

## **South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
4209 Weld County Road 24 1/2  
Longmont, Colorado 80501  
4:00PM-8:45PM**

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### **South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting**

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

The meeting began at 4:05 with introductions.

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

Sean Conway moved to approve the minutes and Jim Yahn seconded. The meeting minutes were approved without contest.

#### **3. Agenda – additions or changes**

Item 6—Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program was moved up before Item 4—Committee Updates.

#### **Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program – Roundtable Endorsement (Frank – 5 min)**

John Giordanengo took to floor to discuss an invasive phreatophyte control program grant his group had applied for with several other local and state partners. Giordanengo reported on the ongoing issue of the crackwood—the public perception of the issue, the cost of management, and critical facets of managing the plant. Giordanengo reported his group was seeking roughly \$60,000.00 in Roundtable support for the pilot project his group had developed. Diane Hoppe asked how many other Roundtables were being approached for assistance and Giordanengo responded the South Platte Basin Roundtable was the only Roundtable within effective proximity and thus the only one approached. The request was for \$60,000.00 spread over three years with a match of \$40,000.00.

Joe Frank recommended approval of the project and Sean Conway clarified the approval would allow the project to go before the CWCB for final approval of funding. Sean Conway made a motion that the Roundtable send a letter of recommendation to the CWBC recommending they fund the project, and Garret Varra seconded. The motion passed without contest.

#### **4. Committee Updates**

##### **a. WSRA Needs Committee**

##### **i. CWI Letter of Support Request (5 min)**

This item was postponed to later in the meeting so presentations could be loaded in advance of the presentations.

##### **ii. Funding Requests (60 min)**

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to provide background for the WSRA applications on the docket. The funding was below available budget levels because of the WSRA's efforts to focus on the strongest of the applications. Each of the following presentations was limited to a maximum of five minutes. Digital copies of all application materials were provided to the Roundtable members before the meeting.

## 1. CAWA Agricultural Water Workshop (CO Ag Water Alliance)

Greg Peterson from the Colorado Ag Water Alliance presented on a funding request of \$2,550.00 (to be matched by the CAWA at \$2,550.00). Lisa McVicker inquired on a date and Peterson responded although funding would appear afterward, the goal was to get the workshop in place before the agricultural season. Brent Newman reported the CWCB could not reimburse and would need to fund the contract before its execution. The meeting would, as a result, occur later than expected. A CAWA representative (Charlie Bartlett) responded the workshop would occur as early as possible, with specific regards to the agricultural community. Brent Newman reported that although it wouldn't be funded by the CWCB until March, it could be expedited due to the relatively small size of the funding request. James Ford asked that if possible, the CAWA workshop feed into the South Platte Basin Roundtable's Education and Outreach initiatives. CAWA representatives extended an offer to assist the Roundtable with its Education and Outreach initiatives wherever possible.

## 2. Live Like You Love It (Colorado Stormwater Council)

Amy Conklin from the Colorado Stormwater Council presented on a funding request of \$5,000. Joe Frank asked, regarding other Roundtable contributions, which Basin Roundtables had not been approached for funding. Conklin responded those missing Roundtables were the Southwest, the Gunnison, and the Rio Grande. Mike Shimmin asked what an in-kind contribution to the project in discussion looked like, and Conklin responded it was the summation of various groups and government entities that were already using the materials. Shimmin expressed concern over the phrasing of the budget item "in-kind" as a funding source since the area, not the Roundtable itself, was the source of those contributions. Sean Cronin inquired as to the availability of the materials after funding and whether or not individual entities would need to buy the materials or if the materials could be provided to all Roundtable members and partners. Conklin's response was that following (WSRA) funding all materials developed would be available to the Roundtable. The South Platte Basin Roundtable would be paying for new materials, developed after the point of funding. Upon clarification of the question, Conklin responded the WSRA grant would be specifically contributing to the development and presentation of internet, radio, and television ads and announcements. Additionally, part of the funds would go toward the hiring of a strategizing firm to maximize the use of the funds. Joe Frank asked how the program would interact with the Roundtable's Education and Outreach initiatives and the CWCB's education and outreach efforts. Conklin responded the initiatives would easily interconnect and enhance each other. The message for the materials would be developed by the steering committee (of the Live Like You Love It program), and would hopefully utilize representative from each funding entity, including the Roundtable.

