

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 11th, 2017
Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW)
Big Horn Conference Room
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Barbara Biggs, Casey Davenport, Dan DeLaughter, Darren Beck, Dave Nickum, David Allen, Emily Hunt, Janet Bell, Joe Stibrich, Julio Iturreria, Laura Kroeger, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Rick McCloud, Rick Marsicek, Rob Sakata, Scott Brink, Susan Nedell

Guests:

Phyllis Thomas, Isabelle Lheritier, Kaity Okan

CWCB:

Megan Holcomb, Diane Kielty, John Stulp

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Approval of April 2017 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

All in Favor – Approved

1 Abstention – Barb Biggs

3. Agenda: additions or changes (Action Item)

John Stulp will provide the IBCC Update at the beginning of the meeting during WSRF discussion.

4. Public Comment

Colorado Ag Group gap between water providers and agriculture providers. Rob thanked MRT for support for these Ag Alliance tours.

5. WSRF (Biggs)

1. Need a new WSRF Chair

Tim Murrell has resigned his position with Douglas County and is moving to Washington State. Need a new WSRF Committee Chair. Will also need a new Task Leader for the Conceptual Projects group for the BIP. Emily Hunt has offered to take the role of either position. A description of each role was provided. Criteria guidelines were recently updated and approved. Emily has been approved for the WSRF Chair position.

2. WSRF Balance Summary – MRT Balance is \$334,337. With the projects passing and money approved for basin accounts. Is money solely for the entire WSRF program? This is supplemental to what will come from the severance tax. Megan Holcomb has the breakdowns. You can request this information from her.

HB17-1248

Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Project - total of \$164M and includes:

\$130M for Loans

\$9M CWCB Operations and Program Funding

\$25M for Water Plan Implementation Funding (planned per year for 3 years)

- \$10M – WSRF supplemental funding (backfill due to no available Severance Tax revenue)
- \$5M – Watershed Restoration Grant Program (SMPs and other restoration/watershed projects)
- \$10M – Water Plan Implementation Grants/Funding

- \$2M - Addressing the supply/demand gap
- \$3M - New Storage (Surface, Aquifer, Dredging)
- \$1M - Implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning
- \$1M - Education, Outreach, and Innovation
- \$1M - Technical assistance & grants for Ag
- \$1M - Non-Consumptive (Enviro. & Recreation)
- \$1M - Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) Update

What portion will come to the MRT account? It will be divided in the same way it has been done in the past. In the past money came in as 3 payments. The money may be available sooner.

When is the next round of statewide funding available? June 1st is the deadline for next round of applications. The next round of state funding will be available September 2017 (Deadline August 1st) and March 2018. We have a year to bring projects forward for this money. Are there any formalized criteria that we must go through to move a proposal through the system? The concern is the short turnaround time. We already have criteria we are following it. We can start there.

\$25 million is a new influx into the CWP fund. Good projects need to come forward to validate allocating additional money into the fund. This is an opportunity that has not been available in a long time. Be responsible and bring worthwhile projects forward.

We have a 400,000 acre feet in savings/water conservation goal. Is this goal eligible for these funds? Yes. In storage and water conservation there are large goals in the CWP. It would be nice to get the MRT conversation started on achieving these goals and how we can help people accomplish these goals. Look at the list of our IPPs and think about how we can get creative to bring forward projects targeting this influx of funds.

We may consider a two-tiered approach. Move fast as individual members by returning to old plans to identify quick win projects already in the queue. Then focus on new opportunities.

6. Committee Updates

1. PEPO (Davenhill)

1. Colorado Ag Water Alliance Workshop/Tour June 27th
May 10th tour will now take place June 19th, 2017.

2. Education Coordinator Update

Needs a signature from Barbara Biggs on letter to move application forward to the CWCB Board. There was a workshop in Berthoud on Stream Management Planning among other things. SPBRT was represented. Stream management Planning is getting more interest. One thing that came up at SPBRT about process to get Education Coordinator on board. The SPBRT would like Casey to present again at their next meeting to explain this process. They are looking at putting together a hiring team composed of both RTs. Also, they are looking at recommendations from a small committee on updates to web site. Julio Iturreria and Laura Kroeger have offered to assist. Without the money in place yet, are we comfortable with moving forward or do we want to wait for the money before moving forward? If it's the will of the group we could use existing PEPO money. We could be another month or two down the road. What do we have to do to move forward. Casey will convene a discussion to move forward without the money secured.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Nickum)

Scott Schriber and Dave Nickum are going to reengage the committee to see if they can generate energy to have the joint environmental committee identify and advance projects. There has been a stream management plan discussion at the Big Thompson meeting.

