

**South Platte Basin Roundtable
Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 9, 2013
Southwest Weld County Building
4209 Weld County Rd 24 ½, Longmont, CO
4:00 – 8:00 PM**

Members and patrons present: Lisa McVicker (Center of CO WCD), Jim Hall (Local Domestic Water Provider), Gene Manuello (Ag rep), Julio Iturreria (Arapahoe Cty.), Janet Bell (Bell Assoc/Metro RT), Joel Schnukloth (CSU), Mike Shimmin (At-large), Eric Wilkinson (IBCC), Sean Conway (Weld County), Mike Applegate (Northern Water), Allyn Wind (Morgan Cty), Larry Howard (Larimer Municipals), Frank Eckhardt jr (Central Water CD), Rich Belt (Industrial), Ken Juson (Longmont, Boulder Cty Municipalities), Bert Weaver (Gilt Muni, City of Black Hawk), Sue Morea (CDMSmith), Joe Frank (LSPWCD), Sean Cronin (SULHWCD), Jacob Bornstein (CWCB).

I. Routine Items (Sean Cronin calls the meeting to order at 4:25)

- a. Welcome and Introductions - Cronin
- b. Amendments or Additions to the Agenda – Cronin
- c. 15 voting members present; need 18 for quorum. More members hopefully will join.

II. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes – Cronin

III. Discussion Items

- a. Joint East Slope Roundtable Statement – Cronin
Cronin reminds roundtable of January directive from membership to ask him to reach out to East Slope Roundtables; July 24 meeting has been set; Agenda and Location specifics to be sent early next week.
Summit Events Center in Aurora—directions and specifics coming in announcement next week. 10 am – 3 pm.
Cronin explains the progress made by Rio Chato Executive Committee.
Outreach to AK and Metro roundtables has prompted discussion as to whether there has been a unified voice of East Slope Roundtables and if so what message is.
Executive meeting of 3 roundtables early in July.
 - What are expectations of Roundtables joint effort?
 - Cronin explains his view of meeting that now the roundtables are accepting the fact that we should be unified and find commonalities and how to address our differences and how best to address those differences. Group was energized and ready for collaboration. Focus of July 24 meeting will be on common themes of the roundtables; executives of the three roundtables are working on a white paper—not ready for this meeting yet; will not be presented in sense of being ready for a vote on July 24 but rather will be presented to break-out sessions on July 24 for feedback to look at best manner to go forward and lend), direction for state water plan.
Executive members and Rio Chato committee members will be asked to provide comments on the new white paper.

Joe Frank: Comments on how the mood drastically changed from one of reluctance to one of acceptance of the fact that these roundtables will provide the guidance for the State Water Plan. Frank opines on how top down approach to the State Water Plan has changed to one of clear guidance from the Roundtables.

Cronin: In State Water Plan, the East Slope Roundtables realize that our voice and guidance is crucial.

Sean Conway: Agrees with this assessment and sees opportunity to move forward.

Cronin notes presence of Mike Shimmin and Julio Iturreria at this East Slope meeting and asks for perception—all agree with Frank, Cronin and Conway assessment. Cronin notes again that the white paper was not ready for the SPBRT tonight, but will have a clear document ready as a working document at July 24 meeting for basin implementation plans. Expresses hope that our objectives for this meeting to be a good use of everyone's time to be worthwhile and to be a good step forward toward state plan.

Julio Iturreria: Expresses hope that the basin roundtables will come to some sort of clear implementation steps at this meeting; address our plans and then address a priority list of how to proceed with our implementation steps. Hope is that we will actually come forward with some specific steps forward.

Cronin: Hopes that the July 24 meeting will indeed end with objectives and steps going forward.

Janet Bell: Hopes that we will be able to articulate the specific action plans that will move the state plan forward so that we can actually move forward toward implementation; references the Flaming Gorge process and how it was a useful and fruitful process in that it forced everyone to focus on actual steps forward.

