

## **South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**501 North 14th Avenue**

**Greeley, CO 80631**

**4:00PM-7:15PM**

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

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

The meeting started at 4:14 with introductions of all those in attendance.

Joe Frank asked that the membership observe a moment of silence to commemorate the passing of Diane Hoppe, basin representative to the CWCB. The following tribute was read aloud to be included in the minutes.

#### ***“TRIBUTE TO DIANE HOPPE***

With a heavy heart we want to acknowledge the passing of a truly remarkable woman. Diane Hoppe passed away on Saturday, February 27, after a long battle with cancer. Born in Sterling, CO, she graduated from Sterling High School, and then from CU Boulder with a degree in microbiology. After marriage, she worked on the Hoppe farm and ranch near Sterling before going into public service.

Diane worked for Congressman Hank Brown and succeeded Rep. Don Ament in the Colorado House of Representatives, where she served from 1999-2006. She was the first woman to chair the House Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources. Diane also chaired the Water Resources Review Committee and served as House Minority Whip.

A founding member of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education, she served as its president from 2002-2007 and in 2012, received its President's Award. In 2012, she was appointed by Gov. John Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which she chaired in 2015-2016. She also served on the South Platte Basin Roundtable. A well-respected water leader, she received numerous awards, including the Colorado Water Congress Aspinall Award, the Colorado Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture award, the Colorado Cattlemen Association Honorary Life Member award, and the Colorado Water Congress Honorary Life Member award. Diane Hoppe is survived by her two sons, Dan and John, by her brother John Rogers, and by many beloved friends. We are grateful for her service to the Roundtable. She will be deeply missed.”

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

Sean Conway made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting of the roundtable. Mike Shimmin seconded. The motion passed without contest or further discussion

## 3. Agenda – additions or changes

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

## 4. Committee Updates

### a) WSRA Needs Committee

Joe Frank reported that the meeting of the Needs Committee scheduled for earlier in the week had been canceled, and would be postponed to later in the month, or early April. The committee had been charged to discuss the priorities identified in the Basin Implementation Plan, and how those may be reflected in WSRA criteria and guidelines. It is possible that the 11 themes of the BIP may be fit together to represent a few categories of project priorities.

### b) Groundwater Subcommittee

Jim Hall reported on the work of the Groundwater Subcommittee. At the most recent meeting of the Subcommittee, the chief topic of discussion was the Brown and Caldwell study, regarding modeling the impacts of increased groundwater near Gilcrest. The committee is currently discussing the possibility of lining the ditch above the gradient in the Gilcrest area, and this concept will be further discussed at the next meeting. Jim Hall also spoke regarding the ongoing issues with the Lorenz well, such as ensuring no impact to landowners. Bob Longenbaugh also provided comments on the dewatering projects and potential concerns.

John Stulp recommended that the subcommittee provide a report to the full roundtable at the next meeting, to review the reports and give a formal update.

### c) Environmental-Recreational Needs

Joe Frank reported that the Env-Rec subcommittee had been unable to meet, but would schedule a meeting later in the month. The committee had been discussing combining efforts with the needs committee to avoid duplicating efforts in project assessment.

## 5. Education Funding and Outreach

Joel Schneekloth provided the report. The committee held a conference call in late January/early February, to discuss future work with the Metro roundtable educational efforts. The committee is planning presentations at two future meetings, of CCI and

CML. Members of the Metro roundtable are also working on development of the basins' website. Casey Davenhill from the Metro roundtable spoke regarding a banner at the meeting, which was a result of a messaging exercise performed in 2015. Regarding the website, the intent of the education committees is to make the site more user-friendly. Denver Water has offered to assist in providing GIS support for an interactive map. The plan moving forward is to consult with the education committees from the two roundtables and ensure that both are on board before any changes are made.

Joel Schneekloth spoke regarding the availability of funds from PEPO. The roundtable discussed the potential for printing copies of the BIP four-pager, and the inserts regarding the Republican Basin. These copies would be available for roundtable members to distribute at meetings and other events. Casey Davenhill would look into the potential for this printing, and Joel would work with roundtable members to assess need.

## 6. Public Comment

The legislative update and public comment were switched on the agenda. Bob Longenbaugh spoke regarding House Bill 1313, which would allow for including Colorado's Water Plan goals in county master plans.

