

## **South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, July 10, 2018  
Weld County Service Center  
Longmont, CO  
4:00PM-7:10PM**

### **South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting**

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

*The meeting commenced at 4:05*

Attendance: Garret Varra, Jim Yahn, Craig Godbout, Jim Hall, Jeffrey Boring, Gene Manuello, Larry Howard, Joe Frank, Mike Shimmin, Sean Cronin, Lisa Labens, Stephen Larson, Frank Eckhardt, Dan Brown, Mike Brazell, Lynda James, Deb Daniel, Lacey Williams, Bruce Gerk, Julio Iturreria, Joel Schneekloth, Randy Ray, Burt Knight, Sean Conway, Jason Roudebush, Ken Huson

2. Approval of July 2018 Meeting Summary (Varra)

Minutes from the July SPBRT meeting were unavailable for approval.

3. Agenda – additions or changes (Varra – action required)

Jim yahn moved to approve and Mike Shimmin seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Committee Updates

- a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall reported a meeting of the Groundwater Committee had recently taken place and they had discussed review of groundwater applications, however those applications would need to be fully reviewed before approving. Hall also reported on rising water levels in the LaSalle/Gilcrest area stating that this was the time of year that groundwater levels would start to rise. Randy Ray reported that observation wells were reading higher than normal.

- b. SPBRT Basin & Statewide Account Balance (provided in packet)

Craig Godbout added the Statewide account was slightly over \$1.9M. Godbout also clarified the balances reflected a “putback” of \$650K

(\$50K to the South Platte Basin Roundtable and \$50K to the Metro Roundtable, and \$550K to the Statewide account on behalf of the Coalition of the Upper South Platte).

c. WSRF Grants

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to report that of the six WSRF applications before the Roundtable, three were being recommended for funding and one was being recommended for statewide funding. The SPBRT had funding availability of \$450K. Discussion ensued as to the Roundtable's Conflict of Interest policy. It was ultimately defined as any decision that would result in financial enrichment of one's own interests. Sean Cronin read the WSRF policies on this issue and used himself as an example of where such conflicts may arise. Additional discussion arose regarding the Roundtable's own policies on this topic. Sean Conway offered advice regarding an informal policy: if there were a perceived conflict of interest, one should error on the side of safety and disclose the potential conflict and abstain.

Jeffrey Boring recused himself from voting on the Little Thompson Watershed Coalition. The consensus was to proceed with honesty and integrity in voting and disclosure.

i. Big Thompson Conservation District

Larry Limpka took the floor and presented his application to the Roundtable. Lacey Williams asked how the South Platte Basin Roundtable would be incorporated into the applicant's proposed signage and discussion ensued on that partnership—the applicant was interested in presenting that partnership on the signage. Per a question from the Roundtable, Limpka clarified any reference of regulation had been removed from the application for funding. Sean Cronin asked about a funding match and Limpka stated the Conservation District would have no trouble coming up with that match; CSU had already committed several tens of thousands of dollars and the Conservation District had contributed several thousand dollars on its own. Discussion ensued as to the source of local match and Limpka clarified that local match was coming in steadily from a variety of sources (CSU, NCRS, the Conservation District). Craig Godbout clarified a letter of commitment for local match (from a third-party entity) was not necessary for funding requests now, but would apply to future requests. Craig

Godbout did, however, request a letter of commitment from CSU. Mike Brazell asked how the proposed kiosk would implement the Roundtable's values. Limpka responded it would involve collaboration with the Education Subcommittee. Further discussion ensued on how this application was addressing various goals of the BIP and CWP. Jeffrey Boring clarified this project was recommended for funding by the Needs Committee.

Jeffrey Boring abstained from voting. Jim Yahn moved to approve the funding request and Bruce Gerk seconded. Mike Shimmin asked if conditions to approve subject to coordination with the Education Committee would be added. Those conditions were added as per approval by Garret Varra. The motion was approved without contest.

ii. Jim Eglin Ditch Diversion Structure

Larry Limpka took the floor and presented his application to the Roundtable. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Limpka clarified wetland protection was a side benefit of the proposed project. Mike Brazell asked about the project financials to which Limpka responded the requested funds were based off a post-flood estimate for installation of the proposed structure. Discussion ensued on the applicant's opportunities to raise funds independently—it was clarified that currently no ditch assessments were being collected.

Mike Shimmin moved to accept the Needs Committee recommendation and deny the application, Burt Knight seconded. Sean Cronin recommended the applicant work with the Needs Committee to hone in on stronger individual aspects of the application. Ken Huson recused himself from voting. The motion passed without contest.

