

**South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2017**  
**4209 Weld County Road 24 1/2**  
**Longmont, Colorado 80501**  
**4:30PM-8:30PM**

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**South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 4:37.

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

Joe Frank, Burt Knight, Garret Varra, Bert Weaver, Kevin Lusk, Ken Huson, Larry Howard, Jim Hall, Bruce Gerk, Allyn Wind, Eric Anglund, Sean Cronin, Jim Yahn, Julio Iturreria, Larry Ross, Stephen Larson, Kent Swedlund, Gene Manuello, Frank Eckhardt, Jason Roudebush, John Stokes, Matt Betz, Sean Conway, Deb Daniel, Dan Brown, Mike Schimmin, Joel Schneekloth

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

Garret Varra made a motion to approve the minutes and Burt Knight seconded; the motion passed without consent or discussion.

**3. Agenda – additions or changes**

No additions or changes were offered.

**4. Committee Updates**

**a. WSRF Needs Committee**

**i. Funding Update (5 min)**

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to provide context for the Water Supply Reserve Fund (“WSRF”) applications that were before the Roundtable for voting at the meeting. Boring presented a memo prepared by the Needs Committee outlining the applicants’ requests. According to Boring, all of the applicants had passed the necessary requirement thresholds and were eligible to receive WSRF funds. Craig Godbout reported the Statewide balance was approximately \$533,381; the Basin account balance was \$423,806, including the BIP reserve, education reserve, and general reserve amounts. Regarding the applications currently up for review, Boring reported the Needs Committee was making only one recommendation for approval, while there were two recommendations for denial, and the fourth application did not have a recommendation from the Committee.

Jeffrey Boring’s context included comment on the State’s position toward currently funded initiatives and the way each of the different applications satisfied the philosophy and guidance of the South Platte BIP.

**ii. Funding Requests (90 min)**

**1. Colorado Corn Administrative Committee**

Jacob Bornstein took the floor to give context on the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee's application. Bornstein explained the application stemmed from an emergent and apparent need to take a coordinated approach to reviewing and developing new policy for agricultural water and agricultural users. The proposed co-op would cover the northeast area of the South Platte Basin. Bornstein argued the original concept of the co-op did not seem to have been accurately translated into the application materials presented to the Needs Committee.

Jacob Bornstein reviewed the scope of work with the Roundtable, explaining the proposed work and the monies asked of the Roundtable. The scope of work was multi-phased and proposed buy-in from multiple different stakeholders across the South Platte Basin, focusing largely on agricultural water and related infrastructure. There was brief discussion regarding the application status as a WSRF request instead of an ATM Fund request. It was clarified that the reason for pursuing WSRF funding was due to the limited amount of funding in the ATM Fund.

## **2. Poudre Learning Center Foundation**

Dan Austen took the floor to lead the presentation and began by introducing his team: Ray Schiller, Bill Hoyt, and Katie McLaughlin. Austen reported the funding goal was met shortly after the WSRF application deadline and as a result the Foundation was making a last-minute funding request change from structural need to operational need. The Foundation argued they had set a precedent for trusted, effective information dissemination and education. The group also argued they had the benefit of established relationships with educators that set their goals up for success. Austen drew parallels between the Foundation's goals and those of the Roundtable, citing the goals and objectives laid out in the South Platte BIP. Ultimately, the request of the Roundtable was for funding to enhance education and outreach activities of the Foundation.

Bert Weaver and Burt Knight expressed support for the application as it supported operational costs rather than structural costs. Sean Cronin asked Jeffrey Boring if the initial proposal had focused on the same goals and initiatives presented at the meeting, if the Needs Committee would have recommended the application for approval. Boring felt that the revised proposal would have been successful, but it was difficult to say that confidently since the Needs Committee had not reviewed a revised application from the Foundation. Discussion ensued as to how the Foundation and the South Platte Basin Roundtable could join efforts and what parallels existed between the two groups' messages.

John Stokes argued the investment into the Foundation would coincide well with the South Platte Basin Roundtable's prospective Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Craig Godbout clarified that past Education and Outreach efforts have not received WSRF funds for "water 101" style education initiatives, which would educate the general public on water basics. Godbout added clarification that use of funds for Education and Outreach needed to be coordinated with PEPO funds and would need to be vetted against State funding parameters. Mike Shimmin argued that the Roundtable couldn't take action on a conceptual proposal, especially since it differed from the written application submitted to the WSRF Needs Committee. Shimmin proposed the applicant withdraw their application, revise, and resubmit at a later time. Shimmin clarified the application sought \$10K from the South Platte Basin Roundtable and \$40K from the Statewide fund.

Stephen Larson argued that the issue was largely procedural and would need to be handled as such. Sean Cronin brought attention to the Education and Outreach Coordinator and encouraged the Foundation to delay their request and work with that person in the future to maximize both sides of a partnership.

