

# **Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, February 9th, 2017  
1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204  
4:15 PM - 6:10 PM**

## **Members in Attendance:**

Barbara Biggs, Casey Davenport, Cortney Brand, Gary Thompson, Jim Hall, Julio Iturreria, Marc Waage, Mark Koleber, Rick McLoud, Scott Brink, Susan Nedell

## **Guests:**

Phyllis Thomas, Eric Hecox, Lisa Darling, Julia Ferguson, Emily Hunt, Darren Beck,

## **CWCB:**

Megan Holcomb, Carlee Brown, Diane Kielty

## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

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

### **2. Approval of January 2017 Meeting Summary (Action Item) All in Favor – Approved**

### **3. Agenda: additions or changes (Action Item)**

### **4. Public Comment**

Asked if there is interest from Julia Ferguson, Adams County Sustainability Coordinator, to hold an MRT position. There is a statutory seat open for an Adams County Representative. MRT will need a letter from an Adams County elected official to approve.

### **5. Committee Updates**

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

1. WSRF Balance Summary (In meeting agenda packet)  
Anticipate receipt of grant submittal from Denver Trout Unlimited for plans for a South Platte Stream Management Plan.

#### **2. PEPO (Davenport)**

##### **1. Outreach Coordinator Position SPBRT Presentation (Sean Cronin)**

Sean Cronin presented a proposal for creating a Coordinator position. South Platte is a large diverse basin with many groups that require interface to educate the public on RT activities to meet RT objectives for outreach. SPBRT approved the position in concept. SPBRT is asking MRT to contribute to help fund a Coordinator. The position description was provided in the meeting packet. This request is in alignment with the MRT strategy for outreach and education.

There is MRT support for the general position description. There is concern on how to address management. Who will this person take direction from? This will need to be worked through. RTs will need to secure a fiscal agent who would then be the boss. This does not solve the problem of how to prioritize Coordinator duties and responsibilities. It may be that the RT Chairs or the Education committees from each RT would determine the priorities.

There is an anticipated funding plan coming out of the Water Plan where funds may be made available to support this type of position. Enacting a Coordinator now may put MRT & SPBRT in a position to promptly access the anticipated funds for education and outreach. This would offset the use of using basin funds.

Motion made to move forward on developing detail to create and fund a Coordinator position jointly with the SPBRT made by Julio Iturreria, Mark Koleber 2nd.

2. Website Updates and Map – feedback

The committee does not want to make any changes to the content of the website without approval of the RT. They've been making adjustments to the website to make it more user friendly and uploading documents for easier access. How does the RT want key documents archived? A responsibility of Education committee and WSRF is to best use the website to ensure the best projects are being brought forward for consideration.

3. Communication Strategies Draft Document

What is the message the two RT's want to get out? This document addresses the messaging. The first few pages are a recap of documents that already exist and are to be incorporated into this strategy. No action is being requested. Committee asked if this is a document that should have an official RT stamp of approval? The strategy will be helpful to those who will be responsible for moving the education and outreach initiative forward. If it is a RT Strategic Plan, the RT should formally adopt it. The SPBRT has not had an opportunity to look at the document. They will see it next week.

4. Colorado Ag Water Alliance Workshop/Tour – April/May timeframe

This tour will be informative and is a first opportunity to engage more broadly in the basin. The intent is to provide an opportunity to bring together different basin interests in a fun outdoor event.

There is also interest in a Stream Management Plan workshop for all those who are curious about what these plans involve. The Arkansas basin has expressed interest in a possible joint meeting or workshop. There is confusion on what Stream Management plans are and what purpose they serve. There are entities concerned about the implications of going forward on plans that are specific for a Trout Fishery. This may be in conflict with other stream uses. This is a broad stakeholder issue. CWCB may have input regarding the work they are doing that could inform this discussion.

**6. SWSI Update (Holcomb)**

Consulting teams are reviewing the methodology. Tomorrow there will be a methodology meeting. It will be a technical meeting. Will there be input regarding climate change? MRT is still interested in this opportunity to have it included. They are looking at expanding the previous SWSI and climate change will be included. After the methodology is complete it will be reviewed. This process will take about a month at which time they will reach out to experts on this topic. They will also be releasing a schedule on how they will receive input. December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 is the deadline. The majority of technical work will take place this year. The reports will be released 1<sup>st</sup>Q next year.

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

1. Revised Phase II Risk Study Scope

There is a webinar next week. Biggs invited Waage and Stibrich to join the webinar. They crafted a recommendation which they presented to the RT. They are being asked to give comments next Thursday.