Lisa McVicker reflected on materials passed out at the November and December meetings and the interconnectivity of those materials, all from Live Like You Love It, and considered whether or not they would connect easily with the SPBRT Education and Outreach initiatives. McVicker added the gain of accessing developed materials was significant and well worth the \$5,000.00 buy-in presented to the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Mike Shimmin called attention to the fluidity of the budget and the accuracy of the numbers therein (the presentation did not match the initial application materials or the memo distributed to the Roundtable). Stephen Larson asked what kinds of services were being contributed to fill the in-kind budget items, and Conklin responded the numbers were summed from partner agencies who argued the use of materials easily correlated to the budget line items. A representative from the Colorado Stormwater Council reported the Roundtables which were approached first were the most heavily populated and thus those with the most to gain from supporting the initiative.

## 3. Greeley Area Cache la Poudre Greenway Corridor Project (City of Greeley)

Rebecca Safirik from the City of Greeley presented on a funding request of \$15,000.00. Sean Conway asked, regarding the part of the plan that impacts the Windsor area, if the plan would cross the jurisdictional boundary between the two towns. Safirik responded there was a cross-

jurisdictional group that would be working together to maximize their cooperative framework and thus the planning initiative in discussion. Mike Brazzell asked if the purpose of the project's budget of \$70,000.00 would be to hire a subcontractor to manifest the initiatives in the program's action plan. Safirik added the total budget was the result of similar projects the City of Greeley has completed. Safirik added there was a strong focus on storage development, especially in areas with gravel mining.

#### **4. WaterReuse Colorado (WaterReuse Colorado)**

Laura Ballenger from WaterReuse Colorado, via Western Resource Advocates, presented on a funding request of \$15,000.00. Jim Yahn asked for a clarification of the funding—when a contributor added to the project it reduced the Statewide WSRA funding request. Joe Frank asked for clarification of how the water was supposed to impact agricultural water use and Ballenger responded the reused water would be legally designated water for reuse, which would presumably be new water in the river. Greg Kernohan provided his support in the developing program. Mike Shimmin expressed concern over the uniform support of new water quality regulations—such support, Shimmin argued, was difficult, if not impossible, to garner. Shimmin asked what failsafes were in place to ensure the regulations developed as a result of the work funded by the funding request would actually be implemented. Ballenger responded there was no guarantee of the regulations' implementation. Shimmin complicated matters by adding the camp of water-use interests didn't always have parallel interests with the water-re-use interests.

Mike Shimmin felt the development of water re-use regulations would need to be a much larger political initiative or an initiative to push through the political process, than was perhaps being proposed as per the WaterReuse Colorado plan. Shimmin felt there was not a clear address of due process in the presentation. Discussion ensued as to the impact of the program in discussion on water regulations and water use (i.e. water rights). Laura Ballenger responded by stating the program would be developing proposed regulations for water quality, specifically water re-use, for the State to consider in the development of its own standards. Kevin Lusk added the development of proposed regulations was the best approach, especially given the much prolonged regulation development process of water quality standards. Discussion ensued as to the efficacy of the program's strategy and the impact of the strategy on a variety of water interests. Sean Conway expressed support for Shimmin's concern. Laura Ballenger responded the process was already designed to involve public support and public stakeholder involvement. Shimmin openly considered asking the applicant to revise the proposal and return to the Roundtable the following month. Unfortunately, Ballenger responded, the support of the Roundtable before February 1<sup>st</sup> needed to be clear. Stephen Larson proposed adding language to a preamble that called specific attention to aspects of the project that addressed the concerns expressed by members of the Roundtable.

