

# Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 12th, 2017  
1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204  
4:10 PM – 5:50 PM

## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

### **Members in Attendance:**

Barbara Biggs, Casey Davenport, Dave Holm, Dave Nickum, Gary Thompson, Joe Stibrich, Julio Iturreria, Rick McLoud, Lesley Sebol, Marc Waage, Mark Koleber, Pat O'Connell, Polly Hays, Randi Brazeau, Rick Marsicek, Scott Schreiber, Tim Murell

### **Guests:**

Amy Conklin, Phyllis Thomas, Jeannette Oden, Lisa Darling, Pieter Van Ry

### **CWCB:**

Craig Godbout, Diane Kielty

### **IBCC:**

John Stulp

#### **1. Welcome/Introductions**

#### **2. Approval of October 2016 and November 2016 meeting summaries (Action Item)**

October 2016 approval pending the addition of MRT members who attended. Mark Koleber made a motion to approve, Rick Marsicek 2<sup>nd</sup>. **All in Favor – Approved**

November 2016 Summary motion to approve made by Joe Stibrich, Tim Murrell 2<sup>nd</sup>. **All in Favor - Approved**

#### **3. Agenda: additions or changes**

Does the MRT want to consider alternative meeting locations while parking construction continues at Denver Water? Another option is to move the meeting time to later when employee parking spaces become available? Starting earlier could pose greater problem because often many people need to leave early. Would MRT consider use of the Police Protective Department location across the street from Denver Water to keep the meeting central? Auraria campus is a good location but there is a charge for parking. MRT will move meeting time to 4:15 pm for February meeting. If you have other suggestions, please send ideas to Craig Godbout.

#### **4. Public Comment**

- Annual Trout Unlimited River Stewardship Gala will be held after the March 9<sup>th</sup> MRT meeting. Flyer provided.
- Hawk Walk in Cherry Creek State Park sponsored by the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners will be held Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am.

#### **5. Committee Updates**

##### **1. WSRF (Murrell)**

Two budget items are under consideration. MRT has a negative reserve balance. We are addressing how to bring it from a negative to a positive balance and increase it to have funds available for potential projects coming on-line or consultant contracts. Reviewed discussion from November 2016 meeting. MRT does not expect to receive funding installments in the near term. We haven't received any grant proposal in over a year. Scott Schreiber may be bringing a project to MRT this year. In February, the SPBRT will be presenting to the MRT a grant request for a Coordinator position. SPBRT approved the concept.

##### **1. WSRF Needs Committee Criteria Guidelines and Revisions**

###### **1. Formalize Reserve Fund**

Hard copy provided to members. Once approved it will be placed on two

2. **PEPO (Davenhill)**

Casey attended the SPBRT meeting. She received Citizen Guides which she brought with her and made to available to MRT members and audience for distribution at offices and agencies.

1. **Outreach Coordinator Position Update**

This position has been a topic for several months. The job description has been reviewed and MRT has provided input. It's designed to be a part-time position to provide internal and external RT support and conduct outreach on the BIP. The job description will be included in the February MRT meeting packet and will be presented by a member of the SPBRT.

PEPO committee recommended that MRT join with SPBRT and work on an application request for WSRF funds to support a budget for the Coordinator position. PEPO is asking for \$20,000 in the 2017 budget to support this position. Currently the job description doesn't include travel expenses which are anticipated to be high. Discussion supported this recommendation. Will funding come from the Education Outreach Fund or the Reserve Fund? Education Outreach Fund.

3. **Environmental/Recreation Committee (Schreiber & Nickum)**

John Stokes will be leading up a combined SPBRT/MRT meeting next week. March is the timeline to move the committee forward.

6. **SWSI Update (Godbout)**

The CWCB Management team is coordinating with the consultant team. The status hasn't changed. It is imminently poised to start. Funding is there and 2/3s of consulting teams have task orders to begin their work. Those chosen are Brown and Caldwell, CH2M Hill, and CDM Smith.

7. **Ag Water Summit/IBCC Meeting Summary (Stulp)**

1. **ATM's on the South Platte**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, they held a Colorado Ag Water Alliance IBCC Summit on the topic of alternative transfer methods. There were 175 in attendance. Did pooling, 1/3 were ag water owners, 1/3 municipal water providers. There were five panels - ag producers, municipal group, environ/rec group, legal and policy group discussing concerns and obstacles along with legislative changes that need to be considered. There were six questions asked of the audience during the break out session. They finished up the day with cell phone polling which had 75 active participants. Feedback included that you must have willing partners, appropriate location, and be very transparent in what you are trying to do. Discovered new ATM in Security being done with a farmer. More conferences were generated from this one. The Water Institute at CSU is preparing a report on the conferences. Report may be available by the time of the Water Congress.