The first phase was done by the Western Slope RTs based on the question, "What can be done on a voluntary basis if drought continues in order to deliver enough water to the lower basin?" The East Slope RT's were invited. Each RT had 2-3 people participate. A Phase II SOW was released. East Slope asked CWCB to take an active role because this is really a statewide matter. CWCB became more involved and redrafted and made improvements to the SOW. The revised proposal has the CO River District as the lead, but CWCB would work out a SOW agreeable to both slopes.

Does this give enough control to all parties interested or does control stay with the Colorado River District? An option would be to remove all mandatory propositions in SOW. This has been removed. There are legal implications to the compact so now it is focused on voluntary measures that could be done such as water banks and storage

options with a focus on the next 3 – 5 years. There is interest in getting information on long-term demand changes, but for now the focus is on the short-term.

Four suggestions for consideration:

1. State holds contract
2. A management team assigned to direct the study composed of water users from both slopes
3. Define what the study is not to be used for, e.g. – what water should be developed under the compact, not locking into long-term permanent arrangements. This would involve a broader scope of work.
4. CWCB run the management team and give CWCB final say on how analysis is performed and presented.

Carlee Brown, CWCB, said they can't hold the contract under procurement. They can take a role as facilitator. The role of the State can be to facilitate discussion across the divide. The State has stepped up on development of the SOW. The best way to get concerns addressed is to have RT involvement.

Is a management team being proposed? There has been no internal team meeting from Brown's office. She advised that it makes sense but there is no confirmation from her office. There is a disconnect between East Slope concerns that this could have long-term implications and West Slope interest in pursuing this study for educational purposes. This originated with the West Slope Phase I modeling risk to Colorado River to Lake Powell. A comparison of past hydrology modeling to where we are now. West Slope has been very cooperative in reconsidering the approach to Phase II. They are interested in getting buy-in. While the CWCB is conducting the SOW review they ask that the East Slope consider voluntary demand management and how we would model it. One of the stated purposes is trying to build an insurance program to protect existing uses.

A suggestion was made to have a 3-person Executive Management Committee – 1 member from East Slope, 1 from West Slope, 1 from CWCB with the criteria that no actions can be addressed without a majority of the Executive Management Committee in agreement.

If MRT wants to be involved we should be willing to put some money into the study. How much money is each West Slope RT contributing? The financial component was removed from the SOW while they work on the revised the SOW. They will need to resubmit SOW to the contractor since the scope has changed.

This constitutes our first MRT meeting on this project. By the March MRT meeting Metro could take a formal action on making a funding commitment once we are presented with a final scope of work and financial information.

Is the Executive Committee given approval by the RT members to bring recommendations forward to the next meeting on this study due next Thursday? Yes

Could MRT share the draft recommendations for input at the SPBRT to be presented at the next Tuesday SPBRT meeting? Yes

#### **8. South Platte Storage Study Update (Holcomb)**

The literature review will be complete along with modeling in the next couple of weeks. How will the results of this study be shared? It will be widely distributed.

#### **9. Nominating Committee (Marsicek & Koleber)**

1. Bylaws Update (Letter in meeting packet)  
Request March agenda item to amend bylaws to allow for three additional positions.  
Invite Laura Kroeger and Tom Iseman to attend the next meeting and present.

2. Membership Update  
John Kaufman asked that Rick McCloud take his seat.

Motion made by Mark Koleber to remove Peter Binney and replace vacant seats that are within MRT purview to fill. Replace vacant positions with Lisa Darling, Eric Hecox, Rick McCloud, and Darren Beck. Julio Iturreria 2nd. All in Favor – Approved.

#### **10. Future Meeting Date & Location Discussion (Biggs)**

Alternatives provided to group. Group approves the Police Protective Division location and move meeting start time back to 4:00 pm.

#### **11. Roundtable Coordination Discussion (Biggs)**

1. Arkansas RT
  1. Barb received a call suggesting RTs should coordinate more. We have reached out to El Paso County. The leadership of Arkansas RT Council have requested to have someone from MRT attend their meetings. They meet at Pueblo Community College. Is anyone interested in making that trip. Casey Davenport and Lisa Darling have offered to make the trip on occasion.

#### **12. Meeting Schedule**

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, February 9th, 2017, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Building, 4209 Weld Cty Rd 24 ½, East I-25 Frontage Rd., Firestone, CO 80502.
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, February 9th, 2017, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm, 1600 West 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204.
3. 26th Annual Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture – Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Renaissance Hotel in Denver.
4. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, March 14th, 2017, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Building, 4209 Weld Cty Rd 24 ½, East I-25 Frontage Rd., Firestone, CO 80502.
5. CWCB Meeting - March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, Greeley, CO