#### **5. Poudre River Downtown Fort Collins Project, Reach 3 (City of Fort Collins)**

Caroline Bradford consultant for the City of Fort Collins presented on a funding request of \$50,000.00. John Stokes spoke to the economic impact of the proposed project on the City of Fort Collins, the environmental benefits of the project, and the resiliency benefits of the project.

#### **6. Horse Creek Restoration Project (Coalition for the Upper South Platte)**

Carol Icarius from the Coalition of the Upper South Platte and Mike McHugh from Aurora Water presented on a funding request of \$50,000.00. Jeffrey Boring noted this particular application was not recommended for approval of funding because the cost-benefit for the South Platte Basin was not enough to garner WSRA support. Boring reminded the Roundtable that they could override the WSRA recommendation if they felt support of any amount was appropriate.

Lynda James added the benefit to transportation infrastructure by the Horse Creek restoration would be great. James added the work done to Trail Creek was significant and impactful—the

gain of removing and keeping sediment out of the river benefited the entire South Platte watershed. Lisa McVicker expressed her support for the project as something that did not specifically benefit the Metro area—she felt it was of much larger impact, specifically upon the South Platte Basin as a whole. Lisa McVicker asked the Roundtable to consider support of the application in any amount. Icarius and McHugh responded they would also be approaching the Metro Roundtable for funding. McHugh reported the City of Aurora had already committed \$100,000.00 to the proposed project. Icarius and McHugh spoke to the numerous awards the similar Trail Creek project had won.

### **iii. Education Funding and Outreach (10 min)**

Lisa McVicker announced that in conjunction with the Metro Roundtable, a proposal was being put together to go before the CWCB to fund the Education Action Plan. McVicker announced Casey Davenhill from the Metro Roundtable was leading the charge to develop the proposal and along with herself (McVicker) and Joel Schneekloth Davenhill would be developing a strategy for funding and implementing the Education Action Plan. A meeting at the end of the month would be held to organize the strategy and discuss a budget for manifesting components of the Action Plan.

James Ford asked if the Colorado Municipal League had been approached and Lisa McVicker responded they had not, but those kinds of suggestions would be helpful. Joel Schneekloth added most of the water festivals for youth were already fairly well covered within the Basin and the Legislators would be the next step. Joe Frank added the importance of the education and outreach to the Basin.

Diane Hoppe reported the State was entering into a new phase of reduced funding and even though some of the WSRA applications may pass the Roundtable, such support didn't guarantee they would receive State funding. Lisa McVicker asked if there was a detailed report of the South Platte Basin Roundtable funds. Discussion ensued as to what the current account balance. The outcome was an understanding that all numbers for 2016 would be low (relative to past years) due to lower severance taxes.

Lisa McVicker pushed the digital presence and outreach meetings with elected officials as the two most critical components of the ongoing Education and Outreach Committee. Bruce Gerk added that the importance of maintaining and not diminishing the education effort was paramount to other Roundtable efforts. Lisa McVicker responded by stating the benefit of the joint South Platte and Metro Roundtables was increased funds. Mike Shimmin asked that everyone revisit the “set-aside fund” since it was designed to bolster Roundtable initiatives.

### **iv. Funding Update (20 min)**

Jeffrey Boring followed up discussion of the set-aside fund (numbers in Oct 2015 meeting minutes, under item 5.3.i) by stating the WSRA applications presented at the current meeting would not come close to touching the reserve amounts. Discussion ensued, largely between Sean Cronin, Joe Frank, Mike Shimmin, and Jeffrey Boring as to what the current balances were and what was available. The takeaway from the discussion was that there was more than enough money in the account to fund the WSRA applications presented at the current meeting.