Cronin: Acknowledges same vision plan but also acknowledges that this is an ongoing process that depends on all stakeholders.

b. Nonconsumptive Toolbox - Jacob Bornstein

In the interim, Jacob will be staffing the South Platte Roundtable; reminds members of his efforts at CCWCB—portfolio process and nonconsumptive toolbox falls under this. Makes reference to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative June 2013 Basin Implementation Planning handout (link?)

References page 3 of the handout that provides a step by step overview of the basin implementation planning guidance.

Reminds roundtable that we will make reference to our consumptive and nonconsumptive assessments as we move forward to articulate action steps.

Page 2: Schedule: Final basin implementation plan is spring of 2015; however, final progress report to CWCB and governor must be completed in the summer of 2014;

therefore anything that this roundtable has identified as action elements for our roundtable will be included in this report.

Note other scheduled dates: Fall 2013: basin goals and measureable outcomes; Winter 2013: evaluate consumptive and nonconsumptive constraints and opportunities;

Winter 2014: draft basin implementation plans.

Bornstein reiterates support but how it is up to the roundtables to move forward.

Reviews: Toolbox: Overall 34 comments.

2 comments: Bob Streeter and Greg Kernohan from SPBRT.

Metro: also 2 comments (Eric Hecox as one)

--incorporated the Heron Project as an example;

--incorporated capacity issue that Streeter brought up;

--Eric Hecox (with South Metro) wanted emphasis on water solutions outside of water supply.

Toolbox purpose is resource document for roundtables to assist in use of understanding of what tools are available to meet nonconsumptive needs; Educational resource; essentially main steps: develop basin wide goals—what are measurable outcomes for these; evaluate consumptive and nonconsumptive needs; evaluate consumptive and nonconsumptive constraints and opportunities; focus on projects and methods; identify implantation strategies; describe how the plan will meet the roundtables goals and measurable outcomes.

Decision process is clearly articulated in the toolbox.

Decision “tree” is provided to assist in determining if the challenge is based on stream solution/habitat solution, etc.

All available online at CWCBC board meeting cite.

Janet Bell: How do new members have access to these documents that we have worked on for many years?

Jacob: Hyper links are included in the document that reference these studies. All can be accessed through this. See CWCBC board meeting cite.

Jacob commends SPBRT on the work that we have accomplished.

Joe Frank reminds everyone that this is in Sections 1 & 2 of our needs assessments.

Jacob: Reminds roundtable that the CWCBC is not defining the content but asking roundtable to move forward. We have identified needs but basin implementation plans are focusing on projects and methods in order to meet these needs.

Larry Howard: As member on nonconsumptive committee, we have not yet met recently.

McVicker asks about funding and resources to actually make these implementation steps possible.

Jacob: Short application guidelines have been drafted for these—who is applicant, what is scope and budget; these do not need to be only basin funds; right now, 1/3rd can come from state funds. For example, a \$600,000 grant application could ask for \$200,000 from state funds.

Janet Bell: Do we need a new committee to address this?

Sean Cronin: Rio Chato is focusing on this—2 page application.

c. Legislative, CWCB & IBCC Report

i. IBCC – Wilkinson: No meeting since last roundtable meeting; basic work of IBCC is through the subcommittees; new supply subcommittee will meet on July 18; on July 8: subcommittee on new supplies and storage—working on no regrets white papers. Rio Grande, IBCC and Jacob and Sue led this discussion. Wilkinson emphasized the fact that we should focus on the identified IPPS and identifications of proponents in future ones; but as regards the present ones, important to avoid pre-decisional position. Discussion on storage—added as result of discussion at IBCC; recognized that storage is an integral component of the CO Water Plan—exchanges and intermittent points on exchanges and the importance of identifying these; storage was put out as a component in and to itself outside of IPPS and how storage should be part of this.

Jacob: This is an important element to emphasize that this needs to be part of the basin roundtable plans.

Cronin takes the opportunity to express gratitude to Wilkinson, Yahn and Mike Shimmin to provide us thorough, open minded and diverse representation on the IBCC. Cronin notes that even the CWCB has acknowledged our thorough reporting.

