

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
4209 Weld County Road 24 1/2
Longmont, Colorado 80501
4:00PM-6:45PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

Sean Conway, Garret Varra, Bert Weaver, Ken Huson, Rich Belt, James Ford, Mike Shimmin, John Stokes, Erik Anglund, Joel Schneekloth, Larry Ross, Stephen Larson, Lynda James, Mike Brazell, Brent Nation, Gene Manuello, Joe Frank, Jason Roudebush, Sean Cronin, Matt Betz, James VanShaar, Jim Hall

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)

Meeting commenced at 4:50PM

2. Approval of Meeting Summary (5 min) (action items)

Bert Weaver moved to approve and seconded by Garret Varra. Motion passed without contest or discussion.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (action items)

New Business added to the record

4. New Business

a. WSRF Grant Presentations

Sean Conway discussed the option of hearing Water Supply Reserve Funds (“WSRF”) presentations during dinner in order to expedite meetings. Discussion ensued as to how to operate meeting items during dinner and the advantages and disadvantages of holding a “working dinner”. The consensus was to conduct business during dinner when the agenda was full. Gene Manuello raised concern about the timing of such presentations and queueing up for food. Bert Weaver argued the roundtable should stick to the regularly scheduled second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise directed.

b. SWSI Update

Craig Godbout reported the CWCB would be bringing SWSI materials to the roundtables on a monthly basis. There may be roundtable members on each of the technical committees, as needed. The scope and technical committees would be expanded in the future to incorporate additional methodologies, which would be passed through technical groups for review and revision.

5. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)

John Stulp took the floor to report that the Groundwater Subcommittee would be meeting on Thursday, February 16 to discuss ongoing study of the Gilcrest/LaSalle area. There was discussion pending with Central on the use of a pipeline to carry water out of the area per the dewatering efforts. Stulp reported there was still money in the budget to complete the second year of the pilot study.

6. Colorado River Risk Study (Frank – 30 Min)

Joe Frank took the floor to update the Roundtable on the Colorado River Risk Study. Frank reported there were phone calls on the scope of work between the Roundtable chairs. The due date for consolidated comments was Thursday, February 16. Frank reported that the calls were high-level and often required in-depth knowledge of Colorado River operations. A draft of the Potential Guidelines for Phase II Risk Study was presented to the Roundtable. Jim Hall clarified that the draft was developed concurrent to the draft scope of work for the study. Sean Cronin asked if the South Platte Basin Roundtable was the first roundtable to review the guidelines and through discussion it was clarified that it was. Other roundtables had delegated feedback to their technical advisory boards to make decisions on the Colorado River Risk Study.

Joe Frank provided clarification on the consolidation of comments, stating that comments from the Roundtable should be channeled through the technical advisory committee. It was clarified that comments on the guidelines should go to Kevin Lusk, Jim Hall, or Joe Frank. Mike Shimmin asked for clarification on the study's limitations. Discussion covered the topic of focusing on the interaction of StateMod with the CRSS and the outcome of workings between the two. Mike Shimmin recommended adding language into the last bullet making sure that modeling resultant from the study not be used for curtailment analyses.

Craig Godbout reported any roundtable contributions would be going before the CWCB in mid-March. Godbout asked if the Roundtable was planning on submitting WSRF monies to the study. Through discussion, Godbout clarified that any single contract in excess of \$100,000 would need to be competitively bid. If the consultant contract was below that threshold, it would be held to less stringent procurement standards. Discussion ensued as to the timing and amount of contribution from the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Sean Conway gathered consensus that the Roundtable wished to contribute, financially, to the Colorado River Risk Study. Larry Ross asked if the Roundtable needed to affirm its intent.

The membership discussed contributing financially with an amount not to exceed \$10,000, conditional upon the equal contribution of other Front Range basin roundtables. Discussion ensued as to the percentages and sources of contribution. Further discussion touched on the leadership and oversight of the study and the merit of the CWCB taking a leading role. It was discussed there would be equal division of the contract cost between east and west slopes (and then further division between the respective roundtables of the two sides).

Sean Cronin proposed there be a motion in accordance with the potential guidelines and that the South Platte Basin commit financially, consistent with the Guidelines however they are adopted. Mike Shimmin asked to see a more refined version of the guidelines at the March meeting of the South Platte Basin

Roundtable. The technical committee was given guidance to continue their work on the guidelines with the support of the South Platte Basin Roundtable.