Joe Frank added the Metro guidelines for proposal, distributed before the meeting, would need to be developed to specifically address each of the funds available to the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Those funds would be necessary components of discussions regarding strategies for tackling the consumptive and non-consumptive gaps.

### **Dinner (6:40-7:20)**

Sean Cronin took the floor to start the post-dinner discussion. Cronin started by drawing attention to the high ask of Statewide funds and how a reduced State award would impact the projects the Roundtable would be voting on at the current meeting. Greg Kernohan asked what

would happen to projects that didn't receive State funding. Brent Newman responded that each project could be funded, but the entire Statewide fund would be wiped out.

The Poudre River Project would proceed, seeking support from other sources. The same went for the Horse Creek Restoration Project. The Live Like You Love It project would need some State support to move forward. The City of Greeley project would move forward, but at a much slower pace. The Reuse project would move forward with a reduced project scope

John Stencil moved to fund the CAWA request at the amount requested and Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without contest.

Garret Varra moved to fund the Colorado Stormwater Council request at the amount requested and Lisa McVicker seconded. Concern was expressed over the involvement of the Roundtable in the project steering committee to ensure continuity with the Roundtable Education and Outreach initiatives. Sean Cronin asked whether the Roundtable could or would fund a project that would change with receipt of little or no State support. Mike Brazzell supported the project as a means of addressing a widely recognized goal of improved water education and outreach. Julio Iturreria and Burt Knight supported the project for the same reasons as Mike Brazzell. The motion passed with overwhelming consent. Joe Frank voted in opposition.

Sean Conway moved to approve the City of Greeley project at the amount requested and John Stokes seconded. Stokes commented he felt the project was a good one and would facilitate future projects in the area. The motion passed without contest. Burt Knight abstained from voting.

Sean Conway moved to table the WaterReuse Colorado project until the next meeting, and until the proposal could be revised to address concerns of the Roundtable—this motion was seconded by Julio Iturreria. Kevin Lusk opposed the tabling on the grounds of the action being inconsistent with the Roundtable's commitment to act on the BIP and fund a range of water projects. Frank Eckhart argued against the project as taking water away from agricultural interests. Discussion ensued between Eckhart and Lusk as to who was impacted by the reuse and how. Further discussion ensued as to the signal a vote to support would show to the State and to other Basins. Sean Conway responded to the comments by saying the purpose of the motion was to give the applicant the ability to revise the project funding proposal, rather than opposing the project by withholding funding. Garret Varra asked the applicant and Mike Shimmin to respond on the possibility of modifying the proposal. Consensus was for specific Roundtable members to work with the applicant in preparation for an email vote on revised language. The motion passed with overwhelming support; two Roundtable members opposed.

Sean Conway made a motion to fund the City of Fort Collins project at the amount requested and Bert Weaver as well as Burt Knight seconded. Mike Brazzell asked if the project was entirely recreational in benefit. Caroline Bradford and John Stokes responded the project would have environmental benefits as well as resiliency benefits. The motion passed with overwhelming support; two Roundtable members opposed. John Stokes abstained from voting.

Lisa McVicker made a motion to support the Horse Creek Restoration project at a reduced rate of \$25,000.00 to support Basin-wide health as a whole and Mike Brazzell supported. Lisa McVicker expressed an understanding that there was an adjacent and sizable Statewide funding request. Julio Iturreria felt funding the project for any less than the requested amount would be out-of-line with the Roundtable's philosophy of supporting the Basin as a unified entity, rather than splitting the Metro from the South Platte Roundtables. Greg Kernohan argued the South Platte and Metro Roundtables were connected, but funded as separate entities with their own strategies.

Lisa McVicker amended the motion to fund the project for the fully requested amount and Mike Brazzell seconded the amended motion. Sean Conway requested to modify the amendment to the motion that the South Platte's fund be conditional upon the Metro's decision to fund the project at the amount requested of them. The member who moved for an amended motion and

the member who seconded the motion both vocalized their support of the modification. John Stokes pointed out the funding of the Horse Creek Restoration project would exceed the budgeted amount for the current WSRA fund draw-down. Discussion ensued as to the benefits of the project and the significance of funding, not only financially, but also for the Basin as a functioning watershed. The motion passed without contest. Lynda James abstained from voting.