iii. Farmer's Ditch Company

Mike Shimmin moved to accept the recommendation of the Needs Committee, that was seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

iv. Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Yana Sorokin took the floor and presented her application to the Roundtable. Jeffrey Boring added the Needs Committee felt the project related to the BIP, the applicant supplied ten letters of support from local entities, and the goals were in alignment with the goals of the Roundtable. The Needs Committee had recommended only half of the funding asked for (\$25,000 versus \$50,000) come from the Basin fund and the second half of the funding come from the Statewide fund. Mike Shimmin and Jeffrey Boring discussed the applicability of funding categories. Jeffrey Boring made a motion to approve the application as recommended by the Needs Committee with the modification as follows: \$25,000 from the Basin Fund and \$25,000 from the Statewide Fund. Joel Schneekloth asked how the as-yet-unsecured match (pending at time of meeting) would be secured if the current source fell through. Sorokin responded her group would work to secure the funding through other sources and was optimistic about that acquisition. Craig Godbout clarified that any match would need to be secured before grant contracts could be executed. The exact dates of securing the match were unclear. Julio Iturreria asked why fish passage was being investigated now when there were already so many concepts in Colorado. Sorokin responded no fish passage was incorporated yet on the Lefthand Creek and researching and installing such a concept would serve several benefits, bringing in education, improving river health, and establishing an effective model for fish-passage on smaller creeks. Mike Shimmin seconded. Sean Cronin recused himself from the vote. Ken Huson recused himself from the vote. The motion passed without contest.

v. Little Thompson Watershed Coalition

The applicant was unable to reach the meeting. Jeffrey Boring summarized the application, ultimately stating that without a solid match, the Needs Committee could not recommend the application for approval. Deb Daniel made a motion to accept the motion of the Needs Committee and deny the application, Mike Shimmin seconded and the motion passed without discussion or contest.

vi. Little Thompson Watershed Coalition

The applicant was unable to reach the meeting. Jeffrey Boring summarized the application and clarified no letters of support were provided, local match was not clearly established as in-cash or in-kind, and a co-applicant was not identified but was requested given the unknown future of the applicant organization. Without additional clarification of the Needs Committee's concerns, Boring stated the Committee was unlikely to recommend funding of the application. Larry Limpka added some clarification to the Needs Committee's concerns. Mike Shimmin moved to table the application to give the applicant more time to respond to the Needs Committee's requests for information. Sean Conway seconded the motion and the motion passed without discussion or contest. Craig Godbout clarified that special circumstances which had prevented the applicant from attending the Roundtable meeting were ground enough for allowing the discussion to be continued at the August Roundtable meeting.

vii. SPROWG Application

Doug Robotham took the floor to present a proposal from the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group. This proposal, Robotham argued, was built on research into ways the South Platte Basin could close the gap in Colorado's Water Plan. The proposal called for installation of a plan that would provide approximately 54,000AF of municipal and industrial storage with a limited ability to provide agricultural supply as well. This supply would be available 100% of the time once the proposed plan was completed. Robotham sought approval from the Roundtable to proceed with a WSRF application for \$77,500 in addition to an already provided cash contribution of undetermined amounts. The same request would be sought from the Metro Roundtable and \$145K would be sought from the CWCB Statewide Fund. Joe Frank clarified the plan aligned with the BIP and the SPSS, and was the product of several years of work. Sean Cronin added that to him this initiative was the implementation component of the BIP and represented the collective spirit of the Roundtable and its commitment to move forward with the BIP. Jim Yahn added that he felt it was a project bringing together a wide range of people, communities, and entities. Jim Hall pointed to the multi-purpose benefits of the project and its alignment with the Roundtable's goals. A representative from the City of Aurora added the project would

benefit the South Platte in a big way. Per a question from Lynda James, Sean Cronin clarified it had developed a task force first and was now seeking use of money it had already set aside. Joe Frank added that the initiative was outside the regular funding deadlines because it was coming from inside the Roundtable versus an outside entity. Burt Knight made a motion to receive the proposal and review in August. Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest. Mike Shimmin proposed a submission deadline of July 30; no review was required by the CWCB per standard WSRF review deadlines.

*The Roundtable broke for dinner at 6:15 and recommenced at 6:50*

d. Education Action Plan/PEPO 2018/2019

Lacey Williams and Casey Davenport took the floor to describe upcoming activities, starting with the Outdoor Retailer Show. Williams and Davenport presented fliers, bandanas, and other materials that would be used at upcoming events. Sean Cronin shared notice of Water Education Colorado's surplus of Headwaters magazines covering Water 2012. Williams also provided on the Statewide Education Action Plan, stating she had participated in a teleconference which laid the groundwork for an action plan within the next year; Williams confirmed she would be a part of that plan as it came together. Williams also reported the Roundtable would be represented at the Greeley Farm Show in January 2019. Joel Schneekloth added speakers and presenters were still needed from the Roundtable and needed to be confirmed before September 2018. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Davenport clarified Williams' grant expired in December of 2019 and would be pursued well in advance to avoid any gaps in contracting. Williams reiterated she wanted to be notified of what the Roundtable wanted to publicize.

5. IBCC Update

No update was available. Greg Johnson added the next IBCC meeting was likely to occur in mid-October. Johnson also reported that funding task groups were working to close the \$3B Water Plan gap.

6. CWCB Update

Jim Yahn took the floor to report on a May meeting of the CWCB. Yahn reported two new CWCB members had been sworn in. It was also reported

that two grant requests had been approved at that same meeting. Seven WSRF requests were heard as well, but none from the South Platte Basin. Water Education Colorado also had work approved. Yahn also reported the account balances from the CWCB's various grants. Lastly, Yahn reported \$7M were available for project funds.

7. Joint Front Range Meeting Report

Garret Varra reported on the meeting, sharing attendees discussed the Colorado River Risk Study, SPROWG, education and outreach. The discussion, Varra shared, was engaging and very interesting as a means of keeping tabs on where things were moving on a grand scale.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

9. Meeting Schedule

The meeting adjourned at 7:30