

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 11, 2017
4209 County Rd 24 ½
Longmont, CO 80504
4:00PM-7:20

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)

Sean Conway indicated he would be tardy and as such Vice Chair Garret Varra started the meeting.

Introductions began at 4:10.

Garret Varra, Jeffrey Boring, Bert Weaver, Kevin Lusk, Deb Daniel, Bruce Gerk, Larry Howard, Ken Huson, Jim Yahn, John Stokes, Sean Cronin, Greg Johnson (CWCB), Mike Shimmin, Gene Manuello, Kent Swedlund, Stephen Larson, Larry Ross, Julio Iturreria, Lynda James, Jason Roudebush, Joe Frank, Randy Ray, Jim Ford, Burt Knight, Sean Conway

2. Approval of Meeting Summary (action item)

No modifications to the minutes were offered. Bert Weaver moved to accept the meeting summary and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without contest or discussion.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (action item)

Randy Ray added a discussion topic seeking a letter of support for a Water Recharge Project at the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District as a new agenda item.

Lynda James moved to adopt the agenda as modified and Mike Shimmin seconded. The motion passed without contest or discussion.

Bob Laugenbaugh asked for future updates to the Roundtable by the Groundwater Committee and for legislative updates.

4. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)

Randy Ray took the floor to update the Roundtable on phase II of the dewatering project, which was set to reoccur. The reoccurrence would see water leased by the City of Greeley and operated by the same well pumpers as during the previous year. Soil moisture probe data was also expected to be distributed later during the current year as well. John Stulp reported the City and County of Gilcrest was submitting a grant application to activate another dewatering well. The application would be presented to the Conservation Board. Joe Frank reported the next meeting of the Committee would be postponed until August.

b. WSRF Committee Update (Boring – 5 min)

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to update the Roundtable on WSRF applications and requests, and fund balances. Boring reported the WSRF funds had more than enough resources to cover the application requests from the three applicants being considered. Boring's combined message to the Roundtable was that the combined requests were for approximately \$75,000.00. After full funding, the funding abilities of the Roundtable would be approximately \$262,000.00.

Jeffrey Boring made a motion to approve all three WSRF applications. John Stokes seconded. It was clarified by the CWCB that the WSRF funds had been refilled and a greater funding ability would be available for WSRF application considerations during the first quarter of 2018.

5. WSRF Presentations and Approvals - (Boring – 45 min)

a. Poudre Learning Center Foundation

The applicant, ("the Foundation") took the floor to present their grant funding application to the Roundtable. The Foundation made a case for their funding strategies and resources, arguing they would be supporting water education initiatives for current and future leaders using teaching expertise, state of the art facilities, and strong educational partnerships. The core message of the Foundation's presentation was a commitment to a comprehensive portfolio of education initiatives that targeted different aspects of the watershed using a variety of programs.

Sean Cronin asked the Foundation how they considered the gap between water development and environmental stewardship as the philosophies of both are often at odds with each other. The Foundation responded there were strong, if not overlooked, connections between water development and environmental considerations. Joe Frank asked for clarification on how the Foundation would coordinate its message with that of the Roundtable. In their response, the Foundation argued their message would take the various facets of the Roundtable's message and translate them into a digestible format for young audiences.

Ken Huson argued the Roundtable needed to develop a message of how its goals of meeting the gap, including the development of better storage, could be easily distributed through the Foundation's efforts. Sean Cronin asked how the Foundation would shift their approach in the event the as yet tentative Education and Outreach Coordinator were not hired. The Foundation responded the equipment to transmit and translate the Roundtable's message would be critical to the effort and the Coordinator would only enhance that effort. Julio Iturreria asked for more details on how the funds would be spent and the Foundation turned attention to their WSRF application and its attachments. Additional clarification was provided by the applicant on their reporting, which was described as regularly recurring and to the wishes of the funding partners. Stephen Larson proposed the award be conditional upon The Foundation's collaboration with the Roundtable.

Greg Johnson reported the application would need to be submitted to the CWCB by August 1 and then would be heard by the board in September.

Bruce Gerk and Garret Varra voiced their support for the application.

b. Open Water Foundation

Steve Malers took the floor to present his application to fund a South Platte Roundtable Data Platform. Malers' points were to provide easy public access to data and to provide a way for the public to easily digest that data. The core of Malers' presentation was that data could provide the infrastructure to develop and execute well-informed and transparent decisions across the South Platte watershed.

Joe Frank asked the applicant if he had considered working with the Education Coordinator or the Metro Roundtable and Malers responded he had, but thought it better to start working immediately with the South Platte Basin Roundtable and ramp-up the scope over time. Greg Johnson stated his only concern was that the scope be kept separate from SWSI such that there wasn't an overlap of efforts. Burt Knight asked how changing data would be updated in the applicant's system. Malers responded the system would take advantage of published datasets and as an open source system would be fully published and transparent for anyone to use. Casey Davenport asked how the applicant's system could be integrated into the SouthPlatteBasin.com website, to which Malers responded opportunities to integrate were abounding. John Stokes and Steve Malers discussed how the data could be packaged and what sorts of narratives could be told using the data and its visualizations.