## 7. Legislative Update

Joe Frank distributed via email the Colorado Water Congress bill status sheet for members' reference. Members discussed a bill which would enforce state water law on the federal agencies' work within the state.

Members also discussed HB 1256, the South Platte water storage study bill. Joe Frank reported that he had testified in favor of the bill. Questions were raised regarding the costs associated with the bill, and the impact to WSRA funds. Members expressed support for the bill, and the involvement of the roundtables in the bill as written. Joe noted that the bill was inclusive of both ground and surface water storage as written. Members also acknowledged the statewide benefits and impacts of the bill.

The membership also discussed HB 1283, water loss audit and performance standards, which had been delayed for two weeks, with no vote.

Finally, Mike Shimmin brought up HB 1314, regarding the treatment of rising groundwater levels in Division 1. Mike expressed the concern that this bill makes "findings of fact" in its legislative descriptions, and purports to overrule water court decrees. In his opinion this is ex post facto legislation, and is thereby unconstitutional.

## 8. IBCC Update

### a) IBCC Update

Sean Cronin provided a report regarding the last meeting of the IBCC, which met on February 23. Sean reviewed the BIP implementation reports of other basins' representatives, and mentioned that the IBCC would be reconvening the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines Committee. John Stulp clarified the concept of an Agricultural Viability Summit, to be held in conjunction with CAWA, hopefully towards the end of the year.

Sean Cronin and Jim Yahn reviewed the discussion at the IBCC regarding a sustainable source of funding for Colorado Water Plan and BIP implementation. Some concepts discussed included a state tap fee, the Blue Switch concept (opt-in to pay extra for water related projects), naming rights to reservoirs, and a water-designated lottery scratch-off ticket. Jim and Sean recounted the presentations at the IBCC meeting regarding the statewide funding need, the concept of a state repayment guarantee fund, and the potential for reduction in project cost through streamlining the permitting process. Sean Conway discussed the potential for addressing these funding and infrastructural gaps cooperatively with the department of transportation, in a joint effort that recognizes the role of water and transportation to citizens.

#### b) Discussion of West Slope Roundtable Study

Joe Frank distributed an email from Jim Pokrandt at the Colorado River Water Conservation District regarding the west slope study. The email invites east slope roundtables to nominate members to a Technical Advisory Committee to the study. A webinar would also be held on the east slope to bring interested parties up to speed on what the study hopes to accomplish. Sean Cronin and Jim Yahn reported that Eric Kuhn had presented on the study at the IBCC meeting, and it will primarily be an educational effort, to create a baseline understanding of Colorado River operations.

Chris Treese from CRWCD also spoke regarding the study, and outlined the differences in west slope roundtables regarding future development of the Colorado River. He stated that the point of the study is in recognition of a better need for an understanding of risk and evaluation of that risk to existing uses.

The roundtable nominated the following representatives to serve on the TAC: Kevin Lusk, a senior engineer from Colorado Springs Utilities and the president of the Twin Lakes Reservoir and Canal Co.; Jim Yahn, the manager of the North Sterling Irrigation District and a South Platte representative on the IBCC; and Jerry Gibbens, a project manager and water resource engineer at Northern Water. Jim Hall made a motion to approve this slate of representatives which was seconded by Karen Martinez. The motion passed.

#### 9. SWSI Update

Brent Newman provided a fact sheet regarding the next iteration of SWSI, which includes a list of consultants and a timeline for implementation. The CWCB will be working closely with the roundtables as kickoff meetings are held in the upcoming months, and reports will be provided at every roundtable meeting as progress begins.

#### 10. Mine Leaching @ South Platte Headwaters/Park County

Mike Brazell spoke regarding ongoing water quality issues in the headwaters. Specifically, Handcart Gulch and the London Mine of the Middle Fork have contamination problems which harm fish and invertebrates along the headwaters streams. He hoped to discuss this matter at the roundtable to let other members know about these issues which affect the river. Members discussed current Superfund sites and the advantages of designation, and the potential partners for addressing these water quality and contamination problems.

#### 11. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next Roundtable Meeting – April 12, 2016 – Weld County Service Center

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14.