

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Weld County Adm. Services Center.

Longmont, CO

4:00PM-6:50PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

The meeting started at 4:11 with introductions.

Attendance: Garrett Varra, Craig Godbout, Jeffrey Boring, Dan Brown, Jason Roudebush, Jim Hall, Shane Miller, Joel Schneekloth, Lacey Williams, Stephen Larson, Frank Eckhardt, Jim Ford, Mike Shimmin, Kent Swedlund, Julio Iturreria, Joe Frank, Lisa Leben, Larry Howard, Matt Betz, Ken Huson

CWCB – SWSI 2019

CWCB staff took the floor to report on the ongoing State Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). The presentation focused on the timeline of SWSI, its relationship to the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), and feedback the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) received about the process, deliverables, and ways to improve the current iteration of the Initiative.

Julio Iturreria asked if goals and standards had been considered as outcomes of the SWSI process. Russ Sands responded that the current version of SWSI was focusing on five different scenarios and was designed to provide a snapshot across different provisional and regulatory levels. The discussion moved on to address the functions of SWSI and the BIPs/CWP. Per a question from Jeffrey Boring, discussion then moved on to the topic of reliability and involvement, and revolved around the high startup cost to get interested and involved in the various high-level water planning efforts. Finally, discussion tackled initial perceptions to and arguments against the previous iteration of SWSI and how those considerations were addressed with the current Initiative. In short, earlier considerations were considered through an economic model but weren't necessarily addressed explicitly.

An update was provided stating the IBCC had discussed funding and ways of generating funding opportunities and ways to support water projects statewide and water initiatives such as curtailments and offsets. Woven through the discussion were the roles and abilities of the Keystone Group – an entity jointly funded by the Gates Family Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. The long-term viability of a water funding initiative was discussed and concerns expressed given the recent failures of similar funding initiative at the state level. Joe Frank added that the Conceptual Framework was explicitly considered as providing the core tenants of the Keystone Group's work. Sean Cronin added that he and Jim Yahn had attended the IBCC meeting, at which, concerns from the Roundtables were voiced and to which the Keystone Group had been receptive. Cronin added that he had volunteered to participate on a steering committee. Discussion ensued as to the low potential of successfully passing statewide ballot measures and the high potential of passing local measures to meet the same ends.

2. Vacancy Application Review (Varra – 30 min)

a. Local Municipal Provider – Bill Szmyd c/o Little Thompson Water District

Garrett Varra introduced Bill Szmyd and stated he was the only applicant for the At-large position of Local Municipal Provider. Mike Shimmin made a motion to vote-in Bill Szmyd and Larry Howard seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

b. Environmental Rep A – Kelsea Holloway c/o the Bird Conservancy

Kelsea Holloway took the floor to present her bid for the At-large Environmental Representative position.

c. Environmental Rep B – Neal Lurie c/o Resource Central

Neal Lurie took the floor to present his bid for the At-large Environmental Representative position.

Following Neal Lurie's presentation votes were cast. The vote came in 13:3 in favor of Kelsea. Per a question from Sean Cronin, expansion of the Roundtable membership was discussed. Although there was a precedent for other Roundtables to add members, the South Platte Roundtable erred on the side of being conservative and did not elect to add any membership seats.

3. Approval of October 2018 Meeting Summary (Varra – action required)

Shane Miller moved to approve of the October minutes and Joe Frank seconded. The motion was passed without discussion or contest.

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

The agenda was modified as it here stands. Larry Howard moved to adopt the modified agenda and Jim Hall seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

5. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Subcommittee (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall took the floor to provide an update on the Groundwater Subcommittee. It was reported the groundwater in the Gilcrest area was lower than the same time last year, although the exact causes of that lower level were unknown. Hall reported \$500,000 was available for groundwater work. Grant requests would be addressed at the Groundwater Technical Committee meeting prior to the following CWCB meetings. Those grants would be approved by either staff or the Board depending on the amount requested. Jeff Nelson, the mayor of Gilcrest, took the floor to raise awareness of a pending land use decision that would provide the City of Aurora with land to act as a recharge site. Per Mayor Nelson, approval of the recharge site would negatively impact the groundwater level, which was in a precarious position. Julio Iturreria called attention to the due process required by state and local statutes, pointing out a public hearing was likely and would be the appropriate next step for voicing concerns against the recharge site.

