

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Agenda Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Weld County Adm. Services Center.
Longmont, CO
4:00PM-6:00PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

Garrett Varra, Kent Swedlund, Jim Yahn, Kevin Lusk, Larry Howard, Bruce Gerk, Mike Shimmin, Daylan Figs, Jim Hall, Sean Conway, Frank Eckhardt, James Ford, Joel Schneekloth, Stephen Larson, Ken Huson, Deb Daniel, Bill Szmyd, Kelsea Holloway, Joe Frank, Jason Roudebush, Matt Jones, Allyn Wind, Lisa Leben

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

Sean Conway made a motion to approve the minutes and Frank Eckhardt. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

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

4. CWCB Update on the Colorado Water Plan Grant (Lauren Ris, Deputy Director, CWCB – 30 min)

Lauren Ris took the floor to report on the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) grant program. She reviewed funding challenges presented by issues with the severance tax and with state-level settlements for oil and gas tax disputes. Ris also stated that all CWP grants were due August 1 and February 1, and would be reviewed concurrent to WSRF grants. Ris reported eligible projects included those needing technical assistance, permit assistance, compliance assistance, those that promoted education and outreach, etc. All funding requests required at least 50% match, although that match can come from other Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) funds for a total CWCB contribution of 75%.

Per a question from James Ford, Lauren Ris clarified letters of support from roundtables aren't required, but are asked for. Those letters, she explained, were helpful but didn't carry any specific weight in the CWCB evaluation process. Garrett Varra went on to provide some context from the roundtable perspective. Another question from James Ford sought confirmation that a Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) loan could provide the 50% match for CWP funds and Ris provided that confirmation. Ris reported the Projects Bill (\$7M) was approved and an additional \$8.3M could be provided through another bill and would likely be spread out over several years to offset fluctuations in the severance tax.

5. CWP Grant Letters of Support (45 min)
 - a. Lefthand Watershed Oversight Committee

Yana Sorokin took the floor to report on the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group CWP grant request. Sorokin explained the core tenants of the LWOG mission and its primary initiatives. The CWP grant application was then explained and attention drawn to the large regional approach and integration of citizen science. Paramount to the groups initiative was a focus on and utilization of community engagement. Per a question from Casey Davenport, Sorokin reported data would be collected on a database that would include a map and location-specific photos. Sorokin clarified the goal was to repeat the event on an annual basis.

Bill Szmyd made a motion to grant a letter of support and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

b. Upper Platte Beaver Diversion Program

Mike Shimmin asked if the May Roundtable meeting was before the next CWCB meeting and Craig Godbout clarified it was and a Letter of Support drafted at or after the May Roundtable meeting could be considered with the CWP grant applications. Sean Conway asked the two applications (Upper Platte and Beaver, and Schneider Ditch) be tabled until the May meeting. Discussion ensued as to the specifics of CWCB funding and match funds.

c. Schneider Ditch Company

Tabled until the May meeting.

6. Committee Updates

a. SPBRT Basin & Statewide Account Balance (Godbout – 10 min)

- Basin Account \$462,720.00
- Statewide Account \$1,217,736.00
- Reserve has not changed
- General Reserve \$50,000
- Basin Implementation Reserve \$50,000
- Education Reserve \$50,000

b. Education and Outreach (Williams – 10 min)

Garrett Varra reported an education committee meeting had preceded the current Roundtable meeting and another meeting had been scheduled. Casey Davenport noted education and outreach reports would be provided in future meeting packets. Kelsea Holloway volunteered to join the committee. Bruce Gerk reported the Education and Outreach Committee needed more funding to accomplish their goals. Gerk also expressed concern and frustration with the amount of WSRF funding provided to the Roundtable. Mike Shimmin suggested the Education and Outreach Committee work on a grant proposal for additional funding to realize their needs. After an update from Casey Davenport on ongoing education and outreach committee projects and initiatives, Joel Schneekloth offered a warning against adopting other programs' messages that didn't directly align with or support the Roundtable's messages and goals. Davenport reported April 23 from 1-3PM was the tentative date of the next Education Committee meeting.

