

# **Metro Roundtable Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

**Denver Water**

**1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204**

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

### **1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)**

Eric Hecox conducted introduction.

### **2. Approval of the Meeting Summary (5 min)**

Motion to approve October MRT Minutes by Eric Hecox, Julio Iturreria 2nd.

All in favor, unanimous, motion passed

### **3. Agenda: additions or changes (5 min)**

### **4. Phreatophyte Grant Proposals (10)**

#### **a. Chris Sturm - Overview**

Craig Godbout presented for Chris Sturm. The deadline has passed for this year but they are still accepting Letter's of Endorsement. This is a highly competitive program and over prescribed. Roundtables are being asked to supply Letter of Support. This is not an ask for funding from MRT WSRA Basin and/or Statewide Accounts. The program requirements were read to the MRT. Time is of the essence to approve and supply letters.

#### **b. Jesse Roehm - Mile High Youth Corps, Request for Letter(s) of Support**

- City of Brighton - Jesse Roehm presented for Brighton River and Park Species Phreatophyte removal for 2 weeks of work with the Mile High Youth Corps. They have had a lot of experience in this type of work over the past 5 years. This will be a highly visible open space project involving 27 1/2 acres with a dense invasive species profile. This work is part of a larger IPM initiative. Jesse provided a handout map of the area. Monitoring over 5 years will take place to gain management control of the invasive species population.

Motion to approve MRT supplying a Letter of Support made by Eric Hecox, Julio Iturreria 2nd.

All in favor, unanimous, motion passed

- Foothills Park & Recreation District - Brenda Hicks presented for Foothills. Mile High Youth is the lead agency and Foothill's has been submitted within their submittal package. They asked for a Letter of Support for an invasive species removal project at Wingate South Park in southwest Denver between Kipling and Wadsworth. A handout of map of the area was provided. The work will involve 3 weeks of Youth Corps service to address eradication of Russian Olives. The work plan also includes protection of native trees actions

Motion to approve MRT supplying a Letter of Support made by Casey Davenport, Scott Schreiber 2nd.

All in favor, unanimous, motion passed

### **5. Committee Updates (100 min)**

a. PEPO (Davenhill – 20 min)

- Website digital presence memo (10 min)

Did digital presence memo go out to larger group? No. Casey read aloud the update. There is interest in utilizing the South Platte website more robustly. HDR developed the site and they want it to continue as an asset of this RT. Working close on action plans with a particular focus on digital presence. A recommendation letter for addressing digital presence is being reviewed by the education committee. They are currently looking at a budget comparison and analytic options for various methods of digital media. They are also considering a repository and document share. Budget details are being developed to present to CWCB next year. It has been well vetted by both SPRT and MRT education committees.

- Special district outreach (10 min)

There are plans in development to do an event to engage local officials. Identified the need to build constituency and identify already existing opportunities to do outreach. Handouts were provided.

Education and outreach topics were also addressed during the CWCB Board meeting earlier this day. To date education and outreach has had a narrow focus targeted at the Basin RT level and expanded to Water Plan. Now that outreach is part of the Water Plan the CWCB would like to expand the conversation and consider education WSRA outreach funding. BIP is 2:1 ratio. The statewide component of BIP grant does not need to wait until September or March to receive submittal of request for funds. If generated by the RT you can go for statewide funds before the Board at any time. Eventually this may create some type of statewide grant for education but this idea will likely need to be approved by the legislature.

b. WSRA Committee (Murrell – 70 min)

- Grant Review Updates (10 min)

1. Nona Shipman, MSU Water Diplomats Status Report (10 min)

Nona provided an update on the execution of water diplomats work study experience. The Colorado Water Plan was a huge focus. They accepted 30 students having received over 40 applicants from 5 different schools. The work study involved a weekend 3-day workshop for students and was held on Auraria campus in September. Student material hardcopy was shared with MRT. A flash drive was also provided to each student. The work shop received excellent Facebook exposure with response back from community asking how they can host the scavenger hunt type experience. Creative reporting out included radio spots, campus newspaper submittals, and club presentations. In 2016 the work shop will a collaboration held in Colorado Mesa State. Jason, a student participant, shared his experience with the MRT. He is a member of the Water Association Stewards Program. They held a dinner to present their work shop materials.

A multi-basin collaboration with a funding ask from other basins was suggested given they are going to Mesa State next year.

- Priorities Discussion-spokesperson for each topic (60 min)

Tim Murell asked if MRT received the 1-page November handout in their meeting packets. Hardcopy was made available. This handout collated several meetings of information regarding guidelines. Funding projections for 2016 were provided with a readout from topic area representatives. Five specific topic areas were covered along with the priorities within each of those topics.

Conceptual Projects In-Basin and Transbasin – Presented by Eric Hecox. Goal to switch from reactive to proactive response to grants coming in to the MRT. Suggested to prioritize to leverage other funds to take each concept to next level. Refer to bulleted points in meeting packet WSRA Guidelines handout.

