership Meeting.**

6. **Nancy** announced at the close of the meeting that Harold Hagen had resigned his WAC position.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Boggs, Secretary

FYI

The *Final Results for the 2006 Survey* were also hand delivered by Bob with a cover letter to the following people:

Russ Legg and **Larry Timm** of the Larimer County Planning Department

Jim Reidhead of the Larimer County Rural Land Use Center

K-Lynn Cameron and Megan Flenniken of the Larimer County Open Lands Department

Marc Engoeman of the Larimer County Engineering Department

Mark Sears and John Stokes of City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program

Steve Smith of North Poudre Irrigation Company, Wellington

John Slutsky and Susan Moore of LaLuna Dairy, Wellington