

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
4209 Weld County Road 24 1/2
Longmont, Colorado 80501
4:00PM-6:40PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)

Introductions were made at 4:15.

Attendance: Sean Conway, Garret Varra, Bert Weaver, Kevin Lusk, Jason Roudebush, Ken Huson, Larry Howard, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, Rich Belt, Allyn Wind, Mike Shimmin, Sean Cronin, Erik Anglund, John Stokes, Dan Brown, Julio Iturreria, Bruce Gerk, Burt Knight, Joe Frank, Matt Betz, John Stokes, Larry Ross, Deb Daniels

2. Approval of Meeting Summary (action item)

Jim Yahn made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes and Bert Weaver seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (action item)

Item 5 was struck from the agenda. Julio Iturreria made a motion to approve the modified agenda and John Stokes seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Committee Updates (10 min)

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall)

Jim Hall reported that on April 28th, the subcommittee met and water levels were reported to be low, despite concerns about the recent rains on the impact to water levels in the area. The pilot program was recently reapproved and as such an HB1178 grant was being sought to add a new dewatering well plus an existing storm and waste water drainage pipe to keep water levels low. Burt Knight reported it would go before the local board for approval on Wednesday, May 10. Hall reported that improved monitoring was going to be sought after. Additionally, participation in the pilot program wouldn't negatively impact participants working to dewater or convey water out of the study area. There was also a proposal to install a 50% cost sharing program for soil probes to increase efficiency through eliminations of excess surface water on lands within the study area. Joe Frank reported that a Sterling project included installation of a permanent project as part of the larger HB1178 project. This last grant request would exhaust the remainder of the original \$500,000 originally established through HB1178 in 2015. Jim Hall thanked Weld County for their support of the project.

Jim Hall reported the next meeting was scheduled for June 2; he also announced that HB1233 had been signed. Jim Yahn had it clarified that 50AF a year would be dewatered, totaling in 500AF total over the next ten years.

b. Grants Committee Update (Boring)

Garret Varra took the floor to report three applications had been received in advance of the May WSRF deadline. The Poudre Learning Center \$10,000 (Basin) and \$40,000 (State); Open Water Foundation \$40,000 (Basin) and \$60,000 (State); Wildlife Restoration Volunteers \$25,000 (Basin) and \$25,000 (State). Discussion ensued on the differences between the last Poudre Learning Center WSRF application and the present application. It was discussed that while the previous application was focused on funding physical facilities, the present application was more focused on educational efforts.

~~5. WSRF Presentation Process Discussion (Stokes – 15 min)~~

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

Jim Yahn reported that the CWCB had approved the Phase II study and the Front Range Water Council had decided to withdraw their participation from the study. Craig Godbout reported that staff wanted it to be known that the first technical committee for the Colorado River Risk Study had met on May 2 and webinars would begin to occur on a regular basis starting in late-May. The webinars would be ways of conducting outreach for the study. Sean Conway asked the Roundtable membership if they were interested in participating. Mike Shimmin asked that the Colorado River Risk Study appear as an update from the CWCB at future Roundtable meetings.

7. Education and Outreach

a. E&O Coordinator (Iturreria/Davenhill – 15 min)

Julio Iturreria took the floor to report the Metro and South Platte Roundtables had each committed \$25,000 to the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Those commitments, according to Iturreria, would require letters of support from both Roundtable chairs. Iturreria was also concerned that funds were not available. Craig Godbout reported the letters would need to be completed by June 1 and the grant recommendations would go before the CWCB in July. Given the cost of the contract <\$100,000, a PO would be issued. The Colorado Watershed Coalition would put together an interview panel. Mike Shimmin asked that discussion of the process for implementing the grant be added to the August agenda. Bruce Gerk recommended the E&O Coordinator be addressed as part of the joint Roundtable meeting in August. Julio Iturreria, on behalf of Casey Davenhill, thanked Garret Varra for his work and participation. Bruce Gerk thanked Casey Davenhill as well. Discussion ensued of how to address the E&O Coordinator at the joint Roundtable meeting in June, with consideration of the Arkansas River Roundtable.

