

South Platte Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 Southwest Weld County
Service Center 4209 County Rd 24½
Longmont, CO 80504
4:00PM - 7:00PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

The meeting began promptly at 4PM

Attendance: Garret Varra, John Stokes, Matt Betz, Jim Hall, Joe Frank, Gene Manuello, Kent Swedlund, Brent Nation, Stephen Larson, Jeffrey Boring, Lacey Williams, Mike Shimmin, Jim Yahn, Allyn Wind, Joel Schneckloth, Bruce Gerk, Larry Howard, Jason Roudebush, Craig Godbout, John Stulp, Erik Anglund, Kevin Lusk, Burt Knight, Randy Ray, Julio Iturreria, Lynda James, Bruce Gerk, Deb Daniel, Stephen Larson, Mike Brazell, Bert Weaver

1. **Welcome/Introductions** (Varra - 5 min)
2. **Approval of February 2018 Meeting Summary** (Varra – 5 min: **Action Item**)

Jeffrey Boring moved to adopt the February meeting minutes as presented, Jim Yahn seconded, and the motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

Allyn Wind moved to adopt the agenda, Jim Yahn seconded, and the motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. **Colorado Youth Corps Association** (Jesse Roehm c/o Mile High Youth Corps & Holly Bernhardt c/o Weld County Youth Conservation Corps – 10 min)

Jesse Roehm and Holly Bernhardt took the floor to update those present on the Colorado Youth Corps Association. After a summary presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Association, the presentation moved on to review of several of the Association's recent and ongoing projects; of note was the group's management of phreatophytes. In response to a question from Garret Varra, the presenters reported they were seeking additional partnerships and project concepts.

5. **Committee Updates**

- A. **Groundwater Subcommittee Report and Discussion** (Stulp – 45 min)

John Stulp took the floor to provide an update on the Committee's development of certain recommendations. Stulp provided background on HB1278, the bill that initiated the study, and described how the Roundtable addressed the bill's charge. The presentation was made available digitally and would be hosted on the South Platte Basin Website as well as the CWCB website. The takeaway from the presentation was that while complex, there were multiple potential avenues of addressing groundwater levels in the LaSalle/Sterling/Gilcrest area, although future research was needed. Randy Ray expressed interest in post-curtaiment impacts on the river and groundwater, more specifically, the technical impact of the depletion's location, timing, use, etc. Discussion ensued on the risks of the study, next steps, and potential future outcomes of the study. In response to a question from Garret Varra, Stulp stated the view looking forward was focused on what was technically feasible.

Bob Laungenbaugh took the floor to present a follow-up to the report and presentation from John Stulp. Laungenbaugh reported that per his election to the Committee as an engineer, he felt an obligation to present on additional material. According to Laungenbaugh, certain material not clearly presented or referenced in the report clouded the report's presentation of statistics, causes of the issue, and proposed solutions. Additionally, Laungenbaugh argued the report omitted any immediate solutions to reduce or eliminate the groundwater issue. After presenting a wealth of hydrometric data for the study area, Laungenbaugh ultimately made the case that the issue had increased in severity rapidly over the past decade or so. The closing argument was that the water management impacting the study area was lacking and although long-term solutions were proposed, no immediate solutions had been made apparent by the Committee or its report.

In a follow-up to the follow-up, Gene Kammerzell reported the Weld County Farm Bureau had collected data on damages (dollars, impacted acreage, and impacted members) and their numbers were high. The survey was able to report approximately \$4,011,500, 2154 acres, and approximately 80 members impacted by the high ground water issue in Weld County alone.

Per a question from Mike Shimmin asking if the Roundtable needed to accept or adopt the report, John Stulp replied no such action was being sought by the Committee. Discussion ensued as to the action required to accept the report and whether or not a formal motion was needed. **Mike Shimmin made the motion to approve and adopt the Committee's report; Gene Manuello seconded.** Per a question from Bruce Gerk, discussion ensued as to the meaning of "accept" as included in the language of the motion. Discussion ensued as to the participation of its membership. The Committee had another meeting scheduled for March 23, at which time further discussion would be had on the report and its recommendations. Spurred on by feedback from Stephen Larson, interest was expressed in the review and comment on Bob Laungenbaugh's report. The motion proposed was approved without contest.

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

Craig Godbout reported the current balance was \$596,024.00. If the grant requests before the Roundtable at the next round were approved, the updated balance would be \$471,024.00.