7. Education and Outreach – E&O Coordinator (Iturreria – 25 min)

Sean Cronin took the floor to update the Roundtable on the concept of an Education Coordinator. Cronin reported he met with the Metro Roundtable on February 9 and they provided their support for the Coordinator position with equal financial contribution. The next step, according to Cronin, would be to identify a fiscal agent. Both the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables voiced support in the amount of \$20,000, separately, for the Coordinator position. Joe Frank asked if a committee would be crafting a scope of work and grant application for the Education Outreach Coordinator. Discussion ensued on the topic of a fiscal agent.

Joe Frank volunteered to work with Sean Cronin on the grant application development. Joel Schneekloth added that a grant proposal system would be going before the legislature soon and would provide fertile ground for an Education Coordinator to sow. Frank cautioned against allowing outside entities to craft an outreach message for the Roundtable, without review or approval by the Roundtable. Discussion ensued on the function of the grant program, as a program run by the CWCB or administered by the Roundtables with oversight from the CWCB.

Joel Schneekloth asked that any comments or feedback on the Strategic Action Plan be submitted to him. There was no deadline for the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables to review the document. The consensus of the membership was to submit comments and have a recommendation for the adoption of a revised plan to be brought to the March South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting.

8. South Platte Basin Storage Study update (Frank – 5 min)

Joe Frank reported there was an initial kickoff meeting to discuss the literature review for the storage study. There was also a GIS review of gravel pits in near-channel locations. At the time of the meeting, a collection of historical data and a point-flow model were being consolidated as well as inventory of water rights and future water demands. In middle to late March, a workshop would be held to review the approach for evaluating criteria for storage site identification. Frank reported there would be a comment submission process in place for anyone to contribute feedback.

Joe Frank reported Morgan County had received a block grant for \$300,000 to study flood mitigation from Morgan County to the state line. The outcome of the study looked at various impacts on flooding in the study area. After the analysis, there was a prioritization of projects to improve flood mitigation efforts.

9. Public Comment (5 min)

No comment was offered.

10. Legislative Update (Frank – 5 min)

Joe Frank reported he was unable to attend the most recent State Affairs meeting. Discussion on a fee-based legislation for controlling zebra mussels was in progress. The CWCB did support a joint resolution to push the Bureau to fund or otherwise address aquatic nuisance species.

Additionally, SB118 addressing irrigation of industrial hemp-based plants was opposed by Water Congress as no other crop designation was identified. John Stulp replied the issue was based on federal restrictions on hemp and marijuana. James VanShaar clarified that water touching federal facilities contributed to hemp or cannabis facilities. Sean Cronin asked if federally approved research projects on hemp were allowed. VanShaar agreed to look into the matter. Stulp reported several water bills were going around, but had not yet been introduced. One bill was designed to protect the historical use of water in a pilot project.

11. Colorado Water Congress Recap (10 min)

John Stulp reported that the above-average snowpack had the near record attendance in good spirits.

12. Colorado Water Conservation Board Meeting Recap (Yahn – 10 min)

John Stulp took the floor to provide an update, reporting the Board would be meeting in March, in Greeley. Discussion of the Projects Bill with an estimated budget of \$25M to accommodate the downturn in severance tax would be an important discussion topic.

13. IBCC update (5 min)

John Stulp took the floor to report that the IBCC met at the end of November and good discussion ensued between the IBCC and Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (“CAWA”). Stulp reported there were numerous high-level discussions. The next IBCC meeting had been tentatively set for early April. Discussion was also evaluating beverage container taxes. Joe Frank added that at the most recent ATM meeting two big discussion topics were storage and infrastructure. Part of the financing discussion needed to address the two additional factors of any ATM developmental success.

14. Future meeting Date & Locations Discussion (10 min)

- a. Joint Metro & South Platte RT Meeting (October 2017 in conjunction with South Platte Forum)**

The consensus was to hold a joint meeting in conjunction with the South Platte Forum, October 25 & 26, at the Embassy Suites in Loveland.

- b. Alternative meeting locations (Late Spring through early Fall 2017):**

- i. Eastern Plains**

Brent Nation offered to host in Fort Morgan (summer '17)

ii. Mountains

Mike Brazell offered to host in Park County (summer '17)

15. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting – March 14, 2017 – Weld County Service Center
- b. Next Metro RT Meeting – March 9, 2017 – Denver Water
- c. Governor's Ag Forum – February 22, 2017 – Renaissance Hotel, Denver
- d. CWCB Board Meeting – March 22 & 23, 2017 – Greeley

Dinner (45 min)

The meeting adjourned at 6PM.