Jacob: IBCC process report: wrapped up scenario planning; all of this has been pulled into SWSI and this will be the first chapter of SWSI; then moving on to no and low regrets—this is scheduled to be presented as an entire document (including storage, IPPS and conservation, new supply, alternative ag transfers) will be presented as a draft to the CWCB board in September. This will then be brought forward to the Roundtables for discussion; any input from roundtables will be brought forward into this report. Next: onus is on new supply and how to move forward with this focus. IBCC will focus on how to push forward on this important part of the plan.

Janet Bell: Question on new supply; recommendation that this discussion bring in some of the effective procedures that made the Flaming Gorge a useful process including the inclusion of meeting minutes. Will this be followed as a template?

Jacob: Yes, the decision is to meet more frequently to create an end-goal according to the schedule outlined in the Basin Implementation Planning summary and overview.

Joe Frank: RE: feedback to Wilkinson and Yahn—are all of the facts and reports that are sent to the IBCC members on line so that we can send comments to our reps?

Jacob: Plan is to send the newest and latest version on July 23/24 to all IBCC members and we can assure that these links are available on the website or can send it to the entire membership.

Frank: Link to entire group would be ideal so that we can send comments.

ii. CWCB – Hoppe: Diane is not present.

iii. Legislative Report – Hoppe: Diane is not present.

IV. Rio Chato Committee Update

a. Basin Implementation Plan – Frank

Highlights of implementation plan that discussed scope of work as a basin (and as a joint basin efforts) accepted by Metro Roundtable as well; Metro has not yet met either but hope is that the July 24 meeting will assist in narrowing scope of work. Guidelines: Scope of CWCB and CDM can be expanded although additional funding will be needed. CDM has helped carve out some of these items; notes that we will need help as roundtables are dependent on volunteer time and effort. Agreement to ask for help to move the roundtables along efficiently. The fall 2013 goal of articulating the basin goals and measurable outcomes will depend on assistance and we will put forward a WSRA application that would go to both round tables with approval and comments and changes. Time is of the essence.

Joe Frank reports on some comments from Harold Evans:

--once we move into actual basin plan, we need to involve as many stakeholders as possible; this needs to be a South Platte Basin plan—not just a roundtable plan. Important to have these stakeholders present and to contribute their “wish lists” and fresh ideas.

Frank sees that we should have additional workshops/questionnaires/etc. to have a seat at the table and a voice in the implementation plan.

We are committed to have another meeting between July 24 and August to move this scoping forward. Envisions a clear direction and a narrowing of the scope.

Bornstein reiterates assistance and guidance within existing budget.

Sean Cronin: Rio Chato thought it would be useful to wait to glean common themes from the three roundtables; want ample opportunity to comment but will need to move forward with the implementation plan; we are already 6 months behind. Must move forward. What does our basin want and how do we go about achieving it; Rio Chato will rely on the CDM to assist; wish that we had the time but we are on a restricted time line.

Janet Bell: Notes that our needs assessments are done; perhaps there is a way to bring in the “cards that we have” where we have already identified these needs; perhaps we

can reach out by phone or by email to ask if needs have changed; might be useful to have a spread sheet to enumerate these needs and note if any of these have been implemented; perhaps volunteers can assist in this reach out.

Sean: We do have some agenda time for verbal update; something in writing would be useful.

Janet Bell: Encourages Bornstein to call on us to help.

Patron: Some of these are difficult to do as a committee; is there a main contact person for the report? Scope and final report will need to be pulled together by a consultant, yes?

Cronin: Some of the concerns that I have is that some of this falls on the chairs; personally, as we go forward, I will be relying on a full time paid consultant basis to assist with this.

Frank: Yes, much of this work needs to rely on an assistant.

McVicker: Therefore, do we need a WSRA application in front of the roundtables by July 24?

Cronin: We have CDM lined up to help us articulate the scope of work and from there we are ready for the WSRA application.

