

# Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 9, 2016

1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## Members in Attendance:

Barbara Biggs, Casey Davenport, Courtney Brand, Dave Nickum, Eric Hecox, Janet Bell, Joe Stibrich, Julio Iturreria, Lorna Kaatz, Mark Kober, Rob Sakata, Scott Schreiber, Tim Murell, Dan Gallen

## Guests:

Zach Wengrovler, Jeannette Oden, Will Kaeger, Rachel Pence, Phyllis Thomas, Brett Gardner, Amy Conklin, Jim Felton

## CWCB:

Craig Godbout, Diane Kielty

## Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

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

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

All in Favor - Approved

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

### 4. Public Comment (5 min)

Amy Conklin attended the Watershed Summit. During the Summit it was suggested that if you own your home you are a small water rights owner. If so, does this make a home owner eligible to serve on the MRT? This does not sound correct. A review of the MRT By-laws might provide the answer.

### 5. Committee Updates (50 min)

- WSRA Committee (Murrell - 10 min)
  - 1. HB16-1256 – South Platte Storage Study (Craig Godbout) (Action Item)
    - 1. Final bill in meeting packet

There has been no budget change. HB16-1256 needs MRT approval because it will be funded out of WSRA funds. This is a Storage & Exceedance Study. The study group will work with DWR, CWCB and RT's to come up with a Scope of Work. The amount being requested is \$211,000. MRT has to decide what source the funding will come from. After this is decided a preliminary Scope of Work will begin. CWCB will bring the Scope of Work to MRT next month before going to contract and will look for a fiscal agency to manage the contract.

The statewide WSRA account reasonably expects to get the entire amount of \$211,000 from the Statewide account. Will there be ramifications if MRT doesn't allocate basin account monies into this study? Does not believe this to be the case. There may be an opportunity for MRT members to provide in-kind services to this study. MRT is being asked to vote to approve having \$211,000 to be removed from the Statewide account and be placed into the CWCB Construction Fund.

Eric Hecox moved to approve a water storage study pursuant to HB 1256. Ask CWCB to work with the Metro and South Platte roundtables and DWR to develop a Scope of Work. And that the study be funded out of the statewide WSRA accounts. 2nd from Lorna Kaatz.

All in Favor – Approved

## 2. Account Balance

1. See WSRA fund balance sheet in meeting packet

- **PEPO (Davenport – 15 min)**

1. Joint Metro/South Platte BIP Workshop meeting report

Casey Davenport presented a PowerPoint on the June 7<sup>th</sup> BIP Workshop. It was well represented with over 30 people in attendance. She thanked all who attended. They used the same technique as the last workshop to capture interests and concerns with a focus on IPPs. There is a great deal to accomplish. PEPO wants to use their limited funds before the end of the year. An important initiative has been to bring the website under the control of the roundtables. They also want to create a Scope of Work to be in a position to request money when it is available to hire a coordinator. They are looking around the state to get an understanding of what other coordinator positions require to inform a job description. They hope to piggy back on the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> South Platte meeting to hold the next workshop. They are currently gathering the information compiled from the workshop to create a report and distribute it to the roundtables.

- **Environmental/Recreation Committee (Schreiber & Nickum – 25 min)**

1. Create MRT committee to provide input to Environmental Needs Committee  
(Action Item).

Scott has been provided a list of the original members of the Environmental Needs Committee. There are approximately 20 people on list. He would like to narrow this down to a smaller sub-committee. Scott plans to start identifying members to be on the committee. The committee will be identifying what type of projects will come out of the Environmental/Recreation Committee.

Do you see the committee coming up with criteria for applicants to address in order to submit an application to WSRA? Yes. It would be helpful to have all of the committees defining topic areas to prioritize what comes forward in the WSRA process. A suggestion when doing committee recruiting is to get one or more water provider on board who has been involved in a high profile EIS process. This person could help shape what goes into the application selection process with an understanding of what complications might arise. Concern was expressed that members of the roundtables are hitting capacity on how much time they can commit to roundtable committees and activities. The coordinator position is one option to help offset this capacity issue.

