

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, April 12th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Denver Water
1600 W 12th Ave
Denver, CO 80204

Members in Attendance:

Alex Davis, Barbara Biggs, Bob Peters, Casey Davenport, Darren Beck, Dave Nickum, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Jamie Hartig, Janet Bell, Julio Iturreria, Laura Kroeger, Lisa Darling, Rick McCloud, Susan Nedell

Guests:

Beorn Courtney, Lacey Williams, Ryan Gilliom

CWCB:

Megan Holcomb, Diane Kielty, Greg Johnson, Lauren Ris, Russ Sands

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Approval of March 2018 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

All in favor - Approved

3. Agenda: additions or changes (Action Item)

4. Public Comment

There will be two outreach/education meetings on the SPROWG effort. One will be on the afternoon prior to the MRT meeting on May 10th from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm. The 2nd meeting will be held at Northern Water on May 15th from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

5. WSRF (Hunt)

1. Funds Status Per Category Update

Nothing has changed since last meeting. The \$552,568 balance will be the total for the year. There will not be a third instalment.

2. WSRF Balance Summary

There is not enough severance tax to cover Tier 1 (operational costs). The Joint Budget Committee has introduced HB1338 to transfer just under \$30M in general fund dollars to cover those that rely on Severance Tax to continue to operate. This bill goes with the Long Appropriations House Bill 1322 to ensure the budget is balanced. The pending projects bill includes \$2M for WSRF for the next fiscal year but they can't commit to timing of disbursements since the bills aren't passed. The Water Plan Grant received less money this year. There is a proposed \$7 million which includes \$3M storage, \$1M ag-water, \$1M conservation action strategies, \$1.5M environmental-recreation and \$0.5M education-outreach.

6. Colorado Water Plan Grants (Biggs/Hunt)

1. Water Education Colorado - Statewide Strategic Water Education Action Plan

Lisa Darling, Board President WECO, presented. Focus is on Chapter 9.5 Education and Outreach goals in the Colorado Water Plan, most specifically the data-based water education tracking. Focus is on existing resources, identifying priorities, working with local stakeholders including RTs and PEPO liaisons and tying activities to data and metrics for education. The goal is to design and build a statewide water education action plan, integrate it with the WECO strategic plan and align with the statewide water plan. Expressed need for cross pollination between basins. Several groups around Colorado have supported the project.

The proposal is for entire state of Colorado, but there are not many Letters of Support from basins around the state. Why not? There is ambiguity around CWP Letters of Support. They aren't necessary for CWP grant approval. The South Platte Basin has turned this into a more formalized process. This submittal has already gone before the

CWCB Board and is in a second round of reading. The South Platte has approved a Letter of Support. When MRT signs off on a Letter of Support we view it as a commitment to the project. MRT would like more transparency on what is happening at the CWCB on projects. Voting to approve just for the sake of approving is not comfortable for membership. We like to know what is going on. This was the first year of managing water plan grants. They've learned a great deal the first year. The second year is an opportunity to revise and address RT concerns.

When Education and Outreach began with this RT we had to start from scratch. This looks like a state effort to supplement what is already being done in-house. We encourage you to engage the RT's and the unique character of each. WEco did not receive wholly what they asked for in the last grant cycle. They did get money to improve their materials. There has been a rebranding of Headwaters magazine. Copies are available on request. Can these be provided to the RTs going forward? Yes

They are asking for a Letter of Support. Dave Nickum made a motion to support, Rick McCloud 2nd. Approved with one opposed, Janet Bell.

7. Committee Updates

1. PEPO (Davenhill)

On April 16th Lisa Darling will be speaking to the League of Women's Voters along with a representative from Denver Water. She will inform the League on the CWP and other issues. PEPO is percolating story ideas with data. Presentation will show ideas that appear to be priority themes. An important story idea is "what happens to water use as the population increases". Other ideas being considered include return flows, ATMs and the "Duck Fly Over". Lacey has been in touch with local media in the South Platte basin. She created an article and press releases. A series of articles will continue in the local newspapers. Lacey is open to doing the same with projects from the MRT. Publications with articles were passed around.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Nickum)

Dave and Darren will be meeting with PEPO for outreach support.