### **3. Ducks Unlimited**

Jason Roudebush announced he was abstaining from any discussion as he felt there was a risk of conflict of interest. He asked the Roundtable if they were comfortable with his remaining in the room and they were. Matt Reddy from Ducks Unlimited took the floor to present on the Pederson Bend Farm Recharge Project. Reddy explained the focus was on migratory birds and their habitat, most specifically, recharge ponds. The Town of Julesburg had submitted a letter, which was distributed at the meeting, outlining the Town's concern with administration of the water in the area. Joe Frank stated that due to a potential conflict of interest, he would abstain from voting. Reddy reported his team was already in discussion with stakeholders and members of JID regarding administration of water in the area of effect. Bruce Gerk reported that due to a potential conflict of interest he too would abstain from voting.

Jim Hall asked if a conditional approval was allowable and Joe Frank reported it was. Mike Shimmin added his support for the conditional approval, but expressed concern over the conditions and their clarity. Joe Frank and Craig Godbout clarified that the contingency did need to be well defined, but not necessarily satisfied by the CWCB application deadline of Feb 1. Discussion ensued focusing on various concerns for project impacts and administration. Jeffrey Boring

reported that since the project satisfied three funding category requirements it would be separated evenly across the different categories.

#### 4. Colorado School of Mines

Andy Burrow from the School of Mines took the floor to make a request for funds to support a design for additional storage on the South Platte River. Burrow reported the goal of his project was to develop a generalized planning tool for any basin using data available to StateMod. Burrow reported the model took advantage of standard average costs to make determinations on what the lowest-cost options would be to develop storage on and off channel. Burrow also clarified that the model could be applied to any basin drainage in the state. Sean Cronin sought clarification on whether or not the study was supportive or duplicative of the South Platte Storage Study and if it was supportive, then whether or not the timing worked out well enough for the two studies to feasibly work together. A member of the consultant team working on the Storage Study stated the Study was aiming to produce the sort of data required for input into Burrow's project. Joe Frank argued the two studies could work together and discussion ensued as to what order the studies would need to occur in order to be most effective.

Mike Shimmin asked about the timing of the study and the earliest point at which results could be available. Discussion ensued as to the use of WSRF funds for tuition and stipend. Godbout pointed out the funds could only be used for stipend, not tuition.

Dinner (6:35 + 30 min)

Bert Weaver made a motion to approve the \$10K request from the Poudre Valley Foundation application with the condition of coordination with the new Roundtable Education Coordinator – this motion included a recommendation for State funding. Frank Eckhardt seconded the motion. Mike Shimmin made a substitute motion to deny the application from of the Roundtable because the applicant stated it was already fulfilled with other funding and during their presentation argued for an alternative funding proposal. Craig Godbout pointed out a scope of work for the new proposal was not provided to the Roundtable. Sean Cronin seconded. Jeffrey Boring and Garret Varra discussed the dangers of wavering from the established WSRF application approval process. Sean Conway recused himself from voting on this topic due to his involvement with the Foundation. Discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of funding the Poudre Valley Foundation's revised proposal as well the larger topic of how the Roundtable identifies and fosters

partnerships. Several members of the Roundtable touched on the topic of proactive outreach.

21 members voted in favor, 2 voted against. The motion to deny the application passed.

John Stokes made a motion to approve and support the Ducks Unlimited application with the contingency that an operations agreement was reached with JID and a monitoring program was implemented to achieve what the Needs Committee had identified in their recommendation. Mike Shimmin seconded. Julio Iturreria asked for a clarification on the timeline of the contingencies and Craig Godbout clarified the contingencies would need to be met before a State contract could be signed. Discussion ensued as to what timelines should be tied to the two contingencies, how long the Roundtable was willing to wait for an applicant to execute a contract, and how a feedback loop would tie into Basin and State funding requirements. Consensus was for the group to provide annual reports for a five year period, for this language to be written into the State contract, and to have an operational agreement with JID by November 1. The motion was amended by John Stokes: Stokes moved to support the Ducks Unlimited project with three contingencies: an agreement would be reached with JID by Nov 1, 2017, a monitoring program be implemented for the first 3 years of the project, and a brief report be provided to the Roundtable on project successes and failures annually. Dan Brown abstained from the vote as legal counsel for JID. Joe Frank was recused, Bruce Gerk was recused, Jason Roudebush was recused. Mike Shimmin seconded.

17 voted in favor, 2 votes in opposition. The motion to approve passed.

Mike Shimmin voted to allocate the funds across the three funding categories as recommended by the Needs Committee and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without contest.

Sean Cronin made a motion to approve the Corn Committee application. Garret Varra seconded.