Joe Frank called attention to the WSRA funding criteria and asked everyone to consider those criteria in anticipation of future discussion on the topic. Jeffrey Boring and Greg Kernohan addressed the potential to review and revise the WSRA funding guidelines. Burt Knight asked how the scoring criteria would apply to high-impact projects that didn't meet all the scoring criteria and Greg Kernohan added that the criteria was designed to be objective and balanced.

**b. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)**

Jim Hall reported the groundwater levels in Gilcrest were still high, although lower than during the same time last year. Hall reminded the Roundtable that once the pumps are turned off the recovery is quick. According to Hall, there was an ongoing push to identify a long-term solution for dewatering the Gilcrest area. Furthermore, \$25,000.00 was left over from the Water Plan effort and that would be used for a pilot project to evaluate an adapted water budget to accommodate the dewatering needs of the area. Hall reported local ditch companies had concerns about their involvement in the dewatering program—there were concerns over liability and the commitment of resources to return the water to the stream. On the topic of dewatering, Hall reported any pumping and incentives to pump would greatly help the issue. Most pump administrators were pumping well below their quotas. In Sterling, Hall identified an upcoming grant request for funding to draw-down groundwater in that area as well. Sean Conway asked if the dewatering was continuing and discussion ensued as to the obstacle of returning the water to the river. Sean Conway pointed out Weld County's commitment to the dewatering effort.

**c. Environmental-Recreational Needs (Kernohan – 5 min)**

Greg Kernohan reported a meeting had not been held recently. Kernohan thanked Laurel Stadjuhar for her efforts in developing the BIP.

**5. At-large Nominating Committee Appointment of At-large Water Rights Seat (Cronin – 10 min)**

Sean Cronin presented on the current at-large position applicants. For the current vacancy there were only two applicants. Per approved guidelines, the at-large election committee deemed both applicants eligible and asked them to speak before the Roundtable as to their qualifications. Eric England spoke to his history in the Basin and his benefit to the Roundtable as a representative from the Colorado energy industry, in addition to Rich Belt. Dan Brown spoke to his history in the Basin and his qualifications for the at-large position.

Following a vote, Sean Cronin reported Dan Brown was the new At-large (water rights) member.

**6. Public Comment (10 min)**

No public comment was offered.

**7. Legislative Update (5 min)**

It was reported the Colorado legislative session would begin Wednesday, January 13.

**8. Colorado Water Plan (Newman)**

**a. Presentation (30 min)**

Brent Newman reported on the Colorado Water Plan, specifically Chapter 10. Newman reported the original list of 80 critical actions was reduced to roughly 30 critical actions.

b. Q&A (15 min)

**9. Mine Leaching @ South Platte Headwaters/Park County (Brazell – 15 min)**

This item was struck from the agenda.

**10. Election of Officers/Re-election of At-large Members/IBCC Representative Selection (30 mins)**

James Ford made a motion that the Roundtable re-appoint 10 at-large representatives and Burt Knight seconded. The motion passed without contest.

Bruce Gerk made a motion to re-elect the current position-holders and Jim Hibbard seconded. The motion passed without consent.

For the position of IBCC representative:

Ken Huson nominated Sean Cronin.

Bruce Gerk nominated Jim Hall.

John Stokes nominated Greg Kernohan.

After a vote, Sean Cronin was announced as the newest South Platte Basin Roundtable IBCC Rep.

John Stencel spoke to his 13 years on the Roundtable and announced the meeting would be his last. The Roundtable thanked him for his service.

**11. Meeting Schedule**

a. Next Roundtable Meeting – Feb 9, 2016 – Weld County Service Center