

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Weld County Adm. Services Center.
Longmont, CO
4:00PM-7:00PM

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (Varra – 5 min)

The meeting started at 4:15PM

Garrett Varra, Craig Godbout, Matt Betz, Joe Frank, Rich Belt, Kelsea Holloway, Sean Conway, Allyn Wind, Joel Schneekloth, Lisa Leben, Larry Howard, Deb Daniel, Bill Szmyd, Jason Roudebush, Matt Jones, Ken Huson, Sean Cronin, Dan Brown

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

Bill Szmyd made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented and Garrett Varra seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

The agenda was modified to hear from Brent Newman before agenda item 4. Larry Howard made a motion to adopt the agenda as edited and Deb Daniel seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

Brent Newman took the floor to provide an update on Drought Contingency Plan and Demand Management. Newmap reported the Colorado River had been in drought for the better part of 19 years and the past 4 or 5 years saw a unified basin-wide approach to drought contingency planning. A kernal of Newman's presentation was to begin planning for increased demand and limited resources before current issues grew into critical problems. Newman provided a broad overview of policies and procedures, and planning initiatives in place to manage the upper Colorado River. The Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), Newman reported, was designed to change the rule of the river. The DCP was designed to operate with two distinct parts - one for the Lower Basin and one for the Upper Basin.

The DCP, Brent Newman reported, had been signed by the president and the federal legislature, and only the states signatures remained to be added. A key perspective on this plan was to provide additional tools with which to administer demand management and resource availability. Per a question from Bill Szmyd, Newman clarified that Mexico would be party to the agreement as per modification of the Mexico Treaty with Minute 323. Newman went on to additionally clarify that the DCP was designed to last until 2026 when the 2007 guidelines expired and would need to be renegotiated. The DCP included Upper Basin Agreements including Drought Response Operations (CRSPA Initial Units) and Demand Management Storage. The Demand Management Program was reiterated as a good plan to have, but not one that was required, and was fully dependent on the will of the Upper Basin States. Newman also reported the CWCB had directed staff to conduct community engagement and outreach to help others understand the DCP and its many factors.

Brent Newman explained the core goal was to investigate reductions in use through demand management in a comprehensive manner. This goal was being addressed through the work of individual workgroups, including workgroups with native communities reliant on the river in the Upper Basin States. A significant report on the work would follow CY 2019 (January 2020) and would cover scopes of work, progress, and recommended next steps. Proposed management team members included the CWCB, AGO, EDO, DWR and the Colorado's Commissioner for interstate implications. Brent Newman shared his contact information: brent.newman@state.co.us. Bill Szmyd asked if he anticipated any hold-outs and Newman reported he did not, but explained Colorado (52% of water use, most diverse water users) was further along than the other Upper Basin States. Sean Conway asked what the exact role of the South Platte Basin Roundtable would be, and Newman reported it was to provide feedback either specifically, via written correspondence, or generally, as constituent representatives.

4. Brent Schantz Report on Flow Monitoring Project (15 min)

Brent Schantz took the floor to provide an update on the Flow Monitoring Project/ Data-logger & Telemetry Installation Project. The project, Schantz reported, had been widely successful in installing digital recorders with networking capability and also in replacing manual recorders with the upgraded systems. Schantz also reported approximately 245 sites with cellular telemetry had been installed. These recorders were the property of the individual diverter once installed, except for those diverting in Northern Water's jurisdiction which were the property of the Conservancy District. One of the biggest benefits, Schantz reported, was greater administrative efficiency and transparency from Water Commissioners across the project area, through the use of more real-time diversion data. According to Schantz, each site cost approximately \$2,500.00. Schantz asked if the Roundtable would entertain an application for funding given DNR's inability to identify funding from other sources. Per a question from Garrett Varra, Schantz reported roughly \$200,000.00 would be sufficient to finish replacing manual recorders throughout the South Platte Basin region. Per a question from a member of the public, discussion ensued as to the value and difficulty of installing water quality sensors.

Discussion ensued as to whether or not the DNR could apply for WSRF dollars. The outcome of that discussion was that they could. A show of hands indicated general support from Roundtable members for a future funding request from the DNR for extension of the project. Sean Cronin added he supported the application conceptually as long as the match came from stakeholders instead of from the State. Rich Belt added the program represented a good value. Craig Godbout openly considered if statewide funds should also be considered for the application, which would have specific sites identified for upgrade.

