

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
Weld County Admin. Building  
Event Center  
1150 O St.  
Greeley, CO  
4:00PM-7:20PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

*The meeting commenced at 4:10*

**1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min)**

Jeffrey Boring, Matt Betz, Sean Conway, Garret Varra, Lacey Williams, Joel Schneekloth, Mike Shimmin, Kevin Lusk, Joe Frank, Sean Cronin, Stephen Larson, John Stokes, Jason Roudebush, Deb Daniel, Randy Ray, Frank Eckhardt, Bruce Gerk, Burt Knight

**2. Approval of Meeting Summary (5 min – action required)**

Frank Eckhardt made a motion to approve the meeting summary and Garret Varra seconded. The motion was approved without discussion or contest.

**3. Agenda – additions or changes (5 min – action required)**

Agenda modifications were presented by Sean Conway. Deb Daniel moved to accept the agenda as modified and Randy Ray seconded. The motion was approved without discussion or contest.

**4. Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project (10 min)**

Susan Sellers (CWCB) took the floor to present on the Bear Creek Lake Reallocation Project. Sellers reported the CWCB would be working on a new project after recently completing the Chatfield Reservoir. The main goal of the presentation, Sellers reported, was to identify partners who wanted to submit a letter of interest—there was no commitment of money with the letter of interest. The CWCB would be sponsoring the water rights for the project and giving partners an opportunity to take a foundational role in its development. Per a question from Joe Frank, the structure of the CWCB sponsored water rights was clarified. That structure of water rights involved a purchase or leasing of the sponsored right by partners, or even a replacement of it by partners bringing their own rights to the reservoir. Sellers had sample letters of interest available to those who might be interested. Per a question from Sean Cronin, the timeline of the project's speed relative to Chatfield Reservoir was discussed. Sellers also clarified the CWCB would also consider participating as a partner.

**5. Committee Updates**

**a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 5 min)**

Joe Frank took the floor to update the group, stating the water levels in Gilcrest were higher than they had been historically. Discussion ensued on the activation of another dewatering well in Gilcrest that would help alleviate the high groundwater issue.

**b. WSRF Update (Boring – 5 min)**

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to report that November 1 was the deadline of the Fall WSRF application cycle. The total combined ask was for \$125K, far below the available resources in the Basin WSRF budget. A \$493K ask was part of those applications, to be sought from the Statewide fund. Boring reported the committee would be reviewing the applications in late November

Craig Godbout reported that State allocations of WSRF funds would potentially occur after the South Platte Basin Roundtable's approval of WSRF applications. This would not impact the Basin account nor the applications' requests, but the Statewide fund would likely not be increased enough to accommodate the full amount of applicants' funding requests.

C. Education and Outreach Update (Williams – 10 min)

Casey Davenport took the floor to report that during the previous week's Metro Roundtable meeting, the Metro had committed their support for an allocation of the PEPO funds to support the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Davenport reported the \$6,500 per Roundtable, as dedicated per the PEPO, required establishment of written commitments of funding, which she was presenting at that evening's meeting. Altogether, the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables would be combining their PEPO funds to support the Education and Outreach Coordinator's work. \$10,000 would go toward education initiatives, and \$3000 would go toward a tour.

Garret Varra made a motion to adopt the budget as provided by Casey Davenport on October 31, Jeffrey Boring seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

Lacey Williams reported that since the last meeting she had acted on an opportunity to speak with a local journalist and that the interview went well. Williams reported she had outlined water issues for the state and the basin, and had kept everything high level.

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

Joe Frank took the floor to report on the South Platte Storage Study. He reported the study would be completed at the end of the year. Feedback on the revised report would be sought near the end of November and would require a very short response period—perhaps around a week. The takeaway, Frank argued, was that the report's recommendations were all potentially feasible; each one could be developed. Frank made a case for the value of education and outreach in the period following the report. Discussion ensued as to the timing of a presentation of the report to the Roundtable and to the state legislature, as well as to who would maintain ownership of the final report. Due to logistical issues, Joe Frank volunteered to present the report in January. Sean Cronin pointed out that given past conversations at the Roundtable, it would be a missed opportunity if support and development of high-level interest in storage wasn't capitalized upon. Per a comment from Mike Shimmin, discussion ensued on the topic of unappropriated water in the South Platte Basin and the connection to data presented in the report. Shimmin argued that data showing developable water in the South Platte necessitated further scrutiny before being developed.

Based on discussion, presentation and discussion of the SPSS report was scheduled for February.

## 7. SWSI Update (Godbout – 5 min)

Craig Godbout took the floor to report on SWSI. Due to logistical issues, updates on several of the TAGs were unavailable at the evening's Roundtable meeting. Godbout reported methodologies were largely completed, pending final revisions. The next phase, following data crunching, was report drafting. Joe Frank reported the TAG meeting focused heavily on the topic of efficiency and the impacts of developments in that area. One of the biggest requests, according to Frank, was better projections on the future impacts of efficiency and how that would affect return flows, etc. Frank reiterated the next phase was analysis.

## 8. WRA Water Reuse WSRF Grant Update

John Rehring from Carollo Engineers took the floor to report on the Direct Potable Reuse as a Viable Supply Option in Colorado projects. Rehring reported the goal of the project was to explore a viable water resource for future use in Colorado. Focusing on the M&I supply-demand gap, Rehring focused on reuse as a key piece of improving water supply in that area. Direct potable reuse, by comparison to standard reuse, has been underdeveloped in Colorado, but has been in widespread use in other states.

