

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Weld County Admin. Building
1150 O St.
Greeley, CO
4:00PM-6:30PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)

Meeting started at 4:15

Sean Conway, Garret Varra, Rich Belt, Jim Ford, Larry Howard, Joe Frank, Erik Anglund, Jason Roudebush, Jim Hall, Kent Swedlund, Gene Manuello, Bruce Gerk, Joel Schneekloth, Allyn Wind, Jim Yahn, Ken Huson, Sean Cronin, Deb Daniel, Julio Iturreria, Lacy Williams, Burt Knight

2. Approval of Meeting Summary (action required)

The motion to approve was made to adopt from Allyn Wind and a second by Bruce Gerk. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (action required)

Jim Yahn sought 5 minutes for a CWCB update, to follow the SWSI update. The agenda, as amended, was motioned for approval by Garret Varra and seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)

Jim Hall reported the next meeting would be October 19. No further update was offered.

b. WSRF Update (Boring – 20 min)

i. Public Outreach (Boring)

Garret Varra took the floor to provide the update. A previously held public meeting saw limited attendance; several other known applicants did not attend. Varra went on to discuss the need for an improved digital interface and web portal for the WSRF grants.

ii. Funding Update (Godbout)

The WSRF Update was provided by Craig Godbout as part of the meeting materials.

iii. St Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (Cronin)

Sean Cronin took the floor to provide an update on an upcoming WSRF application. Cronin reported the adjacent Watershed Restoration Grant Program had approximately \$5M available to applicants, within which the Stream Management Planning Grant was housed. The Stream Management Plan was a grant, Cronin argued, that had not been fully taken advantage of. According to the grant stipulations, a portion of the Planning Grant's required match could come from other CWCB funds. The grant that the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District was pursuing was likely to benefit multiple aspects of the BIP's various goals.

Julio Iturreria asked the Needs Committee to consider the possibility of the application having greater complexity than the Committee alone could reasonably evaluate. Joe Frank responded the Committee consisted of a broad range of expertise, enough to effectively evaluate the application; there were also substantial guidelines available to guide evaluation of the application. Discussion ensued as to whether or not the evaluation process would be effective, and whether or not the Committee would admit a shortcoming in expertise, should such a situation arise. Sean Conway presented the idea of continued deliberation based on feedback from the Roundtable. Mike Shimmin added that there was no precedent for the Roundtable advising an applicant to withhold their application based on the complexity of the proposal.

Discussion ensued as to what changes, if any, have occurred in the funding process. Sean Cronin, Craig Godbout, and Jim Yahn clarified the process, citing a growing need for CWCB funding applicants to go before their respective Roundtables to seek letters of support. At the time of meeting, the letters of support were not yet a requirement.

c. Education and Outreach Update (Iturreria/Davenhill – 20 min)

i. Coordinator Introduction

Lacey Williams took the floor to introduce herself as the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Williams argued she has been involved in the water community for a long time, citing numerous activities and professional positions working with water. Williams reported, as per the Statewide PEPO meeting, that the CWCB had proposed a strategy for measuring the effectiveness of the Colorado Water Plan (“CWP”). This proposal, however, was modified to focus on each basin individually. Additionally, the CFWE had been renamed to Water Education Colorado, or “WE CO” for short.

The Hiring Committee shared their overwhelming support for Lacey Williams.

5. Leonard Rice Representing the Town of Firestone – CWP grant (Case – 15 min)

Andrew Rice took the floor to present on a CWP grant from the Town of Firestone. Case provided background on the Town’s grant application and provided background on the multiple aspects of the BIP and CWP which the application encompassed. Sean Cronin sought clarification on the role of the Town of Firestone, whether they would be a new water supplier, and Case reported they would be and therefore reusing their Colorado Big Thompson credits as agriculture, following the study in discussion.

A motion to approve a letter of support for the CWP funding request by the Town of Firestone, via Leonard Rice, was made by Rich Belt and seconded by Jim Ford. The motion was passed without discussion or contest.

Sean Cronin asked if a new Committee should be formed to evaluate similar, future requests. Mike Shimmin proposed unique guidelines be developed to evaluate these requests. Craig Godbout voiced his support for the idea and committed to sharing criterion guidelines for the six CWP buckets amongst the Roundtable membership. Cronin proposed the Roundtable evaluate these requests based on their fit within the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, rather than the CWP criterion guidelines. Shimmin proposed a set of guidelines to streamline and strengthen the entire Roundtable letter of support process.

