

Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Discussion

Northern Water, 220 Water Ave., Berthoud

March 30, 2017

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Northern Water: Don Carlson, Jerry Gibbens, Esther Vincent, Brad Wind, Carl Brouwer

Fort Collins Utilities: Carol Webb, Adam Jokerst, Jill Oropeza, Katherine Martinez

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas: John Stokes, Jennifer Shanahan

AGENDA

- 1) Updates
 - a. Council direction to us (resolution)(City)
 - b. NISP status (Northern Water)
 - c. Various river related efforts
 - i. State of the River Report (City)
 - ii. Northern temp model (Northern)
 - iii. Instream Flow Augmentation Plan (City)
 - iv. Halligan (City)
 - v. others
- 2) Start a discussion about the key expectations of both parties, for example operational feasibility for Northern and preventing harm to water supply/treatment facilities for the City. (*Postponed to future meeting*)
- 3) Discuss and agree to next steps.

Welcome and Introductions

Purpose: to start the conversation, provide updates to each other, review key expectations to frame the discussion

City Council Resolution

Brief discussion on the direction given to staff by City Council via a Resolution on January 24, 2017 F.

NISP Status (Northern Water)

EIS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is drafting chapters for Final EIS (FEIS), using information from draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Supplemental EIS. EIS is on schedule to be released by end of 2017, followed by public comment period, Finalized by end of 2018

401 Water Quality Certification: Currently working on scope and schedule. Estimated analysis to be completed for 401 in spring 2018 and application in summer 2018, public comment for 30 days (incorporate into conditions for certification).

Mitigation:

- The 401 certification process necessitates the FEIS and associated mitigation be completed, thus the 401 certification will not be completed until after the FEIS is issued
- Many different mitigation plans: state Fish and Wildlife, [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA) public interest mitigation, [404 permit](#) mitigation required by Corps (program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. including wetlands), and mitigation as part of 401 certification.
- Will subcontractor build in public interest mitigation?
 - No, up to Northern Water to propose mitigation, despite not having the Final EIS. Must develop mitigation from Draft EIS, Supplemental EIS, and also from additional flushing flow analysis and possibly water quality information.
- Northern Water is nearing end of discussions with Colorado Parks & Wildlife Staff on wildlife mitigation plan.
 - Parks and Wildlife Commission will discuss at upcoming meetings this summer.
 - May 4 and 5, in Grand Junction, Parks and Wildlife Commission will have regularly scheduled meeting, staff will introduce NISP
 - June 8 and 9 in Colorado Springs, Northern Water will make formal proposal on NISP and Fish and Wildlife mitigation plan, will be available on Northern Water website, www.northernwater.org
 - Proposed public open house in late June from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Ranch.
 - August 10 and 11, Commission meeting in Trinidad. Parks and Wildlife staff will make recommendations to Commission after receiving public comment
 - State statute (122.2) requires a 60-day process from the time the plan is formally proposed to final action by the Commission. Northern Water will ask the Commission to extend that to a 90-day period between June 8-9 and September 7-8.
 - September 7 and 8 in Steamboat Springs: Commission will take formal action on the plan.
 - Website indicates dates are subject to change:
<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CommissionMeetings.aspx>
 - [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) (CWCB): Sept. 19-21 meeting in Walden. CWCB will consider formal action on the plan. See CWCB website for more details on meeting schedule.
 - Flushing flows – Northern is currently working on a flushing flow proposal.

- Northern is working on commitments regarding temperature and protecting open lands west of Glade Reservoir.
- [Larimer County 1041 Process](#) - Negotiating an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in lieu of [1041](#) process. Development of conditions in progress.

City of Fort Collins Updates

- State of the River Report
 - Finalizing report by end of April
 - Grading criteria, base flows, etc.; no big surprises
 - Important for members of the public to examine methods for each grade
 - Staff has three products: online GIS mapping tool, full report, report card
 - Public open houses to be scheduled
 - Will City Council use this report as baseline for future comparisons?
 - Yes, for gauge of whether future projects are going in right direction
 - One idea to consider in the future: notion of collaborating on report card; tool to be renewed every five years. Tool that might be useful to Northern Water and other potential partners.
 - Ideas: form regional collaborative group?
 - Expand on other regions of the river? There is broad, community-wide interest in having one tool
 - Coalition for the Poudre River received a grant and is helping other municipalities on floodplain master planning on the lower Poudre River.
- Instream Augmentation Plan
 - Staff is continuing work on it
 - Circulating draft, plan to have a more firm plan by fall 2017
 - Project partners will determine whether to go to Phase 2 (water court). Phase 3 is implementation (after water court)
 - City of Fort Collins has brought Southside Ditch water to the table; encouraging others to contribute water to the plan
 - John Stokes met with Gary Wockner of Save The Poudre on Tuesday; discussed his questions, walked him through the concept.
 - Gave him copy of draft staff submitted to Colorado Water Congress
 - Save The Poudre has drafted ballot language that requires City of Fort Collins to fight any proposal that uses water from the Poudre River; possible measure for November 2017 election
- Halligan Reservoir
 - Expecting Draft EIS to be released by end of 2017

- 401 water quality certification: staff has tried to include all water quality studies included in Draft EIS except degradation study
- Northern Water mentioned potential collaborations with City of Fort Collins
 - Climate variability study by City of Fort Collins:
 - Northern Water: Outreach to key allottees to evaluate conservation programs and compare to four or five successful conservation programs throughout U.S.
 - Northern Water is lead on site-specific approach to temperature standards for Poudre River, third meeting this Monday on scope of work for group to determine studies and additional data to be collected.

Next Steps

- Agreed to meet monthly. Alternate between City and Northern Water locations.
- City staff will determine topics for meetings, for deeper discussions
- Schedule Meeting on conveyance topic

FYI, City to Northern Water

- City of Fort Collins is hiring hydrologist Bill Hansen as a consultant; may join us for some of these discussion meetings. BBA has done some modeling for City. Fort Collins City Council has suggested staff form a technical advisory committee on NISP