## 6. IBCC Update (Craig Godbout – 15 min)

- Draft Severance Tax and Alternative Funding Plan Fact Sheet
- SB16 – 218 - Final bill in meeting packet

SB16 – 218 allows the State Treasurer to withhold distribution of funds to accounts. There will be no severance tax money distributed in fiscal year 2016/2017. There is a restriction on \$19M. This is due to a \$125M in refunds due to oil and gas companies which will come out of the General Fund reserve. The State is holding on all funding. The balance remains as is and what will be available is the same as what was in the last minutes. The earliest MRT can expect to receive any distribution of funds is July 2017.

To address the shortfall, the plan is to draw money from the Construction Fund and distribute it out through a 5-year program. Craig read the details of the Alternative Funding Plan Fact Sheet to the members. It is similar to a revolving fund. The CWCB wants the criteria to qualify for projects to be tightened while this shortfall is addressed. They are rewriting criteria guidelines to reflect greater scrutiny.

## 7. Climate Change Update (Laurina Kaatz - 10 min)

- MRT working group is developing comments to be addressed during the SWSI process.

The letter with comments was included in the meeting packet. Are there comments on the letter? None.

Laurna discussed emerging information in climate study science. She provided a PowerPoint recap of what was discussed during the MRT meeting in March. A summary of long-term statewide trends observed climate across the State showing warming. No long-term trends in precipitation. Streamflow variability is increasing. They don't know what will be happening with extreme events. Warming alone will have an overall drying effect. Additional analysis needs to be conducted to get the right type of information to have a cohesive conversation across the basins on what to expect with climate change.

When SWSI activity increases the Climate Change committee will be meeting regularly. The committee will design questions to be considered in regard to climate to be addressed during the SWSI study. The current study completion date for SWSI is December of 2017.

There has been work done on how climate change effects supply. This RT would like to see how climate change will effect demand.

#### **8. Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study (Hecox - 25 min)**

- Discussion of West Slope Round Table study
  1. Joint West Slope Roundtable Technical Study Webinar #1 in Agenda PacketOur RT technical committee has participated in first series of webinars. This addressed the foundation on types of modeling and assumptions that will go into the study. The technical group is requesting additional breakdown of information in the study to see what has been included in historic trends and what assumptions are included, along with supply side assumption information. Next set of webinars will be either June 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. They've done some additional modeling runs based on the first webinar. The real input will come when additional modeling runs are conducted to test assumptions.

Do you feel our concerns are being heard? It seems like the modeling took off without input from east slopes. Modeling is dependent on what has been defined in the scenarios and assumptions. This has already occurred on the front end. We will have more input on the back end and making additional assumptions.

Do we have any leverage if the study results are questionable? It is not clear what leverage is possible. If money for the study disappears, without additional funding, there may be a danger of not being able to make additional runs.

If you want to get involved in the webinar series, contact Marc Waage.

#### **9. Meeting Schedule**

- South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, June 14th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Northeastern 18, Plainsman Grill, 17408 Hwy 14, Sterling, CO.
- Colorado Foundation for Water Education – Gunnison Basin Tour- June 21st-22nd, 2016, Gunnison, Colorado
- Colorado Water Workshop – June 22nd-24th, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison CO.
- MRT Meeting - Thursday, July 14th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO.
- CWCB Meeting – July 20th-21st, 2016: Steamboat Springs, Colorado
- South Platte Forum – October 26-27, 2016, Embassy Suites, Loveland, <http://www.southplatteforum.org/>
- Joint South Platte/Metro Basin Roundtable Meeting (following the South Platte Forum) – October 27<sup>th</sup>, Embassy Suites, Loveland

Meeting Adjourned – 5:50 pm