7. CWCB

1. CWCB has 3 new staff members – Russ Sands, Brian McPherson and JoJo La.
2. Funded Grant Update – Megan covered data base research on history of MRT projects. There have been 53 projects since March 2007 totaling \$10,115,095.92. There are 10 in progress, 2 are close to being closed and 2 are under contract. A PDF list of projects will be sent to MRT recorder for distribution.

They are working on a better list of basin projects. The goal is to do a much better job with BIP updates such as developing a data base to update status of BIPs. This would help to make the case for funding needs. There may be 2 lists, one list with specificity and one that is more conceptual.

8. South Platte Data Visualization Platform Status (Steve Malers)

The original stated goal of the project is to create a data platform to integrate different data from different sources to answer questions people have about the South Platte Basin. It is such a large platform this may be too large a goal to start. This realization is how the storyline concept came into being to make the project more manageable.

A fundamental problem is that there are no locations to identify projects on a map. First thing to do is capture locations. They have situational data on locations and water use. They have historical demand data and what they are experiencing with reservoir storage. You can get reservoir and stream flow data on the Denver Water site. How do you tie all of this together? They have all the municipality data files. This can be cross-referenced with federal, DOLA, CDPHE and other systems. They can then link all the data together. They are thinking of first putting some basic maps together where you can click on a point and make it easy for people to find what they are looking for. The first story would be about all the data resources.

A potential story line could be a perspective on how much water urban areas use. Is it what's

diverted out of the system? What if you took monthly water use diversion and stream gage information nearby, or regulated flows, and show % the utility takes of the river. In a different month it may be another % amount. People may have a perception that the city is using the water when this may not be the case.

What type of feedback are you looking for to develop MRT storyboards? The South Platte has agricultural interests and is looking for irrigation use scenarios. Hydrologic variability and climate change is another topic of interest. For MRT, being an urban area, what message are we most interested in telling? The story of where the source is and where the demand is may be a compelling story. Going from source to supply, geography is a problem. Where is our water coming from? Recreation/environment stories could be built from this source information. A question that has come up is, "Doesn't water conservation seem like the low hanging fruit?" Can we tell the story of what has been accomplished so far with water conservation? Another helpful story would be on climate change. Water is held in snow pack. There are different types of storage. This goes with the theme that it's not in your back yard, but you use it.

9. IBCC Update (Darling)

Next meeting will be May 2nd in Keystone. The Letters to Candidates has been completed.

8. South Platte Storage Study - Next Steps (Darling)

1. Process Going Forward – This will be presented at the IBCC meeting.

9. Joint Front Range BRTs Summit - Arkansas, S. Platte & Metro

1. Wednesday, June 13th, 2018, time and location TBD. Has there been any thoughts on an agenda? There will be a panel for a Conceptual Framework discussion and a Risk Study presentation. They will set up a call to discuss this with all the RTs.

10. Meeting Schedule

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting - Tuesday, April 10th, 2018, 4:00 pm – Southwest Weld County Bldg., 4209 Weld County Road 24 ½, Longmont, CO.
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, April 12th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204
3. Water in the West Symposium - April 26th – 27th, 2018, McNichols Civic Center Building, Denver, CO
4. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, May 8th, 2018, 4:00 pm - Location in Black Hawk TBD
5. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, May 10th, 2018, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Denver Water, 12th Ave., Denver, CO 80204
6. CWCB Meeting - May 23rd-24th, 2018, Salida, CO
7. Joint Front Range BRTs Summit - Arkansas, S. Platte & Metro – Wednesday, June 13th, 2018, time and location TBD
8. Society for Rangeland Management 2018 Grass Tour – June 20th-21st, 2018, Ranch in Briggsdale & West Greeley Conservation District's Houston Gardens, Greeley.