C. 2018 WSRF Grantee Follow-ups (Boring – 5 min)

Garret Varra reported increased participation was going to be sought for future meetings.

D. Education Action Plan/PEPO 2018/2019 (Williams - 15 min)

Lacey Williams took the floor to report that the website was being steadily developed and improved. Williams also pointed out that funded grants and their updates would soon be presented on the website regularly. Williams also reported Steve Malers would be adding his data platform to the website in the near future. One of the major challenges, Williams reported, was that the Roundtable was lacking a short, concise, and easily digestible message of its mission and goals. Reporting on a recent meeting with the Poudre Learning Center, Williams stated a large amount of survey data and its analysis were provided to the Center and would hopefully be used to guide and develop messaging efforts going forward. Williams also reported she was prepping to attend several water shows and conferences. Williams charged all present to consider what sorts of methods could be developed to induce greater interest or at least knowledge of water issues to all residents, but most importantly new Colorado residents.

6. Ag Forum Update (TBD – 10 min)

No comment was provided.

7. IBCC Update (Yahn – 20 min)

Jim Yahn took the floor to update those present on the most recent IBCC meeting. Yahn shared a draft of a one-page letter developed for distribution to new political candidates to quickly bring them up to speed on information pertinent to the topic of water in the state. John Stulp reported the next meeting would be May 2 in Silverthorne, CO.

8. Legislative Update (Frank – 10 min)

Joe Frank updated the group on the latest Water Congress bills' report, which was previously distributed to the Roundtable membership. Jim Yahn raised notice of SB167, which would increase the administrative burden and enforcement potential on "call-before-you-dig". Frank reported Water Congress was setting up a subcommittee to review SB167.

9. Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group – Roundtable Water Plan Recommendation (20 min)

Jesse Olson and a member of her staff at the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group took the floor to make a presentation in service of a request for a letter of recommendation to the CWCB. The project goal was to engage the community in watershed stewardship, build socioecological resilience, and learn by doing. Part of the project involved inducing a community of citizen scientists to assist in completing a three-year

monitoring period for local projects. The project's initiatives took an approach that involved mobile apps and databases, all in an effort to increase participation and increase connectivity between observers and analysts.

Per a question from Jim Yahn, the project team reported their total grant request from the state was \$36K and included matching funds from various other locally available grants. Jim Yahn reported this grant would be heard by the CWCB at their upcoming board meeting.

Bruce Gerk made a motion to provide a letter of support, Jeffrey Boring seconded, and the motion passed without discussion or contest.

John Stokes recognized Erik Wilkinson as the outgoing general manager of Northern Water and Brad Wind as the incoming general manager.

10. Storage Study Next Steps Presentation – Joe Frank (30 min)

Jim Yahn took the floor to report on the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group. The goals of the group were to maximize use and effectiveness of available water on the South Platte, minimize traditional agricultural "buy and dry", and evaluate cooperative, multi-purpose/user supply projects to fill the Ag and M&I gap. Joe Frank tied in language from the Basin Implementation Plan to lead in to analysis of next steps for the Storage Study. The analysis started with a single-storage option (Concept A), added a second storage option (Concept B), and then added an additional third option (Concept C). The analysis for all three concepts included "Delivery Gateways" which represented areas which would need to receive water in order to satisfy portions of certain gaps. A fourth option, Concept D, was also conceptually developed, but never analyzed. Analysis of Concept A included Denver Basin non-tributary ground water supplies; however analysis of all three concepts together eliminated this inclusion. The average yield between both analyses roughly doubled from 24,600AF (Concept A alone) to 50,000AF (Concepts A, B, and C combined). Jim Hall added that dry years still required ATM deliveries in order to cover gaps in yield. Initial lessons learned focused on obtaining and maintaining appropriate infrastructure to operate such an increase in capacity, and a focus on development of upstream storage.

Mike Brazell raised concern over exclusion of Park County from the apparent regional study, arguing that as part of the region Park County's inclusion and participation was critical. Joe Frank pointed out that the particular part of the BIP that was cited as the genesis of this analysis did not extend as far upstream as Park County. Bert Weaver voiced support for Brazell's comments and added feedback on the value of high-altitude storage. Lynda James added her own support as well pointing out that the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District was exploring the very topic at hand. Jim Yahn argued such concerns should be addressed through the development of a scope of work. John Stokes asked what sort of involvement was being solicited from the membership, to which Yahn and Frank responded volunteer involvement was likely going to be most effective. Burt Knight voiced his support and offered his name as a potential member of this committee, should it materialize. Bob Laungenbaugh inquired on the possibility of bringing real-time management into the scope of the discussion.