Julio Iturreria reported there was an upcoming CAWA tour on June 27, planned to start at Boulder County Fairgrounds. More information would be forthcoming.

b. Big Thompson Coalition Meeting Update (Varra – 10min)

Garret Varra took the floor to report on the Big Thompson Coalition meeting. Varra reported he provided summary reports of the South Platte BIP and the Colorado Water Plan. His presentation at the meeting addressed the intent and functions of the two relevant water plans and how everyone was a stakeholder in

some way in the discussion of state and local water. Funding was another major topic given the significance of it to the implementation of the water plans. Julio Iturreria asked if there was a good relationship with the coalitions and if that was something we'd want to cultivate. Varra reported a commitment to participating in the coalition meetings would be well received and beneficial for both parties. Bruce Gerk and Sean Cronin spoke on the future of the coalitions and whether consolidation was inevitable. Craig Godbout clarified that a large portion of the funding and projects sought by the coalitions fell under a scope outside those that the South Platte Basin Roundtable WSRF grants could fund.

8. South Platte Basin Storage Study Update (Frank – 15 min)

Joe Frank took the floor to report on the Storage Study. Frank reported there would be a workshop on July 12, from 9AM-1PM, and would be held at the Southwest Weld County Services Center. The workshop would discuss developments in the study and researchers would be taking feedback and comments. Julio Iturreria asked if there was an expectation that the study would provide actionable ways of closing the gap. Frank reported the study would identify a wide range of solutions for developing storage.

9. SWSI Update (Godbout – 10 min)

Craig Godbout took the floor to report on the SWSI Update. Methodologies Technical Teams were currently working on methodologies and most of the initial workshops were set to be completed by mid-May. Technical Group participant lists had been distributed to Roundtable leadership. Godbout reported timing discussions would be discussed with the CWCB at regular upcoming times. Julio Iturreria expressed concern over the documentation of the study and the relationship to the outcome. Godbout reported this had been covered.

10. Legislative Update (Frank – 5 min)

Joe Frank took the floor to report the Project Bill was still pending in the legislature, which would end on May 9. The project bill is \$164M total. Godbout provided a detailed breakdown of the projects bill, stating that \$10M/year of the projects bill would go to the Roundtables' WSRF funds in addition to any severance tax infusions. Godbout also stated the application review process would likely have fast turnaround. Applications would not be accepted on any of the old WSRF application forms. Godbout clarified that all WSRF applications would need to specifically identify how the proposed project would benefit the BIP and/or the CWP.

John Stokes reported the passage of the Projects Bill brought a large injection of funds into the State and various basin water project budgets.

Dan Brown asked on the status of an alternative storage bill and it was confirmed the bill had passed. SB267, which was the hospital provider bill, was also expected to pass. That bill would increase funds available to cover rural Colorado hospital costs (transportation, stay, etc.).

11. IBCC Meeting Recap (Yahn – 20 min)

Jim Yahn took the floor to report the IBCC meeting on April 20 met at Keystone, CO. The

meeting included an update on the Colorado River Risk Study. Yahn also reported that an estimated \$20B would be required over the next 20 years to fund the CWP. Discussion of how to fund the CWP ensued [at the IBCC meeting] as did the future of the IBCC and its role going forward. John Stulp added the funding in discussion had largely come from the list of IPPs. Stulp discussed the various taxes that had been shut down for various reasons, largely the pushback from various industries. Obvious topics related to the discussion of Tabor and tax increases. Sean Conway stressed the importance of an education component to the success of not just proposed bills, but all bills passing through the legislature. Garret Varra argued water projects had a natural ally in transportation projects as infrastructure of both had significant overlap. Varra felt the two groups would be effective if they came together. Sean Cronin argued that one of the pillars of the E&O Coordinator's efforts should be to educate the public and point out that the constituencies have the power to fund and implement important water projects. John Stulp argued that infrastructure for water in Colorado necessarily involves environmental concerns that previously had not been considered as part of the discussion.

12. Future meeting Date & Locations Discussion (20 min)

- a. Front Range BRTs Joint Summit (June 20, 2017, 12-3pm)**
 - i. Discuss possible agenda/topics**

Craig Godbout took the floor to discuss the joint roundtable meeting, stating that the time was set in consideration of those coming from far outside the local area. Godbout also sought additions to the agenda and received none. It was clarified that WSRF applications would be considered in July. Julio Iturreria proposed taking time during the joint meeting to address holding an open forum. Discussion ensued as to the use of time during the scheduled lunch.

Discussion ensued as to potential locations, venues, and discussion topics for meetings in the mountains.

13. Public Comment (5 min)

14. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting – June 20, 2017 – Location and Venue TBD**
- b. Next Metro RT Meeting – May 11, 2017 – **Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW); Big Horn Conference Room; 6060 Broadway****
- c. Next CWCB Board Meeting – May 17 & 18 – Pagosa Springs**
- d. Next IBCC Meeting – Aug/Sept, 2017 – Location and Venue TBD**

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:21.

Dinner (45 min)