

**South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting**  
**Agenda Tuesday, February 12, 2019**  
**Weld County Adm. Services Center.**  
**Longmont, CO**  
**4:00PM-6:30PM**

**South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting**

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

Rich Belt, Craig Godbout, Joe Frank, Kevin Lusk, Ken Huson, Larry Howard, Bruce Gerk, Kelsea Holloway, Jim Yahn, Mike Shimmin, Lisa Leben, Joel Schneekloth, Frank Eckhardt, Kent Swedlund, Julio Iturreria, Bill Szmyd, Jim Hall, Lacey Williams, Matt Betz, Jim Ford, Sean Conway, Deb Daniel, Jason Roudebush

2. Approval of January 2019 Meeting Summary (Varra – action required)

Bill Szmyd made a motion to approve and Jim Hall seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

4. Water Plan Grant Request – Bohn Farm Cohousing Community (30 min)

Per a question from Julio Iturreria, the applicant reported the City of Longmont had deemed the project sufficient and approved it to move forward toward full permitting. Iturreria also asked for further explanation of the project's proposed use of greywater, as it was a novel practice (Denver was the only jurisdiction to implement at the time of the meeting). The applicant reported they were installing infrastructure designed to handle greywater, but until Boulder County and the City of Longmont approved their own version of Proposition 86, that design could not be installed. Kevin Lusk asked the applicant how they were handling water rights and the applicant responded they were proposing retention of all stormwater; the project was designed to detain water and slow its return to the river however no retention was designed. In addition to surface water control, the project had junior rights to irrigate. A representative of the Division of Natural Resources reported that if the stormwater was being retained or put to a beneficial use it would need an augmentation plan to offset use. Discussion ensued, as per feedback from Mike Shimmin, on the legality of the water rights. Jim Yahn added context regarding the function of water capture, use, and legality. Clarification was added by Craig Godbout that CWP and WSRF funds could not be used for any legal work. Mike Shimmin and Julio Iturreria aired concerns about the projects' limited investigation into water rights and legality.

Bruce Gerk moved the Letter of Support be tabled until an amended letter of support could be requested and Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

5. Water Education Colorado (15 min)

Jayla Poppleton took the floor to report on WECO and discuss the various publications the group puts out, and other outreach activities. Poppleton reported the WEC Board of Directors had elected to highlight the Lower South Platte on their next tour. This opportunity, Poppleton reported, was to bring in visitors from outside the Basin to the area to see firsthand the issues and successes of the lower Basin. WECO representatives asked for the Roundtable's feedback on sites to visit and issues to address. One of the critical issues, the group felt was worth highlighting, was the recently funded topic of salinity in the Basin. Craig Godbout recommended WECO

reach out to Ducks Unlimited for recommendations as well. Lastly, the Republican River was reportedly going to be a primary focus of the tour.

6. Friends of the Pierre Aquifer (15 min)

Theresa Jehn-Dellaport took the floor to report on the Pierre Aquifer. The Pierre Aquifer, which resides at least partly under Northeastern Colorado, is reportedly an under-analyzed aquifer. Per a question from Mike Shimmin, Jehn-Dellaport replied there was currently not enough data to determine where and to what extent the aquifer was tributary (versus non) and recharging. Additional information could be found online at [www.friendsoftheupa.org](http://www.friendsoftheupa.org).

7. Fourmile Watershed Coalition – Letter of Support (15 min)

Maya MacHamer took the floor to report on the Fourmile Watershed Coalition's CWP grant for integrated forest and watershed health. MacHamer highlighted a high volume of ongoing volunteer work and a severe lack of planning and connectivity for the area. One of the key areas the project would be involving in the work was survey of the public's baseline understanding of watershed health. Discussion ensued, as per a question from Lacey Williams, on the progress of a statewide forest health advisory council and its intersection with the proposed work. Julio Iturreria asked if the Coalition had been doing outreach with local conservation groups to which MacHamer responded there was ongoing collaboration. Rich Belt asked for further explanation of the budget and timeline, to which MacHamer responded the total project was approximately \$80K, \$40K of which was sought through the CWP grant. Ken Huson moved the Roundtable provide a letter of support to the Fourmile Watershed Coalition and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

