

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016
4209 Weld County Road 24 1/2
Longmont, Colorado 80501
3:30PM-7:10PM**

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting

Pre-meeting events: Social Hour with South Platte Basin Roundtable, Metro Roundtable, and Water Fluency class (60 min)

Business Meeting Agenda

Attendance: Joe Frank, Jeffrey Boring, Dan Brown, Mike Brazell, Lisa McVicker, Gene Manuello, Julio Iturreria, Frank Eckhardt, Burt Knight, Ken Huson, Jim Hibbard, John Stokes, Randy Ray, Mike Shimmin, Allyn Wind, Larry Howard, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, Joel Schneekloth, Sean Conway, James Ford, Kevin Lusk, Bruce Gerk, Garret Varra, Bert Weaver, Joe Frank, Matt Betz, Kent Swedlund

Meeting commenced at 4:30

1. Welcome/Introductions (10 min)

Members of the Roundtable and audience made introductions.

2. Recognition of former South Platte Roundtable members Doug Rademacher and Eric Wilkinson (5 min)

Joe Frank and the Roundtable recognized Doug Rademacher and Eric Wilkinson for their long service to the South Platte Basin. Mike Applegate presented Wilkinson with an award to recognize his many years of service to the South Platte Basin and the State of Colorado. Applegate brought with him a letter from Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper in which the Governor endorsed the Windy Gap Firing Project, to address the important roll Wilkinson played in the project's development. Eric Wilkinson thanked the Roundtable for allowing him to serve on the Roundtable and as the Roundtable representative to the IBCC. Sean Conway then took the floor to thank Wilkinson on behalf of Weld County.

Sean Conway presented Doug Rademacher with an award to recognize his many years of service to the South Platte Basin. Conway read an edict from Weld County recognizing Rademacher's service to the County, to the Roundtable, and to the State of Colorado. Doug Rademacher thanked the Roundtable for giving him the opportunity to give back to the area that has hosted his family for so many generations.

3. Introduction and Overview of Water Fluency Class of 2016 (30 min)

Kristin Maharg took the floor to present the Colorado Foundation for Water Education's Water Fluency 2016 class. Maharg explained the course was a comprehensive course to provide a working knowledge of water to professionals. The course was held on the Colorado Front Range and took advantage of the

numerous resources available to water professionals and policy makers to give students the tools they needed to make informed decisions on water.

Joe Frank provided the audience with a brief history of the Roundtable, citing the act that formed the Roundtables and the events leading up to and immediately following the entity's formation. Frank also discussed the Roundtable's need and process for creating the Basin Implementation Plan and the Roundtable's involvement in forming Colorado's Water Plan. Frank called attention to the Roundtable's initiatives as well as the different ways it was addressing concerns recognized in the Basin Implementation Plan. Frank discussed the Water Supply Reserve Account funds, education and outreach initiatives, and the other efforts the Roundtable is making in closing the gaps and securing a more sustainable community.

Jeffrey Boring asked Kristin Maharg to give more information on the Water Fluency Course. She stated there is approximately a 30 hour commitment and although the course is \$1250, the Foundation offers partial and full scholarships to elected officials and non-profit representatives. Garret Varra provided perspective as a student of the Course as well as a Roundtable member. He stated the Course was worthwhile for new or specialized individuals working in water to gain a broader understanding of water across the South Platte Basin as well as the State. Another student of the Course added the perspective he gained was of the sheer breadth of the developing water issues in the Basin and the responsibility of all South Platte Basin residents to curb water usage and work hard to develop and improve water resources, planning, and infrastructure.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary (5 min) (action required)

There were no minutes to approve from the previous April meeting.

5. Agenda – additions or changes

There were no additions or corrections made to the agenda outside of the initial reshuffling of items 2, 3, and 5.

6. Committee Updates

a. WSRA Needs Committee (Boring – 10 min)

Jeffrey Boring announced the WSRA Needs Committee had developed a working draft of the updated funding guidelines—a draft would be presented to the Roundtable at June and a final would be presented for voting at the July meeting. Boring also announced there was a single applicant for WSRA funds before the May 1 deadline. The new guidelines would go into effect before the November funding deadline.

Jeffrey Boring reported he had accepted a new position, but was still eligible to remain in his position on the Roundtable, pending approval from Larimer County Commissioners. Until further notice, Boring would remain in his current position.

Joe Frank announced the new Water Supply Reserve Account balance, as presented in the meeting materials for the May Roundtable meeting. Frank addressed some of the reasons the budget was at the level it was,

citing severance tax issues and an ongoing dispute between the State and BP in which the State may owe the private oil and gas firm around \$100M.

Jeffrey Boring and Joe Frank announced a WSRA Needs Committee meeting would be held later in May. Frank reminded the Roundtable that Needs Committee membership was open to all.

b. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall took the floor to announce the Lorenz well was continuing to pump, but there were still issues with flooding, despite the pumping. Hall announced a survey would be done of the area to identify choke points and possible solutions. JVA had also been contracted to identify high-groundwater solutions for the area. Hall reported additional quota was picked up by pumpers in the study area. In support of the pumping, a deal was struck whereby Aurora would provide augmentation water to allow the increase in pumping. Colorado State University also committed to installing additional wells.

