

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 8, 2018

Weld County Adm. Services Center.

Longmont, CO

4:00PM-6:15PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

The meeting began at 4:05 with introductions.

Attendance: Garrett Varra, Craig Godbout, Jeffrey Boring, Sean Cronin, Joe Frank, Kevin Lusk, Rich Belt, Lynda James, Sean Conway, Ken Huson, Joel Schneekloth, Lacey Williams, Allyn Wind, Frank Eckhardt, Jim Ford, Stephen Larson, Brent Nation, Mike Shimmin, Bill Szmyd, Gene Manuello, Kelsea Holloway, Shane Miller, Lisa Leben, Matt Betz, Larry Howard

2. Approval of November 2018 Meeting Summary (Varra – action required)

Item 11 on the November 2018 minutes was adjusted to reflect the proper second, Sean Conway was added to the attendance and his second was added to the vote to skip the December meeting. Conway made a motion to approve the minutes as revised and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

Jim Hall asked for time to make a groundwater update above item 5.a. Sean Conway made a motion to adopt the agenda as revised and Lynda James seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Board Elections (Varra – 15 mins)

Sean Conway made a motion to elect Garrett Varra as Chairperson of the Roundtable and Lynda James seconded the nomination. Mike Shimmin moved to close nominations and Sean Conway seconded. Garrett Varra was thus elected as the Chairperson of the Roundtable. Sean Conway reported he would not be seeking re-election as Vice Chair and he introduced Scott James as an alternate for his role on the Roundtable. Sean Conway nominated Rich Belt as First Vice Chair and Kevin Lusk seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest. Sean Conway nominated Lynda James as Second Vice Chair and Garrett Varra seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

5. Committee Updates

a. Groundwater Committee:

Jim Hall reported John Stulp would no longer be the special policy advisor to the Governor. Hall argued Stulp's role was critical and provided immense value to the Roundtable and to the State. Per a question from Sean Conway, Jim Hall expected the Groundwater Committee to continue meeting but wasn't sure of its leadership. Discussion ensued as to whether Stulp's role or the newly vacant Division of National Resources Director position would be filled. Garrett Varra reported the Basin snowpack was 112% of normal.

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

WSRF Needs Committee (Boring – 60 min)

Jeffrey Boring took the floor to report on the Needs Committee and its recommendations for WSRF funding. Boring covered the grant requests and the fund amounts, and stated the applicants would be presenting on their applications at the present meeting.

I. Colorado Trout Unlimited

The applicant took the floor to present on their WSRF application. The application was for a Stream Management Plan on South Boulder Creek. The lower portion of the South Boulder Creek was described as heavily engineered, heavily used, and frequently dry in low-flow conditions. The benefit of the Plan was described as having many facets, all of which aligned with the South Platte BIP's identified critical water areas. Ultimately the goal of the Plan was to identify and support implementable projects. Sean Conway listed several concerns from the Needs Committee. The first concern was regarding additional grant contributions, which if they fell through, the applicant said, could result in scope reduction and the seeking of additional funds concurrent to the continuation of work.

Discussion ensued on the applicant's budgeting, how they would pursue other funding, what their funding awards were contingent upon, and how they would handle lesser need of resources during the funded work. The conversation moved to the timeline available to the applicant revision of their budget, what sorts of water issues still lay before them and successful completion of the project. Discussion then moved to what applicants were and were not a part of the initiative in discussion. The answers to these questions and discussions came down to legal obligations and political negotiations. Garrett Varra asked why the applicant had not sought Statewide funds and the applicant responded they did not believe they qualified as a project of statewide significance.

Ken Huson moved to fund the application. Rich Belt seconded and asked the award be conditional upon securing of additional funds due to the financial impact to the scope and if that funding fell through a requirement for the applicant to re-apply. Sean Conway recommended the award be up to \$13,500 due to a need for further budget analysis and asked the award be conditional as Belt had suggested. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

II. Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

The applicant took the floor to present on their stream management plan. The Plan was intended to be comprehensive of all water rights users and stakeholders in the area. Overall the full scope of tasks proposed was broad and deep and was focused on the intersection of this local basin with the Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan. It was clarified that an adjacent project to identify and implement an alternative transfer project would be integrated into the Plan. The presentation on the application included details of the types of projects that would be considered and earmarked for integration and the partners working with the Coalition on the successful improvement of the creek. The applicant clarified their budget was somewhat reliant upon the award of CWCB funds as part of a separate grant request. Sean Conway asked if the applicant had considered a co-applicant as a means of successfully completing the project. Instead of a co-applicant, the Coalition representative reported they'd be hiring consultants to complete the project.

