

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

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)

Attendance: Sean Conway, Garret Varra, John Stulp, Bert Weaver, Kevin Lusk, Jeffrey Boring, Larry Howard, Jim Yahn, Jim Ford, Sean Cronin, Erik Anglund, Larry Ross, Joel Schneekloth, Steve Larson, Kent Swedlund, Gene Manuello, Bruce Gerke, Jim Hall, Joe Frank, Bert Knight, Jason Roudebush, Julio Iturreria, Dan Brown, Jeffrey Boring, Kent Swedlund

2. Approval of Meeting Summary (action items)

A motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Bert Weaver, seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion carried without contest or discussion.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (action items)

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Garret Varra and seconded by Jim Ford. The motion carried without contest or discussion.

4. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)

Jim Hall reported the Technical Committee would be meeting on March 24. Sean Conway reported a member of the public had reached out to Weld County Commissioners asking if the County would be interested in supporting a dewatering study of LaSalle/Gilcrest area. The County was supportive of the effort.

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

Sean Conway reported on the frequent pace of updates of the Colorado River Risk study. Joe Frank provided background on recent efforts of the East Slope roundtables to come together and provide recommendations and feedback to the West Slope on the River Risk Study scope. Jim Hall took the floor to update the Roundtable on these same efforts. Hall reported the Metro Roundtable had recently met to discuss the feedback; the general consensus of the Metro Roundtable was that the State should be taking leadership of the study and not provide funding to such an effort. Becky Mitchell organized a recent meeting to address feedback on the topic. The goal of the West Slope discussion seemed to be reassurance to the East Slope that their voices and feedback would be heard and taken seriously. Mark Waage, it was reported, largely carried the flag for the east slope. One of the biggest takeaways was that the West Slope wouldn't be adjusting the study based on feedback from the East Slope, but if there was a complaint the CWCB could be notified as a sort of mediator. The role of the State was discussed and although they had expressed a willingness to participate in the study in some way, the State was not going to be taking a lead role.

Jim Hall reported the East Slope representatives made recommendations subsequent to meeting with CWCB and West Slope representatives on March 13, 2017. Those recommendations were:

1. The East Slope had no contest to the West Slope using their own roundtable funding or funding from local agencies to fund the study.
2. Given the statewide interest in studies of this nature, the State was encouraged to take a leadership role.
3. Rather than contributing passively, the East Slope would prefer to not participate in the study in any way, including through the contribution of funding.

Jim Hall reported an outcome of the conversation was a recommendation that the East Slope develop a letter to be sent to the CWCB before the next board meeting to act as they feel appropriate given the recommendations of the East Slope. Simultaneously, the summary on which Hall was reporting, would be reviewed by the Technical Committee before being finalized. Joe Frank added clarification that the diminished role of the East Slope was the cause for the committee's recommendation for the East Slope roundtables to withdraw their participation. Hall added that the State should not take a more active role if they are not going to back the study. Julio Iturreria asked the CWCB representatives at the meeting why the State wasn't taking more of a leadership role in the study. Iturreria argued that given the positions and recommendations of East Slope roundtables, the State should provide rationale for their decision to stay out of the study.

John Stulp took the floor to respond to the discussion. Stulp reported the scope was revised and the CWCB was able to adjust the scope to accommodate the State's position to protect itself and its interests in the Colorado River Basin. Stulp added that he felt the State was involved in the process. Becky Mitchell took the floor to respond to the summary Jim Hall had reported on earlier as well as the present discussion. Mitchell added that some significant changes had recently occurred to the scope that added State involvement to a larger degree. It was also reported that since the West Slope roundtables had sought basin funding rather than statewide funding, the State was not in a position to impose parameters on the funding in the same way as if it had come from a different source. Sean Cronin stated that his analysis of the discussion was that an outcome had already been predetermined. Becky Mitchell responded the State was aware of the impacts of the subject study and was working to address the matter as equitably as possible. Per a question from Jeffrey Boring, Jim Hall confirmed the Potential Guidelines for the Phase II Risk Study, finalized in February 16, 2017, was still relevant. Unfortunately, Hall confirmed, that proposal had been rejected. Boring also asked if Hall's team had considered the possibility that refusing to come to the table was worse than being at the table and having no voice. Hall replied that the possibilities had been weighed and the outcomes considered.