One of the biggest impacts, John Rehring argued, would be to downstream return flows. Direct potable reuse was one of several methods of improving reuse and closing the gap. Some of the supply benefits of direct potable reuse included year-round supply to meet year-round demand while avoiding the pitfalls of dual distribution common with non-potable reuse systems. Discussion ensued on the topic of the energy costs of introducing a pump system to operate alongside gravity systems versus the energy costs resultant from importing water from other areas.

John Rehring went on to discuss the importance of developing direct potable reuse regulations as a means of building confidence in public health protection, certainty in planning for utilities and water providers, and public acceptance of the technology. Furthermore, he explored the critical importance of education and outreach efforts. One of the pillars of that outreach included a focus on the assessment tools available to evaluate the cleanliness of the recycled water. Lastly, Rehring spoke on the importance of having flexible and adaptable regulations, allowing for the development of effective policies and guidance.

*Dinner occurred at 5:52*

## 9. Colorado Water Implementation Plan Grants (30 min)

### a. Water Reuse

Laura Belanger from Western Resource Advocates took the floor to report on a CWCB grant application to develop a path from framework to regulation. The framework was expected to be completed in early 2018: **\$65K from CWP Conservation and Land Use Planning Grant**. The next step was to develop interim guidelines for direct potable reuse in Colorado, followed by participation from CDPHE's development of proposals for reporting, certifications, and financial requirements. This proposal relied on the National Water Research Institute to develop an Independent Advisory Panel. That panel would convene experts from Colorado and the U.S. in the fields of engineering, public policy, water chemistry, public health, and microbiology. The project budget would commence approximately mid-March 2018 and end in mid-April 2019, with a total budget of \$100K: \$35K contributed from WateReuse Colorado and its members, \$65K from the CWCB.

Per a question from Sean Conway, the CDPHE would be contributing in-kind to the project; a letter of support from the CDPHE had already been provided to the applicant. Sean Cronin asked about the structure of an honorarium in relationship to the project. It was clarified that the CWCB was working on a procedure for evaluating requests for CWP letters of support. Laura Belanger clarified that due to prioritization and timing restrictions, the applicant had not sought a letter of support from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

Mike Shimmin made a motion that the Roundtable send a letter of support contingent upon the CWCB's determination that the applicant meets all the CWP funding criteria. Burt Knight seconded. Craig Godbout clarified all criteria had been satisfied. The motion passed without further discussion or contest.

b. Big Thompson Presentation and Request for Letter of Support

Shayna Jones took the floor to present on the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's application for CWP Watershed Restoration Grant; no letter of support was being requested as the application had already been submitted. Jones reported six large scale river projects had been planned or completed. Approximately \$5.8M in funds had already been allocated to the project.

John Stokes made a motion to sign a letter of support for the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition grant. Garret Varra seconded. Jeffrey Boring recused himself from the vote. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

c. Fort Collins Presentation and Request for Letter of Support

John Stokes took the floor to report on Fort Collins' application for CWP Watershed Restoration Grant funds. He reported their application sought to develop or redevelop fish passage in the Cache La Poudre River. One of the biggest benefits, Stokes argued, was working with a ditch company to develop fish passage in a critical area. As it tied into the South Platte BIP, the project was going to measure the impacts of environmental projects to verify whether or not they provide the benefit they purport. The project was specifically designed to target warm water Plains fishes.

Sean Cronin made a motion to endorse with a letter of support and Garret Varra seconded. John Stokes recused himself from the vote. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

d. Republican River Water Conservation District

Nancy Smith with the Nature Conservancy took the floor to report on the South Fork Restoration Coalition's grant application for CWP Watershed Restoration Grant's Stream Management and Restoration Planning fund. The grant application focused on the South Fork River, seeking to restore South Fork Republican River channel and connected floodplain areas.

Burt Knight made a motion to endorse the application with a letter of support and Joe Frank seconded. Bruce Gerk added that the Nature Conservancy and the Republican River Water Conservancy District had a long, mutually beneficial relationship. Deb Daniel recused herself from the vote. Craig Godbout asked who was doing the economic analysis, recommending CSU provide assistance.

The motion passed without discussion or contest.

#### **10. Public Comment (10 min)**

Bob Laungenbaugh took the floor to share notice of the Colorado Groundwater Issues Conference, presented by the American Ground Water Trust, on November 30, 2017. Laungenbaugh then moved on to a discussion of the salt content of industrial effluent throughout the South Platte Basin. The issue, currently being addressed at the state level, was of grave enough concern, Laungenbaugh argued, that it was worthy of discussion at a future Roundtable meeting. The greater impact to the Basin was that the salt saturation resultant from the high level of total dissolved solids would negatively impact vegetable determination. Bruce Gerk reported CSU should have updated data. The Roundtable also noted that it already had a USGS liaison who could provide that information.

#### **11. Meeting Schedule**

##### **a. Next SPBRT Meetings**

- i. Nov 15-16 – CWCB Mtg., Westminster Dept. of Ag.
- ii. November 29 – 2pm-3PM – Colorado River Risk Study Webinar
- iii. IBCC Meeting – November 30 – Marriot West in Denver
- iv. Colorado Ag Water Issues – November 30 – Denver Hilton
- v. Ag Water Summit – December 5 at The Ranch
- vi. December – **NO MEETING**
- vii. January 9 – South Platte Basin Roundtable – Longmont, CO

*The meeting adjourned at 7:20*