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

Jason Roudebush provided an update on the upcoming May 1 WSRF deadline. Roudebush raised concern on three critical issues: defining the match requirement based on total project cost or the share of the project not being asked to fund; defining what is a qualified applicant revolving around the CWCB allowing consultants to apply and the Roundtable not adopting those same standards; defining what is ineligible for funding. Roudebush clarified further discussion would be held with the committee level before coming back to the Roundtable. Joe Frank asked if a prospective application informational session would be held and several parties argued the presentation at the Farm Show satisfied that need. Roudebush reported he and Jeffrey Boring presented to 4 or 5 folks about WSRF work. Roudebush reported he had not received any applications at the time of the meeting, but Garrett Varra reported he had received some.

d. Groundwater Update (Hall – 10 min)

Jim Hall reported the meeting was held on March 29. That meeting started with a discussion of groundwater levels in Gilcrest. Hall reported water was below average. Hall went on to report on a groundwater networking effort that dovetailed with a discussion about Aurora's acquisition of land in the immediate area, there was a worry that land would be developed for storage. Dan Gallen took the floor to report that Aurora had no plans to utilize that land for water storage. Gallen reported that land would likely come into play in the future. Hall also reported on Aurora's work in Lost Creek – a potential source of underground storage and supply. Hall sought interest for a future presentation from Lost Creek and discussion ensued on that group's ongoing WSRF project. Lauren Ris reported the Governor's office was evaluating their needs and DNR's staffing resources available to fill the groundwater technical committee needs. Garrett Varra asked if other high groundwater issues were creeping up elsewhere. Hall reported other issues were more isolated. Joe Frank discussed potential solutions to the high groundwater in the LaSalle/Gilcrest area.

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

Joe Frank reported the project was underway with 68 members and growing. Feedback on the guiding principles were due on April 19. The concept included several working groups that mirrored the goals of the BIP.

Dinner Presentation: John Rodgers, HydroBase Coordinator, Colorado Division of Water Resources — Colorado Decision Support System Demonstration

8. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 10 min)

No updates were available. Another IBCC meeting was reportedly scheduled for October, following the September Roundtable summit.

9. CWCB Update (Yahn – 20 min)

Jim Yahn reported the CWCB had a board meeting in March and a tour of the scale model of the Gross Reservoir spillway. Yahn reported he was the newest Chair and as such oversaw the addition of three new members. Yahn also reported he was the most senior board member at three years. Russ George was on the board as well (the new IBCC Compact Director). Parks and Wildlife did not yet have a director. Yahn also reported Boulder Creek was gaining some Instream Flow as a result of the identification of storage rights in Gross Reservoir by the City of Boulder and the City of Lafayette. Per a question from Sean Cronin, Yahn reported there would still be an instream flow and the city water stored in the reservoir would be released and still used with the added benefit of going toward instream flow. Yahn reported on HB12-18 – (summarized in the March 2019 meeting notes). Three water project loans were granted, all in the South Platte. Yahn reported the Colorado Attorney General had pulled out of the Waters of the United States rules despite considerable opposition from state water planning groups. An update was given that the House and Senate had adopted the Colorado Drought Contingency Plan and the next stop was the President's desk.

10. Legislative Update (Various – 10 min)

No updates were offered.

11. Public Comment (10 min)

No updates were offered.

12. Meeting Schedule

- a. Discussion of Meeting Locations
 - i. June – Black Hawk
 - ii. September – Greeley
- b. Next SPBRT Meeting: May 14 – Longmont, CO
- c. Next Metro Meeting: May 9 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- d. CWCB Board Meeting: May 15-16 – Western State University (Gunnison Basin)
- e. Statewide Education Action Plan Meeting: April 18
- f. WeCO South Platte Basin Tour: June 17-18
- g. Statewide Roundtable Summit: Sept 25 + 26 – Grand County, CO (registration: www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan)

Kevin Lusk reported the Arkansas was being told by the State AG's office not to authorize contract exchanges. Per a question from Mike Shimmin discussion ensued as to whether or not that was going to make its way to the South Platte.