Sean Conway asked Jim Hall what direction the Technical Committee wished to receive from the Roundtable in order to move forward. Conway recapitulated the past guidance to the Technical Committee and asked Becky Mitchell what additional actions the Roundtable had before it. Mitchell suggested the Roundtable still had time to voice its opinion to the CWBC before the next board meeting. Conway felt the Roundtable's voice should be heard and the Technical Committee would need support from the membership. Jim Hall made a motion that the SPBRT join with the other East Slope roundtables and Technical Committee to draft a letter consistent with the Summary memo to voice the opinion of all East Slope parties involved, in advance of the March 22 & 23 CWCB board meeting. Burt Knight seconded the

motion. Julio Iturreria asked if the three letters could be combined into a single letter to be signed by all East Slope groups. Iturreria reiterated his analysis that the East Slope parties felt the State should take a stronger leadership role. Sean Cronin asked the Roundtable to consider the impact of writing a letter in response to another roundtable's WSRF application. Cronin asked the letter be drafted in a way that made it clear the intent was to address an apparent statewide matter rather than a specific WSRF application. How best to act on the guidance of adjusting the tone and message of the letter was discussed.

The motion passed without contest.

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

Julio Iturreria took the floor, diving into discussion of the strategic communication plan. Iturreria reported on past efforts of the Education and Outreach Committee. It was reported that the strategic plan was discussed at length at the most recent Metro Roundtable meeting and Iturreria reported the response was overwhelmingly positive. Joel Schneekloth stated the comments back from the Roundtable were sparse although some members had submitted extensive commentary. Casey Davenhill reported a newer draft of the plan was available. She provided background on the development of the plan, arguing an attempt was made to capture the history of the two roundtable's education and outreach efforts and to bridge the potential gaps in understanding and philosophy between the Metro and larger South Platte Basin constituency. One of the biggest areas of improvement, Davenhill reported, was digital communications. Matt Betz committed to working with Davenhill to distribute an updated draft of the plan.

7. South Platte Basin Storage Study Update (Frank – 5 min)

Joe Frank took the floor to update the Roundtable on the Storage Study, reporting a workshop would be held on the 17th in the same location as the SPBRT regular meeting location. The study would be focusing on a stretch of the main stem from Greeley to Julesburg. Additionally, a 15 year retroactive analysis to determine how much water could have been put into storage would be included in the study. The rest of the study would be a comprehensive analysis of wildlife, vegetation, and all aspects of the riparian corridor.

8. SWSI Update (Godbout – 15 min)

Craig Godbout took the floor to update the Roundtable on the State Water Supply Initiative. Godbout reported there would be a focus on technical data, rather than policy and input. The latest SWSI would focus on developing a key technical platform built on data analysis to feed directly into future refinement of the BIPs and CWP. The BIPs would therefore also be informing the direction and development of SWSI. Additional details of the ongoing SWSI effort, Godbout stated, were available on the CWCB website. Godbout also spoke to the development of technical advisory groups, which were seeking representation from each roundtable. Joe Frank asked if new data would be averaged to match BIP water projections and Becky Mitchel and Godbout reported information would be grouped into several different projection categories. Discussion ensued as to the availability of SWSI data for use by future analysis tools. Sean Cronin reported the previous version of SWSI didn't lend itself to easy data mining and analysis.

9. Legislative Update (Frank – 5 min)

Joe Frank took the floor to update the Roundtable on state affairs. He pointed to the CWC's water bill tracer. Don Ament took the floor to update the Roundtable on legislative proceedings. Ament reported March 22nd was "Ag-Day" at the State capitol. Discussion ensued as to the ongoing state-level debate on marijuana versus hemp—this debate involved the Bureau of Land Management. Several bills were reported on by Ament. He recommended any question of details or developments be directed to specific Roundtable members.

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

Jim Yahn made an update to the South Platte Roundtable, making the membership aware that James Eklund would be stepping down from the CWCB effective April, 2017.

Craig Godbout took the floor to update the Roundtable on the status of the Basin and Statewide WSRF accounts. Godbout reported that the WSRF Statewide fund was incapable of covering the most recent round of 2017 and applicants were asked to reduce their respective asks from that fund.

11. IBCC update (Godbout - 5 min)

John Stulp reported the IBCC would be up in Silverthorne for the next meeting on April 20. Stulp reported 52% of the state was in some form of severe drought at the time of meeting.

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

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

No significant update.

- b. Alternative meeting locations (Late Spring through early Fall 2017):
 - i. Fort Morgan
 - ii. Bailey?

No significant update.

13. Public Comment (5 min)

The meeting adjourned at 6PM.

14. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting – April 11, 2017 – Weld County Service Center
- b. Next Metro RT Meeting – April 13, 2017 – Denver Police Protective Association 2105 Decatur Street, Denver CO
- c. CWCB Board Meeting – March 22 & 23, 2017 – Greeley

Dinner (45 min)