

## Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Discussion

Northern Water, 220 Water Avenue, Berthoud

July 31, 2017

Meeting Notes

### Attendees

*Northern Water:* Brad Wind, Jerry Gibbens, Eric Wilkinson, Esther Vincent

*Fort Collins Utilities:* Carol Webb, Adam Jokerst, Katherine Martinez

*City of Fort Collins Natural Areas:* John Stokes, Jennifer Shanahan, Bill Hansen (consultant)

### AGENDA

Discuss City of Fort Collins draft comments on the proposed *Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan* (“Plan”)

### Discussion topics

Meeting attendees discussed City of Fort Collins draft comments to the Plan that were presented during the July 25, 2017 City Council meeting.

Staff will present the City’s comments on the Plan again to Council on August 8. Mayor Pro Tem Gerry Horak expressed interest in making comments on the Plan during the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting](#) in Trinidad on August 10. Staff will revise the comment letter to Council to include info on the City’s investments in the health of the Poudre River, per Council request.

### Peak Flows

- City’s annual three-day bypass suggestion
- Key concern for NISP participants – maintaining firm yield
- Key issue – yield and flushing flows when coming out of prolonged drought period.
- For future discussion:
  - Excess capacity for environmental pool used to benefit peak flows.
  - Potential use of other water rights (e.g. City sources when otherwise not needed) for peak flows.
- Possibility of enhancement of stream section between Timnath Inlet and I-25
- Opportunities to recapture bypass water.
- Idea of collaborative decision-making process on the river.
- Non-NISP Poudre River diversions: Idea of not diverting portions owned by municipalities, impacts on agriculture.
- Windy Gap Firming Project: participant commitment to certain peak flow targets every three and six years; reconfigured stream channel to accommodate lower flows and preserving floodway; intergovernmental agreement between participants and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on Windy Gap Firming Project.

### Other Topics

- Possibilities for innovative opportunities:
  - NISP participant criteria: (1) How does it impact yield? (2) What's the cost?
  - Question of whether to include in final environmental impact statement (FEIS)
- Water quality addressed in Clean Water Action Section 401 certification process
- During the initial fill period, water level rise limited to 1 foot per day due to dam safety rules, thus effects on peak flows would be lessened; possible curtailment for peak flows through adaptive management
- Northern Water meets monthly with NISP participants. FEIS is scheduled to be published in late 2017 or early 2018
- Maturation of channels, wildlife habitat
- Agreement that these discussions are helpful to discuss ideas
- Fort Collins will have other opportunities to comment on NISP: public comment periods will be open on 401 certification (in 2018) and FEIS.

### Adaptive Management Program

- NISP provides opportunity to introduce adaptive management program on Poudre River
- Agreement that Fort Collins and Northern Water could discuss ideas. Questions to consider:
  - How to work together
  - NISP impacts
- Can discuss impact of flooding
- Lack of common definition for adaptive management program is a challenge; structure and process is needed
- Will discuss mutually beneficial elements

### Technical Comments to Plan

- Fort Collins' ideas of floodplain connectivity to mitigate flood flows
- Uncertainty regarding agreements and how it may affect the project
- Enhancements
- Wetlands mitigation provided in Record of Decision, scheduled for 2019

### Next Meeting

- 1 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2017 in Fort Collins to discuss comments from Colorado Parks & Wildlife meeting.