Janet Bell: Do you anticipate in doing this work involving the other two roundtables so that we can take steps forward as a team in order to go forward in effectuating the report? As McVicker suggested—can we do this as a group of 3 roundtables.

Cronin: yes, we have discussed this and the Metro and South Platte are in the same basin; the AK, of course, is a different basin and they already have a plan going forward.

Bornstein: Just as a time consideration, whether a WSRA comes forward in July or August, the board will consider this in its September meeting.

Julio: Seems like it would make sense that the scope of work could be a collaborative effort between Metro and South Platte. Perhaps we need to make it easier for stakeholders to contact us.

Sean: Vis a vis Harold's comments—it would be the members of the roundtable obligation to reach out to stakeholders and then funnel those back to us.

Sean Conway: My understanding is that there is a desire to bring buy-in from county, municipal etc. officials and we, as the formal representatives, will be the ones to bring comments and needs from stakeholders to the roundtable.

Sue from CDM: Wants to clarify what CDM is here to help with; we are available to kick off goals and objectives; there is a team in addition to CDM Smith that is ready and available to start to move this along; resources already here; all recognize that the Platte is the most complex basin in the State.

Cronin points out that John Stulp is here to join us if anyone has any questions from John.

b. WSRA Guidelines – Cronin

Quorum: McVicker: No...16 voting members present—need 18.

Cronin reviews the red-lined draft of the Water Supply Reserve Account Grant; reminder that the basin roundtable reviewed this during June meeting and made

suggestions; Greg Kernohan is on the South Basin tour tonight but Cronin hopes to answer any questions. If we had a quorum, we would look to approve tonight. We would like to establish a needs committee focused on this; have three applicants waiting.

Bornstein: email votes?

Shimmin: No, not at this time.

Cronin: General comments on the new guidelines; opportunity to give feedback.

McVicker: Opines that Greg Kernohan did an effective job in incorporating our comments from the June meeting; all the issues that arose during the Josh Aims presentation were addressed.

V. Dinner

VI. Sub-Committee Updates

a. Education Sub-Committee – Schneekloth

No report.

Bert Weaver: Addressing lack of quorum; would like to offer alternative to quorum: we should reduce number for quorum because if you look at the list of names on the membership role you will see that there are members who have not been here for more than four years; we should purge this list.

Sean Cronin: In our March meeting, the executive committee put a series of meetings to address some issues; one of these was attendance; this issue came up: who is on the roundtable, who participates, who is not. Our bylaws are very broad in terms of the voting members; our committee, led by Rich Felt, is going to do exactly this—go through the list and match the dictates of the bylaws (which echo the statute) so we hope to have this cleared up by our August meeting. My concern was that we are entering into some very important territory and if we do not have the full diversity that the act looked for, we need to be decisive in terms of how we will go forward.

Bert: This is the worst impact: we cannot vote—we have traveled all of these miles and we are waiting for people who have not been participating.

Mike Shimmin: We are limited by the Act; we cannot eliminate any of the 42 mandated seats; but if people simply do not show up we could revise the bylaws in terms of how to apply the statute, not violate it, but have a definition of quorum in terms of attendance.

Cronin: It will definitely be in our best interest of how to define our quorum for voting purposes.

Patron: Do your committees have to be made from voting members or can we recruit from interested parties?

Joe Frank: Yes, we have had nonvoting members on our committees—note groundwater committee and Wilkinson.

b. Non-Consumptive Sub-Committee – Streeter

Bob is not present but emailed Cronin; there is a meeting scheduled with the committee and the Nature Conservancy and work they are doing in identifying critical stream reaches and is focusing on the nonconsumptive plan.

Larry Howard: That meeting is on July 19.

- c. Phreatophyte Sub-Committee – Streeter
No report.

- d. Alternative Ag Transfer Methods Sub-Committee – Frank
No report

- e. Groundwater Sub-Committee – Frank

Well attended meeting before this meeting today; Reagan Waskam gave report and update on HB 1278; Ralph Topper gave update on LaSalle study.