There is a study request on minimizing risk on Lake Powell. Forty proposals have been received. There is a Colorado Ag Water Alliance tour scheduled to be held in April.

8. **Colorado River Risk Study Status Update (Biggs)**

1. **Lead Entity**

A webinar took place on January 11th to discuss the West Slope intent for conducting the study. West slope is frustrated by MRT concern. James Eklund led the discussion. West Slope RT leadership said the study is an education effort and the data is to be used to educate leaders. Barb and Joe responded reiterating concern that this is a statewide study that is being developed but is not actually being led by the state. A draft Phase II scope will be distributed for review. Eklund is concerned that Colorado as a state should speak with one voice. The revised scope is anticipated to be received in February. There will be a meeting with CWCB and RT Chairs during Water Congress regarding this study. Eklund has also been invited to the next Front Range Water Council meeting.

Is the West Slope still applying for state money? Four west slope RT's have approved funding. One more RT may provide funds. Will a financial request be made of the MRT? We've asked that they show us the Phase I report and Phase II Scope of Work and we will decide. The scope hasn't been rewritten and no details of the Phase II scope were discussed. CWCB will be working with the West Slope to revise the scope. A review will take place during Water Congress. They will not be asking for Statewide funds. Phase I was all basin funds and Phase II will also be basin funds. The River District will be the fiscal agent.

Will there be opportunity for the East Slope to provide input on what will be in the Phase II scope? To avoid putting the burden of interest on our Chairs we will ask for input from members. A draft will be distributed for review prior to a Chair response. The premise in our letter was that it should be a statewide study led by the State. Now, it is a study being performed by a River District consultant. There is concern that it will be biased. Eklund was clear that the River District will be the fiscal agent. Eklund expressed concern that there will be dueling studies should the East Slope choose to fund its own study.

#### **9. South Platte Storage Study Update (Godbout)**

Joe Stibrich attended the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The study is underway. There is \$200,000 in funds from the statewide account, \$100,000 from the South Platte RT and \$100,000 from MRT. MWH is lead with Leonard Rice is sub. They're studying storage facilities and options in the SP basin. An inventory of previous studies has been drafted and distributed to the MRT members. MRT will have two to three weeks to review, but there is an urgency to receive your feedback.

A South Park USGS Chaffee County report was not on list. Lesley Sebol brought a hard copy to share. She will provide an electronic version. CGS is getting more involved in aquifer reserve studies. It may be good for CGS to participate in this study. Send feedback on additional sites or input to Enrique Triana, Enrique.Triana@mwhglobal.com.

SPBRT has also approved a graduate student from CSM to work on collecting more information. The CSM study is a mathematical model. It's different from the storage study, but there may be complementary information.

Comment made that the review does not make clear the geographic parameters of the study. Study is to cover literature review on Lower South Platte starting at Greeley. There will be another meeting on the study in February.

#### **10. Roundtable Election and By-Laws**

There has been a review of the attendance log in preparation for the MRT Annual Meeting in May. The meeting could take place sooner. Those interested in becoming members to date are:

Pieter Van Ry, Parker WSD  
Lisa Darling, SMWSA  
Laura Kroeger, UDFCD  
Tom Iseman, former Dept of Interior  
Darren Beck, South Platte River Recovery (Headwaters Corp.)

Statutory members are appointed by other entities. Barb has sent a letter to the Pikes Peak Regional Council of Governments requesting representation. Legislative seats that are empty may need a format letter to be created and distributed as a reminder that they have a statutory seat to fill. Vacant positions were announced. Members who have not been attending were announced. Eric Hecox has agreed to come back on board as a Development Representative. Mark Koleber has agreed to chair a committee to review and make membership criteria recommendations. Julio Iturreria and Rick McLoud will participate as committee members.

#### **11. Meeting Schedule**

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, February 7th, 2017, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Building, 4209 Weld Cty Rd 24 ½, East I-25 Frontage Rd., Firestone, CO 80502.
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, March 9th, 2017, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm (Later Start Time), 1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204.