5. CWP Grant Letters of Support (60 min)

a. Upper Platte and Beaver Diversion Program

Matt Harris took the floor to report on the CWP grant application for the Upper Platte and Beaver Diversion Program. The root of the request stemmed from concerns with the existing structure, questionable stability, and inhibitions to sediment transport and fish passage. The proposal sought to use CWP funds to greatly improve head structures and provide a number of positive environmental impacts. The estimated project cost was approximately \$4.4M and would be funded through a CWCB low-interest loan as well as CWP and WSRF dollars. Ken Huson asked if boat passage and signage were considered in the development of the conceptual replacement structure. Per a question from Garrett Varra, Harris reported the CWP funds were

both environmental and recreational, and a larger portion was agricultural. Discussion ensued as to the dangers of creating the appearance of using grant funds to offset loan monies.

b. Schneider Ditch Company

Matt Harris took the floor to report on the CWP grant application for the Schneider Ditch Company. The request for funding stemmed from head structures located in a braided channel, concerns with the physical condition and structural stability of the existing structure, and impediments to sediment transport and fish passage. The proposal sought to replace head structures and provide a number of positive environmental impacts. Discussion ensued as to the origin and nuance of the project budget.

c. Middle South Platte Riparian Alliance

Rose Frye took the floor to present on the CWP grant application for the Middle South Platte Riparian Alliance. Frye gave an overview of the Alliance's origin and work. The proposed project was to create and implement an outreach plan to engage the agricultural community in learning about and adopting BMP's to protect and improve water quality. The project sought to use surveys, workshops, interviews, and tours to connect with community members. Per question from Garrett Varra, Frye reported approximately \$5,000.00 was currently held as cash in hand. Per a question from Joe Frank, Frye reported the bulk of the CWP funds were being requested from the Innovation category. Sean Conway made a motion to support a letter of support and Deb Daniel seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

d. Tri-county Health Department

Elaine Hassinger took the floor to present on the CWP grant application for the Tri-county Health Department. The proposed project was to build awareness and encourage active water conservation as a demand strategy. Details of the project included distribution of mailers to residents to notify them of public meetings and education about assessment tools. Sean Conway asked how much money was coming from the participating counties and Hassinger reported no contributing funds were expected. Discussion ensued regarding the project budget. Joe Frank made a motion to provide a letter of support and Larry Howard seconded. The motion passed without contest.

6. Committee Updates

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

Garrett Varra reported \$462,720 in the Basin account and \$1,217,736 in the Statewide account. Additionally, \$10M was secured for the following year and additional funding for WSRF money was likely through a sports betting bill. Discussion ensued as to the origin and use of sport betting taxes.

b. PEPO (Davenport -- 10 min)

Casey Davenport took the floor to provide a PEPO update and an update on the 2019 Education Action Plan. A key point of the plan was to partner with existing institutions with water education programs and/or newsletters and outreach programs to reach an estimated 80,000

people. Davenhill reported the Education Committee was focused on the four legs of the stool: maximize IPPs, conservation & reuse, promote agricultural transfers, and the protection of Colorado River Basin supplies. Programs well positioned to provide significant material were the Statewide Education Action Plan, the South Platte Regional Water Development Concept, and the Technical Update. The specific audiences the being targeted were the academic, agricultural, and environmental & recreational communities, and the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Davenhill drew attention to the SouthPlatteBasin.com website as a primary source of information available to Roundtable members and the public. Additionally, the 2019 WSRF grant scope of work for education and outreach was noted as a detailed scope of work for ways of addressing education and outreach goals. Discussion ensued as to the role of the Roundtable in the community and its goals as they pertain to community engagement. Overlap of the WSRF

c. WSRF (Roudebush – 15 min)

Roudebush reported several applications had been submitted in advance of the May 1 WSRF application deadline and the Needs Committee would be adjourning soon to review the applications.

d. Groundwater Update (Hall – 10 min)

7. Implementation Plan Working Update (Shimmin -- 15 min)
8. South Platte Regional Development Concept (Frank – 10 min)
9. IBCC Update (Yahn/Cronin – 5 min)
10. CWCB Update (Yahn – 5 min)
11. Public Comment (10 min)
12. Meeting Schedule
 - a. Next SPBRT Meeting: June 11 – Blackhawk, CO
 - b. Next Metro Meeting: June 13 – Denver Water, Denver, CO
 - c. CWCB Board Meeting: May 15-16 – Western State College
 - d. SPBRT Education Committee Meeting in May TBD
 - e. WeCO South Platte Basin Tour: June 17-18 g.
 - f. SPBRT September meeting in Greeley
 - g. **Statewide Roundtable Summit: Sept 25 + 26 – Grand County, CO**
Registration: www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan