

South Platte Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Southwest Weld County Service Center

4209 County Rd 24 ½

Longmont, CO 80504

4:00PM-7:00PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (Conway - 5 min)

The meeting began at 4:03PM.

Attendees: Sean Conway, Garret Varra, Kent Swedlund, Kevin Lusk, Craig Godbout, Jason Roudebush, Rich Belt, Bruce Gerk, Joe Frank, Jim Ford, Joel Schneekloth, Frank Eckhardt, Jim Yahn, Sean Cronin, Stephen Larson, Ken Huson, Lacey Williams, Lynda James, Deb Daniel, Brent Nation, Matt Betz, Dan Brown, Jeffrey Boring, John Stulp, Jim Hall, Larry Howard, Erik Anglund, Mike Brazell, Burt Knight

2. Approval of November 2017 Meeting Summary (Conway – 5 min: Action Item)

Garret Varra made a motion to approve the November 2017 meeting summary and Burt Knight seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

3. Agenda: additions or changes (Conway – 5 min: Action Item)

Jim Yahn made a motion to add an IBCC/CWCB update following item 4.e. Rich Belt made a motion to approve and Garret Varra seconded.

4. Committee Updates

A. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall reported the Groundwater Subcommittee met on 1/5/2018 to summarize the work accomplished and attempted, and with a goal of creating recommendations to present to the Roundtable. Hall anticipated this report to be online in February. Hall reported he would be bringing updated information to the Roundtable within the next two months. A member of the public, Bob Laungenbaugh, provided a report that September 2017 groundwater levels were the highest since October 2012 (period of monthly measurement).

B. SPBRT Basin Account Balance (Godbout – 5 min)

Craig Godbout took the floor to report the Basin account was at \$596,024.00 (including January 2018 increase), while the State account was at \$4,480,000.00. Godbout added the next distribution was tentatively scheduled for mid-April, but given predictions of the severance tax, timing would need to be discussed at the next board meeting. If all applications currently before the Roundtable were approved, the Basin account would be reduced to \$471,024.00.

C. WSRF Grant Presentations

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to report on the current funding allocations within the Basin funds. In short, taking into account the three reserve accounts' drawdown of the overall Basin funds (BIP Reserve - \$50,000.00, Education Reserve - \$30,000.00, General Reserve - \$50,000.00), the available funds were \$466,024.00.

1. St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District: St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan (15 min: Action Item)

Request: \$50,000.00

Sean Cronin took the floor to request \$50,000.00 to be used as a match to a variety of funding contributions from other sources. The presentation focused on the value of a Stream Management Plan. The inherent benefit of getting ahead of the topic of development of a stream management plan, Cronin argued, was in

preemptively tackling an issue that was likely to come into public focus in the near future and thus acting proactively rather than reactively. Cronin also argued the St. Vrain watershed—the focus of the WSRF funding request—was unique in its current social and physical landscapes, and therefore posed an opportunity to develop an effective plan.

Mike Brazell asked how the Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (“District”) would react if the CWCB or SPBRT funds didn’t come through and Sean Cronin responded that the project would stall outright. Garret Varra asked how the project would help sustain agriculture, to which Cronin responded stating that a specific agricultural component would explicitly outline agricultural goals and approaches. Joe Frank asked how the District could operate conditional water rights, to which Sean Cronin responded the District owned a decreed storage right from an undeveloped reservoir initiative established at the formation of the District.

Mike Brazell made a motion to fund on the condition of award reclamation if additional CWCB funds were not awarded. Garret Varra seconded. *Sean Cronin recused himself from the vote. Ken Huson also recused himself from the vote.* **The motion passed without discussion or contest.**

2. Lost Creek Groundwater District: Lost Creek Designated Basin Instrumentation Project (15 min: **Action Item**)

Request: \$25,000.00

Todd Denning took the floor to present the funding request for the Lost Creek Designated Basin Instrumentation Pilot Project; the designated unconfined aquifer had been specifically identified in the Colorado Water Plan. Denning reported multiple entities and interests, some local some not, were interested in water within the confines of the Basin. The project goals included establishment of an empirical data set, real-time measurement, and a monitoring network. This work, Denning argued, would benefit the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plan in several ways, simultaneously.

The money would be matched internally, by the Lost Creek Groundwater District, and by a supplemental funding request from the State account. Deb Daniel asked about export rules within the designated basin to which Todd Denning reported the answer was frequently met with litigation. Daniel also asked if the transducers would be used to track exports and Denning reported those devices would be used to report basin saturation data. Unfortunately, Denning reported, the Basin was plagued by poor reporting from water users. Rich Belt asked Dave Nettles if the DWR would look favorably on additional data and Nettles reported it wouldn’t look *unfavorably* on it. Jim Hall inquired into local stakeholders’ positions and Denning reported it was generally supportive.

Garret Varra made a motion to award the Basin funds and recommend the CWCB funds, Deb Daniel seconded. **The motion passed without discussion or contest.**

3. Ducks Unlimited: BOR - Narrows Tracts: Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements and Recharge Development (15 min: **Action Item**)

Request: \$50,000.00

Billy Glasgow took the floor to report on Ducks Unlimited’s ask for \$50,000.00 to further support an ongoing project to firm up augmentation, improve aquifer storage, develop augmentation sites to support migratory waterfowl, and work with local stakeholders to establish long-term management. The Basin funds would be used in conjunction with Statewide funds. Glasgow reported the project had a large budget, but had already secured a large amount of that funding.