John Stokes sought participation from the Roundtable. Larry Howard volunteered to participate, as did Erik Anglund. Burt Knight had previously volunteered to participate as well. **Bert Weaver made a motion to support SPROWG and their efforts, and Burt Knight seconded.** Julio Iturreria expressed optimism that a group would come together with participation from members across all areas of the Basin to provide input and guide SPROWG's efforts. The motion passed without contest.

Dinner (45 min) – South Plate Basin Roundtable Data Platform WSRF Grant Update: Steve Malers

Steve Malers took the floor to update those present on the progress of his Data Platform, which was at least partly funded through SPBRT WSRF funds. Malers highlighted the visual mapping of the numerous waterways in the Basin and proposed revisiting many that had symbolic names such as Dry Creek, Hell Creek, etc. Moving onto what was already published online, Malers highlighted users' ability to create stories to support decision making. Examples of stories included highlighting migratory bird paths and impacts to breweries. As part of the online data available to the public, Malers pointed out the availability of numerous state and federal sources of information that could be downloaded and therefore correlated with local data. One of the major attributes of the online data system, Malers argued, was the spatial data visualizations showing consolidated data points and structures on a single map. One of the additional benefits of having all the information publicly available online was the potential to receive public verification of the individual points. Per a question from Lacey Williams, Steve Malers noted his favorite story was that of the snowpack since it had such a broad and relatable impact. Julio Iturreria responded by saying the issue was

less focused on snow and more on drought as a byproduct of the amount of snow in the watershed. Bruce Gerk added that the discussion of drought was really one of delivery variability, which Malers' points could easily support when arguing for funding, greater conservation efforts, etc.

11. Public Comment (10min)

Dan Gallen voiced his support for Malers' project and suggested adding material to educate visitors on how to best utilize the data tools available to them. Joann Maize from the town of Gilcrest shared a story of her town and neighbors whose homes were being flooded by rising groundwater levels. Maize reported the issue was growing in size and severity, and was not being adequately addressed by the Roundtable or its membership. One of the major hindrances in resolving the issue on a per-project basis, Maize argued, was limited income and financial resources for the area's residents.

12. Joint Front Range Roundtable Meeting Discussion (20 min)

A. Draft Agenda

Craig Godbout proposed adding a discussion of funding to the agenda as well the Colorado Risk Study and next steps, SWSI, BIP, IBC projects of statewide significance, development of the Conceptual Framework, and Colorado River demand management. Godbout floated the idea of inviting some West Slope folks to the meeting to capture their input. Julio Iturreria suggested watershed management and increase in state population. Kevin Lusk suggested adding updates on the IPPs. Alternatively a presentation of the Water Plan was proposed as well. Discussion on the Ripple Effect document was proposed as well. Godbout also solicited interest in allowing Roundtables to breakout into individual Roundtable business meetings separate from the joint proceedings.

B. Individual RT Meetings?

C. Wednesday June 13, 2018 – Metro area

13. New Business (10 min)

14. Meeting Schedule

1. Metro Roundtable Meeting: – Thursday March 8, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204
 - A. Next meeting: April 12 (second Thursday)
2. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting: Tuesday, April 10th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Service Center 4209 County Rd 24 ½ Longmont, CO 80504
3. CWCB Meeting: March 21-22, 2018, Colorado Department of Agriculture 305 Interlochen Pkwy Broomfield, CO
4. St. Vrain and Lefthand Water Conservancy District Annual Water Symposium: Friday March 23, 2018, Shupe Homestead, 11931 N. 61st ST. Longmont CO, 9 am – 2 pm.
5. Poudre Pub Talk: Odell Brewing – Managing Wastewater, 800 E Lincoln Ave Fort Collins CO, 3-4pm (Free admission)
6. Poudre Pour: March 31
7. Future 2018 Meeting Discussion
 - A. Late Spring/Early Summer Mountain venue
 - May: Blackhawk
 - Same time
 - B. September 2018: Republican River Basin, Holyoke CO.
 - Same time

The meeting adjourned at 8:03