In the Sterling area, Jim Hall reported, subdivisions were identifying or had identified solutions to evacuating water and managing groundwater levels. Hall stated the City of Sterling was also having issues with high groundwater and may be submitting a grant application to the Roundtable for WSRA funding. James Ford asked about the deal with Aurora and Hall announced the City received \$125 per acre-foot. Ford asked if transit losses were also paid by Aurora and Hall announced they were. Joe Frank announced the benefit of the augmentation program deal was reduced surface water delivery. Hall stated the pumpers were relying more on pumping water than surface water for the irrigation of crops. Frank Eckhardt asked if the surface water deliveries would be curtailed and Hall responded they would, thus more water would stay in the ditch for other property or users. Randy Ray added the Aurora augmentation solution covered approximately 70% of depletions by the wells. Ray reported Central was largely supportive of the solution, acknowledging their acceptance of certain risk.

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

No update was provided to the Roundtable.

d. Education and Outreach (10 min)

Joel Schneekloth announced a workshop would be coming up in a month or so. Lisa McVicker announced the South Platte Basin Roundtable was coordinating with the Metro Roundtable to develop a concerted education and outreach plan. McVicker announced a new CWCB staff member would be working with the Roundtables on the plans and initiatives. According to McVicker the website, southplattebasin.org, was being transferred to WordPress to make it more manageable and navigable. Casey Davenhill was currently managing the website and hiring a coordinator for the digital outreach initiatives. A workshop was also being planned, according to McVicker, which would be specifically targeted in prioritizing components of the Basin Implementation Plan. Additionally, the

workshop would identify the Roundtable's priorities for education and outreach initiatives. Discussion ensued on the importance of merging Metro and South Platte Roundtable efforts.

Joe Frank, on the topic of prioritizing the Basin Implementation Plan, recommended everyone attend the workshop to dig deeper into the next steps and identifying joint priorities for both South Platte area Roundtables. Frank also called attention to the importance of identifying needs and resources so the Education and Outreach Committee could define its asks in the future, especially with regards to a WSRA grant application. Sean Conway asked Lisa McVicker to clarify her thoughts on targeting "adult audiences", since it was such a broad group. McVicker argued the target group was approximately 21-40 year olds, and within that demographic, initiatives would be specifically targeted as a primary audience. McVicker announced social media would also be a good resource for announcing WSRA deadlines. Julio Iturreria clarified the need for a coordinator to accomplish tasks difficult for a group of volunteers to complete.

7. Public Comment (10 min)

No public comment was offered to the Roundtable.

The group broke for dinner at 5:50

Dinner (6:15 + 45 min)

Meeting re-joined at 6:35

8. Legislative Update (10 min)

Joe Frank provided an update on HB1256—it had been passed by both houses for \$211,168. John Stulp reported there was a focus on how much water left the state, what storage structures existed and where they were needed. Joe Frank stated a one-year turnaround on a report, via a contractor, would be preferred. There was also potential for looking into underground storage as well. Stulp clarified the funds would likely come out of the Statewide account. Stulp did warn there was a possibility of the Statewide account having a zero-balance in 2017. John Stulp addressed Senate Bill 200 as one way to create a position called "Water Project Coordinator" in the Governor's office. Unfortunately, there was debate on from where funding for that position would be contributed. The Bill had already been passed by the Senate and Appropriations—it still needed to be passed by the House.

9. IBCC Update (Yahn – 5 min)

Jim Yahn reported there was an upcoming IBCC meeting on May 24 in Salida, CO. Yahn reported the Colorado River District study was getting started with representatives from the Arkansas, South Platte, and Denver Metro Roundtables. According to Yahn the study was getting started with a webinar designed to provide context on the Colorado River and its operation, as well as an overview of the study. The study is looking at the different future demands and hydrology scenarios or assumptions to see by what amounts different Colorado users

would need to curtail their consumption. Kevin Lusk reported the issue was also being discussed at the Front Range Water Council. One discussion topic was the kinds of numbers used and the role of East Slope participants in the study. Yahn reported he attended an Impact Investment Workshop, hosted by the CWCB. The Workshop used the Colorado Water Plan as a basis for making predictions of water needs in the state's future and ascribing a dollar amount to those needs—current estimates were approximately \$3B. Ultimately, the study reported the state would need approximately \$300M every year for the next several years. Numerous sources of funds were identified in discussion, as ways of putting up capital with a low investment return as a way of improving the water environment in the state.

John Stulp spoke about the implementation of a beverage container fee as a reliable source of revenue to produce between \$25 and \$50M per annum. That revenue would go toward supporting Colorado water projects. Unfortunately, there was a statewide precedent for failed initiatives of a similar type. Garret Varra added that getting a measure added would be approximately \$5-10M. Discussion ensued as to the political climate and legislative environment over the next two years.

10. SWSI Update (Newman – 5 min)

Brent Newman updated the Roundtable on SWSI, reporting consultants would likely be acquired in the next several months.

11. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next IBCC Meeting – May 24 – Salida, CO
- b. Next Roundtable Meeting – June 14, 2016 – Sterling, CO – most likely at The Northeastern 18
- c. July 12 Roundtable Meeting to be held in the mountains – to be set at the June meeting

On a closing note, Kevin Lusk reported Colorado Springs recently leased water in advancement of the ATM concepts found in Colorado's Water Plan. Lusk stated that the lease did not identify, and did not need to identify, the source of that water.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20