

DRAFT minutes from March 14, 2012 Metro RT Meeting

Mr. Koleber called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Acre and Mr. Iturreria detailed preparations with Ms. Maharg of CFWE for the MBRT Forum on April 5th at the Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus from 3 to 6 p.m. Topics of the forum include an overview of MBRT activities this past year, as well as conversation, WISE, and Chatfield Reallocation. A panel discussion will follow, taking Q&A from cards prepared by the audience. Mr. Cech will facilitate the group discussion.

Discussion then moved to the recent Basin Roundtable Summit. Mr. Bornstein reminded participants to please complete the survey of the meeting. Mr. Koleber then asked participants to share their experiences at the Summit. Comments focused on a perception of less East vs West attitudes, and more recognition of statewide problems. In particular, the West Slope seems to have a better grasp of the successful conservation efforts in place in the Metro area. This has opened the door to more discussion of win/win efforts.

The question was raised as to whether or not the current MBRT portfolio should be adjusted. The consensus was that a few tweaks and clarifications on items such as system loss, impacts of evaporation, and water quality in ag transfer notwithstanding, the portfolio tool is pretty good as-is. The concept of “book ending” was introduced in order to consider high demand/low availability conditions, as well as low demand/high availability conditions. It was asked if the MBRT should lead the discussion of benchmarks and bookends. It was asked what happens after 2050, and should there be thoughtful discussion on that topic. Should an adaptive risk management approach be pursued? Is it possible to discuss wet year water, as opposed to firm yield, with storage and dry year ag transfer part of the conversation? It was determined a task force will clean-up the existing portfolio document, with write-ups on critical points. Findings of the committee will be presented at the April meeting.

Mr. Waage described the Reuse White Paper in detail. The paper documents how the reuse factor was selected, along with realistic limitations and practical considerations. While current reuse is in the 30-40% range, with significant investment in infrastructure, that number could realistically rise to 40-50% in the future. It was noted that while technology can improve, exchange capability is the limiting factor, as well as some legal factors. This white paper

may be combined with other papers, and circulated to other roundtables, as well as being used to educate other audiences on the topic.

Mr. Brand suggested that a meeting be set up with the Colorado Roundtable. Mr. Koleber noted there is such an invitation on the table, perhaps around May 7, at around 4 to 7 p.m., possibly in Montrose or Gunnison. The Arkansas and S. Platte are also invited to attend. The focus of that meeting is conservation. A committee volunteered to participate in that meeting.

Mr. Stibrich presented an overview of WISE. WISE uses excess capacity in about 7 of 10 years. It is potable treated water. It is not available during drought. The supply is variable and interruptible. These conditions can be managed through storage, perhaps surface or ASR. The supply helps move water providers away from groundwater reliance. The groundwater can be used as drought supply in 3 of 10 years, greatly extending the productive life of the aquifers. Support in the form of a CWCB resolution would be huge. 10,000 ac-ft of average supply is being negotiated now, and models suggest that amount could possibly grow to as much as 60,000 ac-ft over time. USACE needs to amend NEPA process at Reuter Hess Reservoir to allow WISE water to be stored. It would be good to have a CWCB resolution on that score too. On a motion by Mr. Shively and second by Mr. Hendrick, the MBRT voted unanimously to pass a resolution of support for WISE, of support for USACE to allow WISE water to be stored at RHR, and for the CWCB board to pass a similar resolution of support. It was noted that this vote represents the first water project supported by the MBRT. (CWCB has previously supported the Chatfield Reallocation effort.)

Mr. Koleber explained that Mr. Acre is leaving Commerce City, and would like to move from voting member to non-voting member of the MBRT. Mr. Koleber suggested Mr. Shively could move from non-voting member to voting member, and that Mr. Acre could then move to the non-voting seat. On a motion by Ms. Bell and second by Ms. Strother, Mr. Acre's resignation was accepted. Vote was unanimous. On a motion by Mr. Cech and second by Ms. Bell, Mr. Shively was elected to the voting seat. Vote was unanimous. On a motion by Mr. Nichol and second by Mr. Jaegar, Mr. Acre was elected to the non-voting seat, and to remain as education liaison. Vote was unanimous. On a motion by Mr. Nichol and second by Mr. Hendrick, Mark Pfeiffer was elected as non-voting out of basin representative of the Arkansas round table. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hecox noted the next CWCB meeting would be in Denver in March. He shared that there will be consideration of three applications to a new

loan/grant program. There will be discussion of implementation of SWSI 2010 recommendations.

Mr. Nichols shared news from the most recent IBCC meeting. Much business was deferred to the next meeting, in lieu of preparations for the Summit being held the next day. There was discussion of revising the round table portfolios.

Mr. Bornstein detailed next steps in pulling together a road map memo for MBRT next steps with IBCC. Round table work will be completed in April. Revisions and reviews will be completed by May 31st. Four to six thematic portfolios are anticipated in pursuit of in depth implementation within an adaptive management framework. This process will allow items to move forward to implementation. IBCC will work with the round tables, identifying help needed, be it support or funding. The round tables will initially focus on quick wins, as well as how to fill the gap or gaps.

Ms. Bell updated progress with the Flaming Gorge task force. The environmental slots have been filled on the task force. The next meeting is 3/27 in Glenwood Springs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be two presentations on plans for Flaming Gorge, from Mr. Million and Mr. Jaegar. Lists of interest and issues will be compiled. Mr. Hecox will present an overview of risk assessment and needs. Mr. Murrell added that Ms. Gimbel will share Colorado River Compact perspectives.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved by acclamation.

Next MBRT meeting is April 11th at 4 p.m. at Denver Water. Mr. Koleber reminded participants of the MBRT forum at the Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus on April 5th from 3 to 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. by acclamation.