Bob Laungenbaugh took the floor to provide an update to the Roundtable on the impact of the groundwater level in the Gilcrest/LaSalle area, to discuss the causes, and to ask the Roundtable's help in mitigating the impacts of that groundwater. Per Laungenbaugh, the time to act was immediate and the rising groundwater was of increasing significance. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Mayor Jeff Nelson reported that money was not available for recovery of the site and Governor Hickenlooper had not participated in discussions to recover from or avoid future high groundwater impacts in the Gilcrest area. Jim Hall and Joe Frank took the floor to report on the Gilcrest groundwater issue. Discussion ensued on the Roundtable's ability to provide a solution to the problem and how best it could serve its constituency. Lacey Williams asked if Gilcrest could apply for some of the \$500,000 funds Hall had reported were available.

Dinner Presentation from The Poudre River Runs Through It Group

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

c. WSRF Grants (Boring – 10 min)

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to report three applications had been received before the November first WSRF deadline. The combined ask was approximately \$180,000. Boring reported the WSRF Committee would be meeting on December 18 to review the applications.

d. Education Sub-committee (Williams – 15 min)

I. Education and Outreach Coordinator Draft Application & Action Plan
(action required)

Lacey Williams and Casey Davenhill took the floor. Davenhill reported the past year had been a whirlwind of learning. Part of that whirlwind had included development of a unified statewide template for an education action plan; that plan was also being pursued at a state level. Davenhill also gave a summary of what the Education and Outreach role had accomplished and still aimed to complete. A major component of the role was the operation and enhancement of the SouthPlatteBasin.com website. Additionally, the idea of a regional concept was a top development priority of the Education and Outreach Coordinator. To that end a budget was proposed (\$13K already allocated plus \$34K requested in additional allocation) to realize these goals. Part of the budget Davenhill presented was a refocus of priorities and expenditures to maximize funding. In addition to this request, Davenhill asked an additional \$2,000 be added for branding and marketing efforts. Mike Shimmin proposed the \$2,000 be formally considered as part of the request and the remainder of the budget request be approved. Larry Howard seconded. Jim Ford asked if the \$2,000 would cover annual dues for Live Like You Love It and Davenhill responded in the affirmative. Davenhill further clarified the request would be outside the external WSRF application process (no deadline) and would be split evenly between the South Platte Roundtable and the Metro Roundtable. The motion passed without contest.

Lacey Williams reiterated the South Platte Roundtable would be exhibiting at the Farm Show in Greeley and the Poudre River Forum in late January and early February.

6. CCA's Ag Water NetWORK Letter of Support (15 min)

Sean Cronin took the floor to provide detail on the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) request for a letter of support. Cronin added that when his office commenced a similar effort, it was unique in its structure. That also meant the CCA proposal was somewhat duplicative of that effort. Craig Godbout responded that within CWCB several teams were working on stream management plans as well. Cronin went on to provide additional examples of complementary, and potentially duplicative, efforts to achieve greater education of the agricultural community. Mike Shimmin made a motion to issue a letter of support. Sean Cronin seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

7. SWSI Update (CWCB – 30 min)

Previously updated.

8. South Platte Regional Development Concept (Frank – 10 min)

Joe Frank took the floor to provide an update, stating a task force of 40 and a selection committee of 14 was in the process of reviewing two proposals from consultants (Brown & Caldwell, Riverside Technologies International) for the Development Concept.

9. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 20 min)

Sean Cronin had no additional updates (see earlier comments).

10. CWCB Update (Yahn – 10 min)

The CWCB Board meeting would take place November 14 and 15 in Golden, CO.

11. Vote to Meet in December (Varra – 5 min)

Joe Frank made a motion not to meet in December and Joe Frank seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

12. Public Comment (10 min)

Bob Laungenbaugh took the floor to bring attention to the high level of total dissolved salts in the South Platte River. Per Laungenbaugh, the high total dissolved salts was hazardous to plants and was likely a result of high water-reuse.

13. Meeting Schedule

- a. CWCB Board Meeting: Nov 14-15 – Golden, CO
- b. Next SPBRT Meeting: Jan 8 – Longmont, CO
- c. Next Metro Meeting: Jan 10 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- d. Farm Show: January 29-31 – Greeley, CO
- e. Colorado Water Congress: Jan 30-Feb 1
- f. Poudre River Forum: Feb 1-2 – Greeley, CO
- g. IBCC Meeting: TBD – Location TBD

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.