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Subject: Water Banking Pilot Group Sub-Committee: Update on Various Activities
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 1:05:36 PM

All –

We had a very productive Water Banking New Legislation Committee meeting yesterday (notes soon to be posted on general Study Committee website -

<https://www.waterrights.utah.gov/meetinfo/studycommittees.asp>). There were a couple of cross-over topics that might be good for the Water Banking Pilot Project Committee to track as we move forward. Proposed agenda items below:

1) Role of Tech. in Pilot Project/Water Banking?:

- An overriding factor in our water banking discussions has been finding ways to keeping transactions costs as low as possible
- The New Legislation Committee has discussed how the State Engineer’s website could play a role facilitating various components of the banking project and keep costs low. Primarily that each Water Bank may have a page on the State Engineer’s website to house the relevant information like governance documents, contact information, and waterbank service area information, etc.. This would not be a State Engineer’s endorsement of a bank but housed for courtesy/user ease purposes.
- We also discussed developing an automated “delivery request form” where those who wanted to use banked water could enter the relevant criteria and the information could more easily be used to determine the technical feasibility of requested delivery. The form may facilitate getting the technical information the river commissioner, or whoever is distributing banked water, faster. It would also create a streamlined process across banks (if desired) to cut down on having distributors have to deal with different request forms/bank procedures. The form could also:
 - o Provide relevant information regarding requested water use
 - o Potentially interact or “talk to” information already collected for distribution purposes
 - o Potentially interact with any Change Application conditions placed on the water rights in the bank (i.e. what rights can be used and where)
- In a follow-up meeting Rich Tullis commented that in general, water distribution would be more of an internal bank administrative matter. He indicated from his experience he did not think those participating/organizing the banks would desire to give more information to the State Engineer than necessary and we may have reduced buy-in if we rely on the State Engineer’s website as a clearinghouse or automated forms.
- **Next Steps/Potential Agenda Items:**
 - o To get more feed-back on the role of technology/stakeholder comfort level with using State Engineer’s website as a clearinghouse, I intend to ask Prof. Endter-Wada to include follow-up question in her interviews on technology. Please let me know if you have any thoughts/comments?

- o It may also be prudent for us to discuss the role of technology in the Pilot Project and whether we should including funding in the Grant Application for a web-developer to help design a sample water bank page/forms

2) **Invite River Commissioners?:** (general comment not specific to Pilot Group)

- Marcelle Shoop also made the recommendation that we invite river commissioners to :
 - o 1) better understand what information they are going to need to distribute banked water (here were several names floated but unfortunately I did not catch them in my notes. Marcelle?
 - o 2) begin the process of introducing the water banking concepts to the commissioners.
- Rich Tullis indicated the thought we should wait to invite the commissioners till we had a more concrete plan
- **Next Steps/Potential Agenda Items:**
 - o The group should determine when is the best time to start including the commissioners etc.

3) **Legislative Support Resolution/Appropriation:**

- Both Senator Iwamoto and Rep. Hawkes were present at the New Legislation meeting
- It was discussed how the Legislators could assist with water banking efforts in 2019 legislative session
- The group determined it was too early to include an substantive legislative changes
- *However* - the group did endorse putting forth a joint resolution similar to 2017's SB 214 giving explicit legislative support for the water banking study' groups activities
- It was thought a resolution would be very helpful in any forthcoming BOR Grant Application and would demonstrate the importance of the endeavor
- It was not determined if an appropriation was needed to support the group's activities – though this is open for further discussion

4) **Ongoing Pilot Committee Goals:** In addition to the items noted above - the Pilot Project Committee was working on:

- Determining what two systems in the State would make a good pilot project system for a BOR grant application
 - o At the last Large Group Water Banking Meeting Candice Hasenyager recommend the group finalize pilot project area selection criteria at the next meeting
- Fostering stakeholder support for water banking BOR Grant - we are making good progress on this front
 - o Connections with USU Water Banking efforts
 - o Justin Record of BOR has agreed to assist with preparing and reviewing a 2019 BOR WaterSmart grant application

Currently, we do not have new Pilot Project Committee meeting set. Our next Large Group Water Banking meeting is set for Tuesday September 25, 2018 at DNR. Do we want to set a Pilot Project Committee meeting for some time after that to keep the momentum going?

Hope all are well and we are making good progress! Please contact our office with questions/comments.

Regards –

EELewis