

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

**South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting**

Meeting started 4:15

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

Garrett Varra, Sean Cronin, Kevin Lusk, Stephen Larson, Mike Shimmin, Bill Szmyd by proxy, Kelsea Holloway, Shane Miller, Mike Brazell, Kent Swedlund, Julio Iturreria, Joe Frank, Jason Roudebush, Matt Betz, Sean Conway, Lisa Leben

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

Julio Iturreria made a motion to approve and Mike Brazell seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

Julio Iturreria made a motion to accept the agenda as presented and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Colorado Water Trust (15 mins)

A representative from the Colorado Water Trust took the floor to present on a request for water. Specifically, the request was for 20AF or greater for in-stream flow use that would be matched by a dry-up of commensurate acreage. The timeline for the project was targeting September 2019 for installation of these funds. Per a question from Julio Iturreria it was clarified that the program was not a water bank. Per a question from Joe Frank, potential injury and return flows were being accounted for with the legal solution to this problem. Additionally, the landscape of water rights was being considered with designation of these flows. Per a question from Sean Cronin, the fair market valuation of water rights was a known issue that had not yet been a hurdle. Per a question from Garrett Varra other hurdles to the successful implementation of this program were discussed. These hurdles included local and political issues.

5. Update on Ag. Grant Component of CWP Implementation Grant Program (Funk – 15 min)

A representative from the CWCB took the floor to update the group on the agricultural grant component of Colorado's Water Plan. These grants, which operate in a very similar fashion to the WSRF grants, have been a productive way for the CWCB to support ag programs throughout the state. One of the major goals of these grants, it was reported, was to investigate alternative transfer methods. On the horizon for these grants were update workshops and better integration into other basin and statewide planning initiatives.

Additional future focuses included drought and climate change adaptation, the intersection of water quality and quantity, groundwater management, and others. Joe Frank asked that ag shortages be focused on in the future as well. It was also clarified SWSI was being referred to as The Technical Update. Mike Brazell asked if there was a match requirement and was told the requirement was 50%.

## 6. Committee Updates

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

WSRF grants would be going before the board next week, and were expected to draw down the coffer by about half of its current amount.

### b. Education and Outreach (Williams – 10 min)

No meeting had been held to provide an update. A full update would be available in April.

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

Jeffrey Boring had reportedly resigned as the WSRF Committee lead. Garrett Varra motioned for Jason Roudebush to take over as chair of the WSRF Committee and Sean Conway seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest. Julio Iturreria raised concern over the WSRF and CWP letter of support process. Craig Godbout committed to sharing the CWP Grant criteria and guidelines. Per a question from Jason Roudebush, a representative of the CWCB clarified the letters of support aren't required but aid applicants in rounds with high-competitive projects. Sean Conway asked Jeffrey Boring's contribution to the Roundtable be recognized. Conway also asked that Garrett stay on Larimer County municipalities to designate a representative. Sean Cronin shared that Boulder County had designated Matt Jones as their new representative to the Roundtable.

### d. Groundwater Update (Hall – 10 min)

An update was provided stating John Stulp's former position was not yet filled and Mike Shimmin pointed out the IBCC was statutorily required to designate a director [this was corrected later in the meeting: see IBCC update below].

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

Joe Frank took the floor to report on the regional discussion of buy-and-dry. Additionally, Brown & Caldwell was working on a press release that would be published nationally. Per a question from Julio Iturreria, Joe Frank clarified information on the Development Concept was available on the South Platte Basin website.

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

Sean Cronin took the floor to update the Roundtable on the IBCC. He pointed out the Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act required a Compact Director. Sean drew attention to the Conceptual Framework as the major project of the group. Cronin introduced Russ George as the new Director of Compact Negotiations,

George, as Cronin pointed out, authored the Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. Dane Gibbs was identified as the new DNR director. Cronin shared updates on IBCC presentations and developments. Cronin reported he had argued to the IBCC the two major projects to focus on were drought contingency and drought planning, specifically in the Colorado River Basin, and second the South Platte Regional Development Concept. Sean Conway noted there was a regional project being kicked around that had support from the Governor of Wyoming – that project would cut across I-80 and then down I-25.

#### 9. CWCB Update (Yahn – 10 min)

A number of updates were provided to the Roundtable: CWCB board meeting was coming up March 20-21. Colorado Water Loss Initiative Workshops begin in April; the Water in the West Symposium was March 14. Overall drought conditions statewide had improved. CWCB had received grant applications for salination studies. Drought Contingency Plan changes are ongoing and awaiting legislation to identify enforcement strategies.

#### 10. Legislative Update (Various – 10 min)

Several updates were provided to the Roundtable: SB-181 – Water Congress was going to write a letter pointing out the significance of severance tax and the impact on water projects. HB-1218 – instream flow plan expansion to allow for a 5/10 instead of a 3/10 year period to loan your water and extend the period from one 10-year timeframe to three 10-year timeframes.

#### 11. BIP Water Plan Implementation (Shimmin – 10 min)

Mike Shimmin took the floor to report on the working group meetings. Shimmin reported the BIP updates would be different this time – CWCB was requesting money in the Project's Bill to fund \$5.5M in BIP updates. The mechanism for doing this would be a central contractor hired by the state and sub-contractors also hired by the state but with the goal of working directly with the various roundtables. The timeline for this initiative was to follow the adoption of the Projects Bill. One of the biggest goals of this strategy – an organized initiative of this type – was to reduce duplication of efforts and improve shared resources. Another major goal of this initiative was the focusing on categorization of IPPs. The goal, according to Shimmin, was to have a tangible system to be presented and possibly voted on at the September Statewide Roundtable Summit. Julio Iturreria asked the Roundtable to be mindful of its past partnership with the Metro Roundtable and continue that partnership going forward. Garrett Varra noted this item would be a regular update going forward.

#### 12. Public Comment (10 min)

Robert Skada took the floor to provide comment. He reported on HR-807 – introduced by Representative Buck – a tax reform for mutual ditch companies. Currently, tax revenue above 15% of assessments was designed to trigger full revenue taxation, but if that money were used for maintenance it would be untaxed. An update was also given for SB 19-186 – designed to monitor nitrates and groundwater and watch for agricultural chemicals in groundwater. The proposal sought to expand that program and review

surface water and a broader spectrum of chemicals. The proposal would also allow agricultural management areas to be established in areas with high nutrient loads.

### 13. Meeting Schedule

- a. Next SPBRT Meeting: Apr 9 – Longmont, CO
- b. Next Metro Meeting: Apr 11 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- c. CSU Water in the West: Mar 13-14 -- Gaylord of the Rockies Resort
- d. CWCB Board Meeting: Mar 20-21 – Location TBD (South Platte Basin)
- e. WeCO South Platte Basin Tour: June 17-18