The history of the organization was discussed and its ability to complete projects and successfully implement grant-funded projects. Jeffrey Boring clarified that this applicant was different than a recent similar applicant – the Little Thompson Watershed Coalition, which now had no staff. Mike Shimmin asked Craig Godbout if the CWCB had dealt with a situation where a grant applicant had dissolved after award. Godbout responded that while some projects had failed to launch, none had failed post-award. Godbout also clarified co-applicants were not allowed. Discussion then led to clarification that a grant could be transferred between fiscal agents. Mike Shimmin made a motion to approve the grant application and Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

III. NEIRBO Hydrogeology

A representative of Colorado Corn took the floor as the newly named applicant to present the grant application for investigation of water quality in the South Platte Basin. Discussion covered a summary of the research proposed and the impact of the potential findings as well as the critical nature of the inquiry. The former applicant from NEIRBO (still a participant of the proposed work) then took the floor to cover the project details and explain the details of the study. Per a question from Joe Frank on the data collected, Grady O'Brien (NIEBBO) reported a thorough analysis was necessary to deduce causes and impacts, and to make recommendations for mitigation.

Discussion then covered the risks and benefits of reviewing specific data sets rather than a compendium of annual data; additional data was committed to the project from other sources. Bill Szmyd drew attention to the future importance of reused water in the Basin and the significance of determining what risks were present in water of this type. Allyn Wind moved to approve the motion as proposed and Frank Eckhardt seconded. Mike Shimmin asked the line item for grant administration be struck from the budget. Joel Schneekloth argued this applicant was merely being upfront about the costs; Joe Frank added grant administration was of increasing importance as an up-front cost. Lastly, per comments on the budget, Colorado Corn had adjusted the budget and reduce the ask. The motion to approve passed without contest.

Sean Cronin asked if a consultant could be the applicant if an eligible entity was the fiscal agent and Garret Varra responded that the Needs Committee was unable to come to an answer at their meeting. Craig Godbout clarified the intent of the bill was not to penalize applicants, but was intended to protect the use of funds. Ultimately, discussion came to an acknowledgment from Craig Godbout that Roundtable were potentially able to act with greater scrutiny than the State.

Jeffrey Boring encouraged the Needs Committee to consider public funds for a public good. Lynda James recommended this topic be discussed as an action item at a future Roundtable meeting.

IV. Headwaters Authority of the South Platte

The applicant took the floor to argue in favor of their WSRF application. Lynda James recused herself from discussion and a vote on the proposed project. Following the applicant's presentation, Sean Cronin asked the Roundtable to consider past applications from the State for similar projects. Mike Shimmin raised concern about the project stakeholders. Per a question from Shimmin, James added one of the applicants was a private developer, not a public entity. Jim Hall clarified that the previous requests from the state for water administrative structures had been intended to cover a broader area with a smaller amount of money.

Jeffrey Boring made a motion to reject the application request and offered to work with the applicant to revise the application for future consideration. Mike Shimmin seconded. Jim Ford proposed involving stakeholder contribution for a revised application. Mike Shimmin made a revised motion to table the application for up to two months to allow for revision and reconsideration (revised motion was withdrawn). The motion passed without discussion or contest; Lynda James abstained from voting.

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

Joe Frank took the floor to report on the Development Concept. Frank reported a Task Force to guide the Development Concept had shrunk in the fall to select a consultant, thus forming a selection committee. The outcome of that effort was award of a contract to Brown & Caldwell. Frank summarized the intent of the larger group (including those participating on the selection committee) was to separate

group members into smaller technical groups to move the Concept forward.

7. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 10 min)

Sean Cronin took the floor to provide an IBCC update. That update was that February 28 would mark the next IBCC meeting and would be held in the Denver Metro area. Cronin added John Stulp was also the IBCC Director and Compact Negotiator and as he had just retired those positions would need to be filled.

8. CWCB Update (Yahn – 10 min)

Joe Frank relayed a report that the policy on the Drought Contingency Plan for the Colorado River was now publicly available on the CWCB website. Garrett Varra also added he participated in a kickoff meeting for the Implementation Committee Working Group.

9. Public Comment (10 min)

No public comment was offered.

10. Education Sub-committee – Public Events and Outreach (Williams – 15 min)

Lacey Williams took the floor to report on upcoming events.

Per discussion, it was agreed the Education and Outreach Coordinator would be shared with Roundtable members for review and feedback no later than noon on Friday, January 11. Feedback should be sent to Craig Godbout, Casey Davenport, and Megan Holcomb.

11. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next Metro Meeting: Jan 11 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- b. Greeley Farm Show: Jan 29 – Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley
- c. Statewide PEPO Meeting @ CWC: Jan 30
- d. Poudre River Forum (“Poudre Runs Through It”): Feb 1 – Drake Center, 802 W. Drake Rd, Ft. Collins
- e. Next SPBRT Meeting: Feb 12 – Longmont, CO
- f. CWCB Board Meeting: Jan 28 + 29 @ the Westin (same location as Water Congress)
- g. IBCC Meeting: TBD – Location TBD

Dinner @ 6:15