6. General Discussion of South Platte Data Platform (Malers – 15 mins)

Steve Malers took the floor to present on his Openwater Foundation’s South Platte Data Platform. This platform provided a translator of data into information, facilitating more

informed decisions through the presentation of relative material.

Sean Conway sought to form a committee to work with Steve Malers' project. That committee included Joe Frank, Rich Belt, and Garret Varra from the South Platte Basin Roundtable. The Metro would be also committing three individuals. The website for the platform was viz.openwaterfoundation.org.

7. South Platte Basin Storage Study Update (Frank – 10min)

Joe Frank reported he had a conference call with the consultants and with Andy Moore, and that the study was coming to a close. Frank reported one interesting output of the study was a ranking of each storage site; however, each of the sites had already been weeded out from the entire list. November 9 was identified as a potential date for the next meeting of the consultants and Roundtable members with whom they have been working.

8. SWSI Update (Godbout – 15 min)

Craig Godbout took the floor to provide an update on the SWSI Technical Advisory Groups ("TAG"). He then passed the floor on to each of the local TAG representatives. Per a comment from Joe Frank, the premise behind the SWSI was to determine a statewide and per-basin baseline, which would then be able to better inform evaluations of future models.

a. Scenario Planning (Hall)

Jim Hall took the floor to update the Roundtable on the Scenario Planning TAG. He reported each TAG had reviewed a technical memorandum of approximately 30 pages. This group met on September 25 to discuss a variety of future scenarios which took into account certain economic, climactic, regulatory, social, and commercial factors. Hall reported that of all the scenarios, the majority trended toward some combination of "hotter" and "drier".

b. Municipal and SSI (Belt)

Rich Belt took the floor to provide an update on the Municipal SSI TAG. He reported there were some stark differences between the current SWSI methodology and the previous iteration (2010) that took into account population factors, including water need per-capita, per County. Additionally, current gallons, per-capita, per-day were around 42 (indoor, residential only). Future estimates were expected to be around 36. Models would also include loss and return flows. Belt reported oil and gas was not expected to be modeled at the time of the meeting.

c. Agricultural (Yahn)

Joe Frank took the floor to report on the Agricultural TAG, reporting the TAG futures took into account population increases and land decreases. Additionally, the topic of increased efficiency was discussed as a factor in changing the water availability and limits to efficiency. Following discussion, the consensus of the Roundtable was to make an educated guess at the impact of efficiency in the future. Per a question from Steve Malers, it was clarified the Republican River would be modeled in as well.

d. Environmental – Recreational (Roudebush)

Jason Roudebush took the floor to update the membership on the environmental and recreational TAG. He reported they focused largely on infrastructure gaps and geospatial tools available as mergers of data and platforms. The outcome of the analysis was a flow-ecology relationship based on various scenarios.

9. CWCBC Meeting Update (Yahn)

Yahn highlighted some of the Water Supply Planning Grants, stating that there was a strong focus on implementation projects. Yahn reported three projects had been approved for WSRF grants within the South Platte Basin. Yahn reported on a staggering number of projects

that had been funded, a great number at a reduced amount; a significant amount of the state funding had also been sought, both in applications seeking immediate funding and in projects stating only intent to apply. The next cycle, Yahn reported, was even greater than the recent round of applications, including projects stating intent to apply. Lastly, Yahn reported the Groundwater Technical Committee did not need to be consulted before approving funding for groundwater work.

10. Big Thompson Watershed Tour (Varra – 5 min)

Garret Varra reported he attended a September 27 tour with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. He shared his experience touring the Big Thompson watershed, stating the watershed's millions of dollars of projects were managed by two people. Additionally, he called attention to the topic of the future of the Coalition once funding runs out.

11. Public Comment (10 min)

Leslie Siebel from the Colorado Geological Survey, a non-voting member of the Metro Roundtable, took the floor to introduce her project to the membership. Siebel sought suggestions or leads on how to better acquire data for the Elbert County area.

12. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meetings
 - i. November 14, 2017 – Greeley, CO
 - ii. December – **NO MEETING**
- b. South Platte Forum – October 25-26 – Embassy Suites (Loveland, CO)
- c. Big Thompson Forum – Nov 1, – Group Publishing – 1515 Cascade Ave, Loveland, CO
- d. IBCC Meeting Nov. 30

Dinner Presentation by Andy Burrow (30 min)