

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Agenda Tuesday, Aug 14, 2018
Weld County Service
Center Longmont, CO
4:00PM-6:25PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

Meeting began at 4:10

Introductions

Attendance: Garret Varra, Matt Betz, Gene Manuello, Kent Swedlund, Joel Schneekloth, Lacey Williams, Stephen Larson, Julio Iturreria, Lisa Leben, Mike Shimmin, Allyn Wind, Bruce Gerk, Kun Huson, Rich Belt, Jim Hall, Sean Conway, Larry Howard, Joe Frank, Jim Yahn, Burt Knight, Lynda James, Erik Anglund, Kevin Lusk

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

a. New Member Recognition – Shane Miller c/o Logan County Water Conservancy District (5 min)

Shane Miller from the Logan County Water Conservancy District was welcomed as a new member of the Roundtable.

John Stokes' resignation from the Roundtable was announced and his service recognized. Clarification was made that applicants needed to come from a state-recognized environmental organization that had been operating for at least 5 years; they must live within the South Platte Basin outside of the Denver Metro area.

2. Approval of July 2018 Meeting Summary (Varra)

Sean Conway made a motion to approve and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

Garret Varra made a motion to approve the agenda and Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall took the floor to announce an upcoming tour hosted by Northern Water Conservancy District to review groundwater facilities. Hall announced this time of year was when groundwater traditionally rose, and while that was happening, levels were lower than average.

b. SPBRT Basin & Statewide Account Balance (provided in meeting materials)

Garret Varra drew attention to the WSRF balances, the current balance (minus reserves) was \$421,220. Craig Godbout reported the Statewide account was just over \$1.9M.

c. WSRF Grants (Boring – 60 min)

I. South Platte Basin Regional Water Development Task Force (SPROWG) –
Doug Robotham

SPROWG Presentation. Joe Frank took the floor to report on SPROWG. Frank gave a brief background of the SPROWG initiative (see previous months' minutes) before opening the floor to comments and questions. Rich Belt moved to recommend the project at the funding requested and Sean Conway seconded. Joe Frank recused himself from voting; Gene Manuello recused himself from voting; Sean Cronin disclosed the LHWCD was contributing cash and in-kind. Jim Yahn and Jim Hall reported they were participating in the project (Northern was contributing cash and in-kind). North Sterling was contributing in-kind. Mike Shimmin proposed the project be funded out of the regular account, as an amendment to the motion. Julio Iturreria seconded the amendment. The amendment was passed without discussion, Lynda James opposed. The motion was passed without discussion or contest. Joe Frank went on to explain the project schedule was going to pick up quickly and move fast. Frank also clarified the Task Force was looking for volunteers who could come from within or outside the Roundtable.

d. Education Action Plan/PEPO 2018/2019 + Future of EOC (Williams – 30 min)

Lacey Williams took the floor to update the Roundtable on the Outdoor Retailers Show. Mike Shimmin reported the Show was large and well attended, but didn't have the kind of interaction he thought would most benefit the Roundtable. Discussion ensued as to how improve the presence and impact of the Roundtable at the Show. Garret Varra echoed Shimmin's report. Williams reported one way to improve the message of the Roundtable was to simplify it. Bruce Gerk echoed the sentiments of others who had attended.

Lacey Williams and Joel Schneekloth presented the idea of presenting statistics at the Farm Show. Craig Godbout discussed what the CWCB could present and how. Godbout went on to share with the impending completion of SWSI, a presentation could share details of that study. The presentation was clarified as a workshop-style presentation instead of a booth-based presentation.

Joel Schneekloth ran through a number of items the Education Committee was considering for upcoming workshops, conferences, and shows.

Lacey Williams reported the Statewide PEPO meeting would be before Water Congress in late August. Williams touched on how Statewide initiatives would impact Roundtable-level plans and programs. Casey Davenhill took the floor to provide an update the PEOP grant current awarded to the South Platte Basin. Davenhill went on to discuss WSRF funds and their connection to the Roundtable, going into some detail on the future of that relationship. Davenhill asked for action from the Roundtable on how to proceed with the budget currently delineated to the Education & Outreach Committee. That budget went toward website administration, development of promotional materials. Per discussion, Garret Varra made a motion to extend fiscal agent responsibilities for the grant. Bruce Gerk made a motion and Julio Iturreria seconded. The motion passed without contest. Gerk called attention to the quality and succinctness of the Roundtable's message, saying that any improvements to the quality and reach of the message was likely to benefit the Roundtable, but that work was difficult to complete successfully. Williams pointed out work on the migration and presentation of Steve Mahler's work to the SouthPlatteBasin.com website had run into some unforeseen challenges and was likely to move forward more slowly than anticipated.

