

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Ameristar Casino Resort Spa Black Hawk, Hospitality Rooms 907 & 909

111 Richman Street, Black Hawk, CO 80422

4:00pm–8:00pm

**South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome/Introductions (G. Varra – 5 min)

The meeting started at 4:15pm.

In attendance: Garrett Varra, Christy Wiseman, Daylan Figgs, Mike Shimmin, Kent Swedlund, Shane Miller, Matt Jones, Tyler Kesler, Jim Hall, James Ford, Kevin Lusk, Sean Conway, Lisa Leben, Casey Davenport, Jim Yahn, Craig Godbout, Corey DeAngelis, Dan Gallen, Meg Frantz

2. Approval of May 2019 Meeting Summary (G. Varra – **action required**)

Sean Conway made a motion to adopt the May minutes as presented and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

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

The agenda was modified to table item 4 (presentation on the Growing Water Smart Program) as the presenter (Jeremy Stapleton from the Sonoran Institute) was not present. Item 5 (presentation on water wells in Jefferson County) was also tabled in order to give Jefferson County staff more time to refine their presentation. Item 6 should not have been included in the agenda and was therefore removed. No vote was taken on the agenda changes.

Agenda item 12 (WSRF Update for Lost Creek Designated Basin Instrumentation Plan) was moved to be the next order of business, as the presenters for agenda item 7c (WSRF Grant Amendment) had not arrived yet. A staff member from the Lost Creek Groundwater Management District presented on the Near-Real-Time Water Level Monitoring Network. After giving a brief overview of the Lost Creek Basin geography and hydrology, the presenter covered stakeholder dynamics, management demands, data reduction goals, and the number and location of both legacy and in-network monitoring sites. Jim Yahn asked about the grant award amount; the state and SPBRT gave approximately \$68,000, and the Lost Creek Groundwater Management District provided additional funds to meet the approximate \$82,000 project cost. There was further discussion about site selection for the monitoring equipment and the potential for future grant requests to expand the monitoring network to cover a larger area.

4. Sonoran Institute presentation on the Growing Water Smart program (Jeremy Stapleton – 15 minutes)

Agenda item tabled.

5. Jefferson County Public Health presentation on water wells (Roy Laws – 30 min)

Agenda item tabled.

6. DWR and CWCB Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Projects presentation (15 min)

Item should not have been included on the June agenda; agenda item removed.

7. Committee Updates

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

Craig Godbout reported \$462,720 for the WSRF basin balance and \$1,217,736 for the statewide balance. Godbout also explained that the CWCB website is updated after each CWCB Board Meeting to reflect the amounts that the CWCB Board approves for deduction.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup (C. Davenhill – 10 min)

Casey Davenhill took the floor to provide a PEPO update. She reported that there was no PEPO meeting for that month. She then passed around copies of a draft “South Platte River Basin Water Facts” handout and opened the floor for other members to provide comments and suggest edits for the handout. A few members, including Jim Yahn and Sean Conway, provided specific feedback on the draft handout content. Davenhill then encouraged the attendees to reach out to her with ideas for educational materials at [southplattebasin@coloradowater.org](mailto:southplattebasin@coloradowater.org). She had nothing to report on the Statewide Education Action Plan but noted that PEPO is keeping close watch on its evolving status.

c. Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (J. Roudebush – 10 min)

Jason Roudebush noted that there is a WSRF Needs Committee conference call on Wednesday June 12 to discuss WSRF applications. He mentioned that several applicants had reached out to him to discuss their applications. The Needs Committee will present their recommendations for approval at the July 2019 SPBRT meeting.

i. Colorado Corn Administrative Committee: Historical Analysis of South Platte Salinity to Identify Severity, Trends, and Potential Sources - WSRF Grant Amendment (Grady O'Brien of NEIRBO Hydrogeology – 15 min) – **action required**

Grady O'Brien of NEIRBO Hydrogeology and Mark Sponsler of Colorado Corn took the floor to present their WSRF grant amendment request related to the South Platte Salinity study. Proposed additional work included two components: 1) evaluation of additional nutrients and agents and 2) a bean crop test plot. O'Brien and Sponsler noted that most of the project's matching funds are coming from Colorado Corn, as well as in-kind time, land, and labor from the bean plot landowner. If approved by both the South Platte and Metro Roundtables, the two Roundtables would each supply half of the grant amendment request.

After the presentation, Sean Conway asked O'Brien and Sponsler about their anticipation of study outcomes. O'Brien responded that the study is primarily trying to perform a 'check-up' of salinity levels related to increasing water reuse activity to determine how significant the salinity problem is. Responding to a follow up question from Conway, O'Brien confirmed that the study is incorporating effects of the new wastewater treatment center in Brighton. Sponsler then added that the salinity loop concept, as presented at the Water in the West Conference, is a key driver for the study. There was minor further discussion about salinity issues on agricultural lands. Sean Conway made a motion to approve the WSRF grant amendment and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest. O'Brien and Sponsler

then noted that they will be presenting the grant amendment request to the Metro Roundtable on Thursday June 13.