Reagan gave a general overview of the South Platte Basin—Google Earth—can look at River on the website; Reagan looking to find areas of high ground water: two main areas: Sterling and South Hillcrest Area; these were identified by public and are also the two areas being studied by the CWCB. Question on outreach—lots has been done to help with identification. Other issue was phreatophyte consumption and how this could be used to identify high levels as well; information seems to be inconclusive. Using 2001 as base data, which mirrored that study in 2010—data showed increase in consumption—this could be from increase in vegetation, not necessarily high ground water; seems like it will be difficult to use phreatophyte consumption to study high ground water. Was increase of about 30,000 acft between 2001 and 2010.

Reagan Waskam would like to gather feedback from this roundtable and other stakeholders in the future.

Patron: Different conclusions from the meeting: first speaker: no data; second speaker said that the ground water had risen clearly specifically when the wells were shut down.

Frank: I am just addressing the first speaker—Reagan—and relied on data; Schneekloth:

Reagan did look at the base data of 2001; how much phreatopyhte growth—the density had increased but did not see any dramatic growth.

Frank: LaSalle-High Crest areas were focus of Ralph Topper’s presentation. Overall trend seemed to be highs and lows but not an overall rising of water level.

Sean Conway: There was missing data in Topper’s presentation.

Joe Frank: Thought it noteworthy that there was not a huge change from the 1930s.

Frank Eckhardt: But the pumps were running in the 1930s.

Joe Frank: True. Topper did point out that the Sterling area study has varying and different issues than the Hillcrest area study. These are just general observations; no conclusions. Again, Topper looking for more data in the future.

- f. Executive Sub-Committee – Cronin

Have not had a meeting recently.

Shortly after nominated Chair in January, received a call from Bob Lempke from United Water to say that United Water would like to be involved in the roundtable. Offered tour of the United Water system; there are seats available on the August 15 tour; full day; if interested, contact Sean Cronin.

United Water system is the entire state of CO but supplies East Cherry Creek—ranging from Castle Rock to the middle South Platte.

VII. WSRA Proposal/Approval

- a. Water Development Feasibility of Colorado State Land Board Property Along the Lower South Platte River – Greg Kernohan

No quorum. Cannot take action; Julia with DU is present; Cronin says that he would recommend that Julia and DU wait until August for presentation. Jacob Bornstein indicated that CWCB would be flexible and that DU could present at August and the staff of CWCB will be flexible. Julia agrees that it seems better to wait until August for the presentation.

Bornstien: 60 days is no longer correct—grants are due the first of the month prior to the Board Meeting; so this would mean August 1 for the September Board Meeting; therefore, this would be a 13 day flexibility.

Janet Bell: What happens if we do not have a quorum in August?

Sean: I have confidence in Rich and myself that there will be a quorum.

JimFord: Anything in bylaws for proxy votes in our bylaws?

Mike Shimmin: No.

Joe Frank: We could send a notice to see if we could have a meeting before July 24 meeting?

Cronin: I think we need to give Rich the opportunity to reach out. I agree that we need greater participation in general, but I think this is a July problem.

Joe Frank: Two main things in August?

Cronin: Our WSRA grant, WSRA from DU, implementation plan; there could be an IPP presentation in terms of the decision support system that has them included in them.

Janet Bell: But you will have July 24 right before the August meeting. So perhaps you will have more substance for your August meeting so you will be on top of the energy from that meeting.

Sean Conway: On the chance that we have a quorum on July 24, any feedback to think about actions being taken after that meeting?

Mike Shimmin: It would be useful to see the bylaws of the other roundtables to see how they have addressed the issue of bylaws and quorum.

Cronin: Will do.

VIII. Items from membership/attendees

Mike Applegate: How was the Josh Aims WSRA received by the Metro roundtable?

Julio: Metro approved it for \$25,000.

Sean Cronin adjourns meeting at 6:55 pm

Next Meeting Dates

July 24 Joint Meeting of the SPBRT, Metro and Arkansas

10-3: Summit Conference Center in Aurora: Agenda and Notice to be distributed

August 13: SPBRT meeting: 4 pm Weld County