Deb Daniel asked about the role of the Bijou Irrigation Company within the scope

of the project. Billy Glasgow reported they would be submitting a new application to identify new augmentation sites and would cover depletions through the exchange. Jason Roudebush reported the plan was complex and involved numerous private, state, and federal agencies. Per a question from Jim Yahn, Glasgow reported the entire contribution to the project was expected to be cash.

Jason Roudebush recused himself from the vote.

Bruce Gerk asked for clarification on the BOR's use of associated lands, to which Jason Roudebush responded the land was used to develop row crops, which would not be disturbed by the project in discussion. Two of the properties, Roudebush went on to state, had historically identified shallow water wetlands. Discussion ensued as to the purpose and use of the State account's budgetary funds.

Garret Varra made a motion to approve WSRF funds and recommend funding of the CWCB request and Mike Brazell seconded. **The motion passed with a majority vote and one vote in opposition (Frank Eckhardt).**

D. Education Action Plan/PEPO 2018/2019 (Williams - 20 min)

Lacey Williams took the floor to update the Roundtable on the goings-on of the Education and Outreach initiatives. Williams provided an update on a newly developed website policy. Discussion ensued on the correct course of action for handling two related policies: a website operations policy and an un-established South Platte Basin Roundtable PEPO group.

The Roundtable voiced its support for the website policy and took no issue with the Roundtable Chair handling website discussion items at the agenda setting meeting.

Lacey Williams went on to seek suggestions for data layers as per the Open Water Foundation's data visualization platform. Discussion ensued as to the spirit of the Foundation's visualization project and its intersection with Roundtable goals.

Lastly, Lacey Williams discussed a website calendar and discussion ensued as to how best present, share, and represent information and representation. Membership on the Education Committee was clarified to be Joel Schneekloth, Julio Iturreria, Joe Frank, and Lisa McVicker.

E. CWCB/IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin) *(added at meeting)*

Jim Yahn took the floor to report on the Nov 15-16 CWCB meeting, wherein they toured Parker Water Purification Plant and other components of WISE infrastructure. At that meeting, funding was approved for projects and WSRF funds, Watershed Restoration funds, and Water Plan grants. The CWCB also added in \$8M for Republican River matters. Several South Platte ATM grants were approved as well—one in Weld County and one in the New Cache La Poudre River group. Additionally, funding was approved for the Windy Gap Water Firing Project. In summary, Yahn reported several million dollars had been approved for water implementation grants. Sean Cronin added he and Yahn had attended the most recent IBCC meeting. The minutes from that meeting and future meetings would be made available as often as possible.

5. **South Platte Storage Study** (Frank – 20 min)

Joe Frank reported the final copy of the South Platte Storage Study was up on the website and although lengthy, was accompanied by an 18-page executive summary. Discussion ensued as to the details of and approaches to developing and presenting data in the report. A standing invitation was acknowledged, wherein the consultants who developed the plan were to return in February. Per a question from Mike Brazell, it was confirmed that evaporation penalties had been identified.

6. **SWSI Update** (Godbout – 5 min)

Craig Godbout reported the TAGs were moving forward with their tasks—and nearly completed,

but still needed to report back to the Roundtable membership.

7. Instream Flow Program (Godbout – 5 min)

Craig Godbout reported on the in-stream flow program, sharing notice of an upcoming workshop to be held at the Colorado Water Congress.

8. Elections (Conway – 30 min: Action Item)

Chair: Bruce Gerk nominated Garret Varra for Chair and Burt Knight seconded. Frank Eckhardt re-nominated Sean Conway (nominee declined). The motion to elect Garret Varra as Chair passed without discussion or contest.

Vice Chair: Jeffrey Boring nominated Deb Daniel (nominee declined). Deb Daniel nominated Sean Conway and Mike Brazell seconded. Jim Ford nominated Frank Eckhardt (nominee declined). Rich Belt nominated John Stokes and Jeffrey Boring seconded. The motions to elect Sean Conway to First Vice Chair and John Stokes to Second Vice Chair passed without discussion or contest.

9. Public Comment (10 min)

No public comment was offered.

10. Meeting Schedule

1. Metro Roundtable Meeting: – Thursday, January 11th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204
2. CWCB Meeting: January 22-23, 2018, Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center, 7800 E Tufts Ave, Denver CO 80237
3. IBCC Meeting: February 20, West Denver Marriott,
4. Colorado Water Congress: January 24-26, 2018, Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center
5. Poudre River Forum: Friday, February 2, 2018, 8:00 am – 4:30 am, Island Grove Event Center 501 North 14th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631
6. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Service Center 4209 County Rd 24 ½ Longmont, CO 80504
7. Future 2018 Meeting Discussion
 - A. Late Spring/Early Summer Mountain venue
 - B. Joint Front Range RT Meeting – June?
 - C. Late Summer/Early Fall Plains venue?

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.