Craig Godbout offered to provide a presentation to the Roundtable on the ins-and-outs of Colorado's Water Plan Grants

8. Committee Updates

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

Craig Godbout reported the basin accounts were looking healthy.

b. Education and Outreach (Williams – 10 min)

Lacey Williams reported the Roundtable had put on a well-received exhibit at the Greeley Farm Show, reaching a wide swath of the community. Williams reported Sean Cronin drove things and was met with a great reception. Additionally, Williams reported there was an obvious obstacle to address: the public understanding that meetings and work were ongoing and open to the public. Williams also reported a recent PEPO meeting had occurred at the CWC Forum and the biggest takeaway was that Basins were all sharing the same concerns about education and outreach, and had similar strategies for addressing those concerns. Lastly, Williams reported the meeting involved the task forces charged with integrating all the various planning efforts (CWP, BIP, SWSI, etc.). A statewide Basin Roundtable meeting was also reportedly scheduled for September 25 and 26, in Winter Park.

Lacey Williams lastly reported the Central Colorado Water Conservancy had approached the Roundtable about a partnership to develop a legal guide for water and volunteers were being sought. Craig Godbout reported the previously approved Education and Outreach Coordinator Scope of Work had been approved by the CWCB.

c. WSRF Guidelines & Policies (Boring – 10 min)

No update was available. Bruce Gerck requested the Roundtable review the internal evaluation criteria against other Basin Roundtables to see if the South

Platte Basin was in alignment with the other Roundtables.

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

Joe Frank reported the Concept was not yet under contract and was expected to happen soon.

10. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 10 min)

Jim Yahn asked if a new IBCC director had been identified and Craig Godbout reported the role was potentially still vacant.

11. CWCB Update (Yahn – 10 min)

Jim Yahn reported the meeting was held in January immediately before the Colorado Water Congress. Yahn reported the new Governor came with several new CWCB Board members. Yahn also reported three Board seats were going to be open soon. Additionally, a temporary RADAR system had been installed near the Four Corners, with partial funding by the CWCB and that project was likely to become permanent. Yahn reported the CWCB had approved an addendum to the Best Practices for Integrating Water Planning Practices. Two loans had been approved, one for the Lefthand Ditch Company to conduct maintenance and another for a group in Sterling, also for maintenance. The CWCB reviewed the Projects Bill, which had not yet gone through legislation. Yahn reported \$4M had been paid to Nebraska for the Republican River resolution, \$2M had been paid to Kansas for resolution and they had asked the remaining \$2M be used in Colorado to improve structures in the Republican River Basin. Intents to appropriate instream-flows were not within the South Platte Basin. Yahn also reported the Colorado Drought Contingency Plan had been approved by all states and Colorado's 500,000AF buffer for Lake Powell was also approved, outside the balancing amount. Additionally, it was reported the CWP grants had all become over-appropriated.

12. Legislative Update (Various – 10 min)

A ditch right-of-way bill was going through the legislature (HB-1082). Yahn reported a ditch near Red Cliff was pushing legislation to demonstrate right-of-way as a means of conducting ditch work. Additional legislation was moving forward to amend the boundary of the Republic River Basin to match the compact domain instead of the topographic drainage area. That legislation was to be corrected and repassed through the process. Corey Gardner and Ken Buck were set to introduce legislation to revise the tax code in a way that would allow for higher than current tax revenue to be committed to infrastructure without additional taxation.

13. Public Comment (10 min)

No comments were offered.

14. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting: Mar 12 – Longmont, CO
- b. Next Metro Meeting: Feb 14 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- c. CWCB Board Meeting: Mar 20-21 – Marriott, Fort Collins, CO
- d. Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance: Feb 16 – Fort Collins, CO
- e. Water Quality Workshop: Mar 4 – American Legion, Keenesburg, CO

**Dinner @ 6:30 – Platte River Recovery Program (Jojo La c/o CWCB)**

The meeting adjourned at 7PM