5. Brighton South Platte Berm Removal (Letter of Support) – Curtis Bowers

A representative from the City of Brighton took the floor to seek a letter of Roundtable support for a South Platte (temporary) Berm Removal. After some background on the temporary berm, the representative explained the City of Brighton was partnering with the Brighton Ditch Company to design and install a more dynamic and resilient diversion structure. The representative explained the grant request was for \$641K from the Statewide budget out of the CWCB's Environmental and Recreational fund. Ken Huson asked the representative if fish passage was being considered and after the representative's response, asked that it be considered as design moved forward. Discussion ensued as to how the flood control aspect of this project overlapped with environmental and recreational; water would be periodically diverted into a channel newly cut by the flood and therefore revive a riparian habitat. Rich Belt asked for more detail on the value of the project.

Mike Shimmin moved to table the letter of support until a later date after which the Roundtable has received feedback from the CWCB on the application. Sean Cronin seconded. Julio Iturreria sought clarity on what other funding sources had been considered and the representative reported the Roundtable was the first group approached. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

Roundtable broke for dinner at 5:25.

Andre Dozier presented on his digital water platform during dinner. Following the presentation, discussion ensued on the on local growth and water usage. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Dozier clarified the goal of the software platform was to facilitate and improve coordination between agencies with limited access to or knowledge of land use reviews and processes. Ultimately, Dozier stated, the model could be tied into policy or financial decisions, but that was a long ways off if it at all.

Ken Huson voiced his support for the model and the software and noted that with the State passing legislation requiring greater understanding of water impacts on land use decisions, such platforms like Dozier's were likely to become of greater importance and value. Ken

Huson moved to provide a letter of recommendation. Larry Howard seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

6. South Metro Water Supply (Letter of Support) – Kara Scheel

Kara Scheel took the floor to report on the South Metro Water Supply's request for a Letter of Support. Per a question from Craig Godbout, Scheel clarified that the program was designed to provide landscape professionals with an advanced toolset with which to better control irrigation systems. Joel Schneckloth asked how this program was different than other similar programs. Scheel responded saying the program was intended to reach a broader audience and impart a broader knowledge than existing programs. Ken Huson moved to sign a letter of support and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

7. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 20 min)

No IBCC update, but John Stulp reported the next IBCC meeting would be October 18th. Stulp also reported active workgroups were working on several critical initiatives to develop IBCC's impact across the state. The goal, Stulp reported, was for the workgroups to converge into development of a coordinated effort. Sean Cronin asked if the governor's office had heard anything regarding candidates and discussion of the water. Stulp reported the letter had reached most candidates and at least two were planning to speak at Water Congress. Julio Iturreria reported on a discussion at the previous Metro Roundtable on the IBCC Funding Group Task Force. The document, included in the meeting materials, was likely to be discussed at Water Congress. Stulp added the draft was the "latest and greatest" but was also being developed. Jim Yahn pointed out the upcoming discussion on this document at the IBCC would be brought back to the Roundtable.

Mike Shimmin proposed discussing the draft at the September and October meetings.

8. CWCB Update (Yahn – 5 min)

CWCB meeting was held on July 18-19 in Glenwood Springs. Jim Yahn reported the IBCC was taken on a tour of Ruedi Reservoir on a lengthy and informative boat tour. Yahn reported on the Republican River Basin a settlement had not been made with the Kansas – which has now been established as \$2M in Kansas and \$2M in Colorado on the Republican River Basin, which Nebraska had received \$4M to settle a dispute regarding water shortages through 2013. Additionally, a presentation on the Platte River Recovery program was heard; notable items included an increase in match and a revision of formatting. The Emergency Dam Response Fund was also increased via vote; the increase rose the fund from \$50K to \$500K. A water lease was renewed with the Ute Conservancy District to release water for instream flows. Yahn also reported the Colorado River District requested a water release of 3500AF be leased from the same reservoir to benefit the Frying Pan River, from January to March. Yahn provided detail on the price variance between the Ute (~\$7/AF) versus the Colorado River District (~\$65/AF). Yahn reported the Colorado River District lease was approved on a one-year conditional term (conditional on review at the end of the year). Per

a question from Sean Cronin, Yahn postulated the In-stream Flow Section of the CWCB would be making the call for release of the in-stream flow. Northern Water was considering dedicating water for NISP (\$0/AF). Yahn also reported the North and South Platte Rivers were in better standing with this year's water availability compared with other watersheds. CWCB reviewed certain floodplain revisions. Discussion ensued on CHAMP and the role of the public process, as well as the strategy of completing LOMRs.

September 18-20 (next CWCB Board Meeting)

9. Public Comment (10 min)

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

10. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting: Sept 11, 2018 – Holyoke, CO
- b. Metro Roundtable Meeting: Aug 12, 2018 – Denver, CO
- c. Colorado Water Congress: Aug. 22-24 – Vail, CO.
- d. Rio Grande Roundtable Tour of South Platte Basin: Sept. 27, 2018 **tentative**
- e. CWCB Board Meeting: Aug 18-20 – Steamboat Springs
- f. Central Colorado Water Conservancy District Bus Tour: 8AM to 4PM – Oct. 5
Chatfield Reservoir + others (registration online:ccwcd.org - free)