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

Jim Hall took the floor to provide a groundwater update. He reported that the committee met on May 31 to discuss next steps, but that there aren't any major outcomes to report yet. He mentioned that the Gilcrest area is experiencing the lowest water levels the community has seen in 4 or 5 years. Sean Conway and Jim Hall had further minor discussion about the dewatering well, groundwater levels in the Gilcrest area, and recent work that Weld County has undertaken to help mitigate groundwater issues.

8. Implementation Plan Working Update (M. Shimmin – 15 min)

Mike Shimmin took the floor to provide an Implementation Working Group (IWG) update. He did not attend the May meeting and therefore reported about earlier efforts. He explained the relationship between CWCB staff's efforts and IWG's efforts; CWCB staff has done a lot of work to synthesize and develop performance metrics, as well as to create a list of data attributes that IPPs need to be able to describe going forward. CWCB is changing the framework for the next Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) update round starting this fall to encourage more uniformity in the Roundtables' BIPs. Shimmin explained that the Statewide C9 Summit is a great opportunity to work on the Roundtable's game plan for the BIP update and that all SPBRT members should attend if possible. The state is considering having a central process where a single contractor will help all basins and each basin has the option to hire additional subcontractors. A benefit of this system is that the South Platte Basin Roundtable wouldn't have to use WSRF funds for a contractor as it did for the last BIP.

Garrett Varra then mentioned that there's only one more IWG before the C9 Summit and reiterated the importance of the C9 Summit. He clarified the timeline for the BIP: begin hiring contractors (September 2019 – January 2020), begin work updating IPPs with more attention to cost information (February 2020 – August 2020), analysis and update BIP document (September 2020 – September 2021), State Water Plan update (November 2020 – November 2022).

Craig Godbout then provided CWCB staff perspective on the proposed changes to the BIP update process. He echoed the lack of cost information, explained that each basin's BIP update will be different, reiterated that the state is mostly looking for increased consistency between Roundtables' BIPs, and clarified that projects not listed in the BIP are still eligible for WSRF funding. Several members then discussed IPP prioritization strategies, considering the state's need to have more quantitative data on IPP efficacy. Multiple members cautioned that an IPP ranking process would look very different depending on what community you're in, and that it would be difficult to come up with a basin-wide prioritization scheme. Casey Davenport asked how SPROWG fits into the BIP update. Godbout explained that SPROWG will inform the BIP but is not a driving force for the update. Godbout also discussed how the definition of IPPs has changed over time.

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

Joe Frank was not in attendance. Craig Godbout reported that SPROWG had a couple of informational meetings at the end of May. The next meeting is on June 13 in Aurora. SPROWG has been chosen as the official name for the South Platte Regional Development Concept moving forward.

10. IBCC Update (J. Yahn/S. Cronin – 5 min)

Jim Yahn reported that on the last day of the July CWCB Board meeting (July 18) in Leadville, the CWCB Board will meet with the IBCC to discuss demand management. After that, the next official IBCC meeting will be in October.

11. CWCB Update (J. Yahn – 5 min)

Jim Yahn provided a CWCB update. Yahn gave an overview of the May meeting at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, which included a tour of the Taylor Park Reservoir. He then mentioned the Diane Hoppe Memorial Scholarship; the first scholarship was recently awarded in the amount of \$2,000. There was minor discussion of the Bear Creek reallocation. Yahn then gave an update on the CO River Drought Contingency Plan. The plan has been signed by all 7 states and the Imperial Irrigation District. He explained the CWCB's plan to form workgroups to brainstorm and discuss issues related to the plan. There was discussion about the workgroup concept among several SPBRT members. In particular, there was discussion about CWCB's intent to have workgroup members sign confidentiality statements. After the CO River discussion, Yahn reported that the CWCB Board recently approved three loans for projects in the South Platte basin (for the Town of Empire, Upper Platte and Beaver Canal Company, and Prewitt Reservoir). Yahn reported that the CWCB Director made mention of this year's relatively high snowpack and concerns of flooding. He also reported that there were 42 Water Plan Grant applications and commended the CWCB staff for doing a good job vetting the applications. There was further minor discussion of the Prewitt Reservoir project.

12. WSRF Update for Lost Creek Designated Basin Instrumentation Plan (15 min)

See item 3 above for description.

13. Public Comment (20 min)

There was no public comment.

14. Meeting Schedule

- a. SPROWG Task Force Meeting #2: Thursday June 13, 2019 1-3pm – Aurora Municipal Center 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO
- b. West Slope Joint RT meeting: June 20 10am-3:30pm – Ute Water Conservancy District, Grand Junction, CO
- c. Next SPBRT Meeting: July 9 4-8pm – Longmont, CO
- d. Next Metro Meeting: July 11 4-7pm – Denver Water, Denver, CO
- e. CWCB Board Meeting: July 17-18 – Leadville
- f. SPBRT Education Committee Meeting in June TBD
- g. WeCO South Platte Basin Tour: June 17+18
- h. SPBRT September meeting in Greeley, CO
- i. 2019 Statewide Roundtable Summit: September 25+26 in Winter Park, CO  
Registration: [www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan](http://www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan)

Dinner Presentation: There was no dinner presentation. Dinner was served before the last two agenda items.