7. SWSI Update (Holcomb)

The lists have gone out requesting Technical Advisors (TAGs). They are waiting for responses. The list was read to the group. The final list will be distributed to the MRT. An overview of the SWSI content was requested at the last MRT meeting. A scaled down project plan was provided today. Megan will distribute this to the RTs. Megan provided review and feedback timeline schedule for the TAGs. She will have updates on approach and status at the next meeting. They will be looking at the hydrologic gap this time. The reasoning is to be more scientifically rigorous yet not make interpretations. They want to leave gap interpretations up to the basins.

8. IBCC Update (Waage)

Discussions starting next week on funding options for implementing CWP. The criteria and allocation is being discussed. The funding options presentation was in the addendum sent out as included in the meeting packet. Examples – tax on water bills throughout the state, a bottle tax fee of a penny per container, a fee addition on the state tourism tax. There is concern that having municipal customers pay a tax for a problem the customers haven't created may not be something municipal providers can get behind to support. Ultimately what will come out of this will be a referendum on the ballot. The MRT role may be in respect to a ballot issue. Any referendum must be better thought out before going out to the voters. Voters will want specifics on how the money will be spent. MRT will be looked to as a sounding board. Will we be able to support what gets put on a ballot?

A topic for the Arkansas, South Platte and Metro Joint RT Agenda is the role of IBCC in the future. Much of the negotiation on the framework received pushback which has led to minimal progress. Not all IBCC members are government employees. Some are Round Table representatives. What would the MRT like the IBCC to do for us? Marc and Joe are our MRT representatives. What would the members like them to take forward to the IBCC. What initiatives will be beneficial to the MRT?

A suggestion was made that the main IBCC focus should be on the hardest goal to attain in the plan, the 400,000 acre feet of storage. This cannot be done without the will of a larger body. How will this take place? It's incumbent of the IBCC when addressing the conservation goal is that it's conservation for the entire state, not just the urban areas. Conservation issues are very complex. West slope communities could be doing more in this area.

9. South Platte Storage Study Update (Holcomb)

Are any of these storage possibilities real and would they serve the metro area. This may be low hanging fruit for potential projects.

1. SPSS Workshop #1 Revised Notes (In Meeting Packet)
2. Second SPSS Workshop - July 12th, 2017, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, South Weld County Administration Building

10. June MRT Meeting

1. Joint Front Range BRTs "Summit" - Arkansas, S. Platte & Metro
 1. June 15th, 2017
The date is now June 20th from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. The location is to be determined.
 2. Summit Topics
It's a very full agenda. A concern is that we don't have an opportunity to have joint meetings often. Julio proposed at the SPBRT to somewhere fit a time for the 3 Round Tables discuss issues that are not on the agenda. This could be a lunchtime meeting. The schedule is still flexible. Megan will take this suggestion back to the agenda setting group. There are some repetitive items on the agenda. We may not need to do a SWSI update since this is being reported out at the individual RT meetings.

Can a topic breakout be focused on the 400,000 acre feet goal? This may fit into a breakout discussion. It could be a discussion on where each basin is on meeting the goals within their individual plans. How are we doing with our individual plans? Share our progress on IPPs and model projects.

Needs to be a focused discussion with proposed questions and a facilitated

dialogue. Have focused topics with break out tables and have people prepared before the summit. The South Platte has a website where you can get information to prepare for this type of discussion.

3. MRT Meeting June 8th **(Action Item)**

1. Hold regular meeting and Summit
2. Hold regular meeting prior to Summit
3. Summit replaces regularly scheduled meeting

Cancel regular June meeting, option #3.

11. Meeting Schedule

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, May 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, June 8th, 2017, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.
3. CWCB Board Meeting – May 17th – 18th, Pagosa Springs, CO.