Lynda James voiced her concern for the application as a solely South Platte Basin Roundtable funded initiative—her stated preference was for the project to seek equal funding through the Metro Roundtable. Sean Cronin and Steve Malers discussed the timeliness of the applicant's system. Per a question from Bert Weaver, Malers clarified that the funds would be used for data development, acquisition, and packaging as well as platform development. Mike Shimmin proposed the applicant consider employing an iterative process with the Roundtable to solicit feedback. Casey Davenport, per a question from Joe Frank, clarified that a WSRF application from Malers could be considered by the Metro Roundtable at any point, and could potentially be considered in advance of the next CWCB meeting.

c. Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

Ed Self took the floor to present on his WSRF application. Self provided some background and context on the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and their past initiatives. Through the presentation, the applicant drew connections between the proposed initiative and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. The application, Self explained, would focus significantly on revegetation of riparian areas impacted by the 2013 flood. Discussion ensued as to whether the WSRF application and the Roundtable would be best served through this specific funding source. Casey Davenport and Sean Cronin voiced their support for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and the benefit they've provided to the Front Range.

Lynda James asked how the applicant would be instituting a monitoring element into their work. Deb Daniel asked the applicant how they would be removing phreatophytes. Ed Self responded their initiative preferred mechanical treatment, but may apply herbicide strategically, as needed. Sean Cronin disclosed the proposed work would occur on District property, but would not directly benefit District property, and wanted the Roundtable to be aware of that fact.

Mike Shimmin and Ken Huson proposed each application be acted upon individually rather than with a single motion. Shimmin thus proposed a substitute motion that each application be voted upon individually. Jim Ford seconded and the motion passed without discussion or contest.

Jim Yahn moved to fund the Poudre Learning Center Foundation application and Burt Knight seconded. Discussion on the exact funding amounts was sought, and Sean Conway and Jeffrey Boring discussed the timing of the survey. A delay of the funding was discussed, but John Stokes countered by arguing the application be funded immediately. Burt Knight voiced his support as well. The motion to immediately fund the application passed without contest.

Bruce Gerk moved to fund the Open Water Foundation and Jeffrey Boring seconded. Joe Frank asked the Roundtable to consider a substitute motion to split funding with the Metro Roundtable, but in the event the Metro was unable or unwilling to split funding, full funding would be provided by the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Julio Iturreria recommended the South Platte Basin Roundtable fund the full amount with the condition that the applicant go before the Metro with an application for half of the full funding request. Sean Conway seconded the substitute motion. Mike Shimmin clarified that the substitute motion was purely a financial consideration and did not change the scope of the project in any way. The motion passed without contest.

Jim Yahn moved to approve the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers application and Sean Conway seconded. Ken Huson recused himself from voting. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

6. Education and Outreach

- a. Grant Application (Iturreria/Davenhill – 10 min)
- b. Education Coordinator Update (Davenhill – 10 min)

Casey Davenhill took the floor to update the Roundtable on the Education and Outreach Coordinator position stating the application would go before the CWCB at the next meeting. Davenhill reported the CWCB letters of support necessary to accompany the CWCB application were difficult to acquire and execute. Per a question from Sean Conway on the timing of the Education and Outreach Coordinator scope of work, Davenhill stated she was unable to provide a specific date but argued development was moving forward at a rapid pace.

Dinner with presentation by Chris Goemans (CSU).

Chris Goemans took the floor to update the Roundtable on his project: Economic

Analysis and Design of Policies to Conserve Groundwater Use in the Republican River Basin of Colorado. Goemans reported the results of his study would all ultimately be hosted online at www.ogallalawater.org. Discussion ensued on the political and economic considerations and restrictions of the study.

a. Joint Roundtable Debrief (**moved** Conway – 10 min)

Sean Conway took the floor to update the Roundtable on the joint meeting. Conway argued the storage discussion needed to happen on a large scale more frequently and that the meeting was immensely beneficial to all who attended.

7. Addition: Water Recharge Project at the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District

Randy Ray took the floor to explain to the Roundtable some context and background for the Water Recharge Project at the central Colorado Water Conservancy District. The project sought to retime a water supply effort to shift water from times of excess to periods of deficit. Ray explained that he had come to the Roundtable to seek a letter of support for Central's grant funding application to the CWCB. Jim Yahn moved to execute a letter of recommendation for the Central application and Sean Conway seconded. Per a question from Joe Frank, Ray explained the second phase of his project included a proposed mill levy. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Ray explained there were multiple benefits to the project and as a result the exact pot of CWCB funding which would be solicited by Central was likely going to be plural. The motion passed without contest.

8. Colorado River Risk Study (Yahn/Frank – 5 Min)

Yahn submitted no update.

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

Joe Frank asked that the Roundtable members attend the July 12 SPSS meeting.

10. SWSI Update (Godbout – 10 min)

Greg Johnson reported there was no significant update, but progress was being made.

11. IBCC Meeting Recap (Yahn – 20 min)

In lieu of an IBCC update, Jim Yahn provided a CWCB update. The CWCB board meeting was to take place the following week in Crested Butte. Furthermore, the WSRF funding application for education and Outreach Coordinator was on the docket. Becky Mitchell would be assuming the directorship of the CWCB.

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

- a. Discuss Possible Agenda and Topics
- b. Ft. Morgan Meeting Planning
- c. Future Joint Roundtable Meetings

13. Public Comment

No comment was offered.

14. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting – August 8, 2017 – Location and Venue TBD
- b. Next IBCC Meeting – Aug/Sept, 2017 – Location and Venue TBD