Municipal and Industrial Conservation and Reuse – Presented by Joe Stibrich. Looking through the SPBRT BIP goal in terms of water conservation and reuse. This topic will be defining goals for conservation in greater detail and will help define that leg of the stool in the planning. What exactly can you do? They want to answer this question. Also, reuse direct and indirect potable supply and demand side usability investigations would be useful. They want to gain clarity on what types of studies to consider. Review of funding option considerations and referred to meeting packet MRT WSRA Guidelines handout.

Comment made that conservation is good, but maybe study new technology that may be a game changer or at least MRT be a leader to direct where the entire region might go. Could this be a pilot project concept? Maybe, but may also be able to leverage money to steer organizations to getting much more per acre feet. Are there particular items we want to study? This has been discussed. If there is a topic we want to sponsor there is nothing in the guidelines preventing MRT from doing that. There may be a handful of projects to bring forward with new ideas. MRT may still solicit studies for the things the MRT wants to see brought forward. Being flexible with the guidelines is important so as not to limit opportunities to consider new concepts.

Environment and Recreation – Presented by Scott Schreiber. Shared overall goals of the topic area. In light of the need for increased assessment, environmental and recreation projects and methods, and for collaboration on multi-purpose projects, they suggest that proposals be invited in each of those three categories: stream management planning/assessment; environmental and recreation enhancements; and development of environmental and recreational components in multipurpose projects. He provided a review of funding option considerations and referred to meeting packet MRT WSRA Guidelines handout. A map was included to convey the expanse of the focus area. It can be overwhelming and the committee will be seeking guidance from the MRT to help refine and identify targets.

They are looking in urbanized locations for projects. This approach is appreciated given many people in the state only see the projects in urban areas. Headwaters are good, but more people will see what happens in their community.

Important to foster collaboration with SPBRT. One common thread throughout the WSRA funding discussion is how crucial the collaboration is with the SPRT. SPBRT has seen the guidelines documents but they have not seen the five topic areas being presented during this meeting.

Municipal and Industrial – Implementation of IP&P's - Presented by Barbara Biggs. It is assumed that Reuse IPPs will be addressed in conjunction with the Conservation and Reuse topic area. Similarly, In-Basin IPPs and Transbasin IPPs will be addressed in conjunction with the Conceptual Projects topic area. MRT made the decision early on to stick with IPPs defined in SWSI 2010. We did not spend time to update the status of the IPPs and reach out to the proponents. Before we can help the BIPs in our area we need to go out and ask questions to gain an understanding of the need.

This may be part of SWSI. The consultants have been selected to work on SWSI updates. All consultants have received Master Services Agreement from the State. The scope of work has not been defined. If SWSI takes care of prioritization we may use MRT money to help implement BIPs and help them update.

We may want to help fund participation in workshops to collect the information. Wait for the CO Water Plan to be released and for SWSI 2016, with this information we can then reach out to communities through a process to determine what their needs are specifically.

Marc Waage offered to craft a memo on how the MRT may support a workshop for smaller communities and help them implement their BIP. A "Lean Event" process for State permitting is being advanced. Smaller communities will need help to coordinate and put projects together.

Education and Outreach – Presented by Casey Davenhill. The July workshop was very promising reflecting getting into greater detail with IPPs. They are coordinating closely with the South Platte BRT group. They are identifying proponents of key IPPs given that the Education committee is also about educating MRT members to conversations happening within the communities. Grant applicants seeking Education and Outreach funds will need to successfully demonstrate how their project ties to the recommendations in the Metro Roundtable's Education Action Plan.

Motion to approve MRT WSRA Guidelines made by Eric Hecox, Julio Iturreria 2nd, with caveat that applicants already in Basin Plan proceed forward.

All in favor, unanimous, motion passed

- Reserve Fund (5 min)
  1. MRT WSRA fund balance \$238,494 / Statewide balance \$1,898,512
  2. Next funding cycle allocation is January - annual allocation 40% distribution in July, 30% distribution in January, 30% distribution in April
- c. Nominating Committee (Biggs / Bell - 5 min)

Vacancies are showing on spreadsheet. Thank you Amy Conklin for helping Janet for putting spreadsheet together.
- d. Meeting Schedule (Biggs - 5 min)
  - Consider changing MRT meeting time. Poll to determine best dates for maximum availability. If approved change would be effective January 2016.
  - Tally was read to MRT on date change for meeting beginning in 2016. The 2nd or 3rd Thursday of each month are the final two options under consideration.

Marc Waage will check with Denver Water to ensure meeting space availability. Once confirmed the change will be effective January 1, 2016 moving the MRT meetings to the second Thursday of each month.

The MRT December meeting will be on the current schedule and held on the second Wednesday.

## **6. CWP (5 min)**

## **7. Meeting Schedule**

- a. CWCB Meeting - Wednesday, November 18th & Thursday, November 19th, History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, CO
- b. MRT Meeting - Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO

**Adjourned 6:00 pm**