3 voted in favor, 17 voted in opposition. The motion failed.

Dan Brown moved to approve the School of Mines application. Garret Varra seconded.

Discussion ensued as to the potential for mating of the House Bill storage study and the School of Mines study. Concern was raised about the impacts of a request for coordination on the groups' limited budgets. It was unclear

what the impact would be. Garret Varra reiterated the tool had benefit to other basins across the state.

23 voted in favor, 1 voted in opposition. The motion carried.

**b. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)**

Jim Hall reported the Groundwater Subcommittee met in December to discuss how best to spend remaining project funds. Hall also reported the Pawnee Ridge HOA dewatering project was complete and operating.

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

John Stokes reported he was communicating with the Metro Roundtable to develop some initiatives for the summer of 2017. More would be reported in the future.

**5. Public Comment (5 min)**

No comment was offered.

**6. Education and Outreach – WSRF funding discussion (25 min)**

Sean Cronin took the floor to report on the Education and Outreach Coordinator scope of work that he had drafted for review by the Roundtable. Joe Frank stated that if the Roundtable were to move forward with the proposed scope of work, Sean Cronin had volunteered to lead the initiative, with a meeting with Metro at the February meeting. Julio Iturreria argued that collaboration with the South Platte and Metro Roundtables was missing from the scope of work. Cronin responded saying that he had received guidance from the Metro that their Roundtable didn't have the same interest in the position as the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Discussion ensued as to Metro's interest and potential investment in the Coordinator position. Joe Frank clarified that the opposition was originally pointed at a BIP Coordinator, not necessarily an Education and Outreach Coordinator. Craig Godbout added further clarification that the Metro's approach of being fiscally conservative may have been misinterpreted as opposition.

Burt Knight made a motion to approve the proposal. Sean Conway seconded.

Per a question from Mike Shimmin, Sean Cronin asked the Roundtable to approve the proposal as written. The motion passed without contest.

Lisa McVicker reported to the Roundtable that she would be unable to attend meetings with regular frequency and asked another Roundtable member to participate in her place on the Education and Outreach Committee.

**7. South Platte Basin Storage Study update (10 min)**

Joe Frank reported a Storage Study meeting would be held at the usual South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting site on Thursday, January 12, 2017. Frank pointed out one of the major goals of the work was to identify and encourage sites for future work and partnerships.

## 8. Colorado River Risk Study (10 Min)

Joe Frank reported a conference call would take place on January 11, 2017 to discuss the scope of work. Frank clarified that the Roundtable was concerned not just with the scope of work, but with leadership of the study. Frank reported he would be participating on the conference call despite no longer acting as Chair of the Roundtable.

## 9. Legislative Update (5 min)

Senator Coram has moved from the House to the Senate. Attention was also drawn to the Aquatic Nuisance Bill and the need for support at the congressional level.

## 10. Colorado Water Conservation Board (10 min)

Jim Yahn reported a meeting was held December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The Projects Bill was approved—several large sums were approved to refill State funds. Yahn reported \$90M had been set aside for proponents of the Windy Gap Firing Project to come in and get loans. The Rio Grande Cooperative Project was approved to receive several million dollars as well. Yahn also reported the CWCB had changed a policy to allow CWCB to lend 100% to projects for agricultural or municipal work; another policy was changed to allow more funds to go toward feasibility studies.

## 11. IBCC – CAWA Ag Water Summit re-cap (15 min)

Craig Godbout reported the Summit focused on ATMs and how to move projects forward. The summit also focused largely on how to close the “ag gap”. Summaries would be completed on recent agricultural water projects. Joe Frank reported storage and infrastructure were also big topics at the conference.

## 12. Election of Officers/Re-election of At-large Members (30 min)

Jim Yahn and Sean Cronin were reaffirmed as IBCC representatives and would remain as such for two years. A motion to approve was made by Sean Conway and seconded by Julio Iturreria. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

Current Chair

**Sean Conway as nominated by Frank Eckhardt (motion).**

John Stokes as nominated by Bruce Gerk

Vice Chair 1

**Garret Varra as self-nominated**

Vice Chair 2

**John Stokes as self-nominated.**

Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without contest or discussion.

**All committee chairs remain the same except for co-chair of Education and Outreach Committee – Julio Iturreria was designated as the new chair.**

John Stokes and Sean Cronin thanked Joe Frank for his service to the Roundtable.

Julio Iturreria made the motion to maintain all at-large members, John Stokes seconded. The motion passed without contest or discussion.

**13. Meeting Schedule**

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting – Feb 14, 2017 – Weld County Service Center
- b. Next Metro RT Meeting – January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Denver Water
- c. CWCB – January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Hyatt Regency – Denver Tech Center
- d. Colorado Water Congress – January 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> – Denver Tech Center