

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Southwest Weld County Building
4209 Weld County Road 24 ½, Longmont, CO 80504
4:00-7:00 p.m.

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting started at 4:05 p.m.

In attendance: Christy Wiseman, Craig Godbout, Garrett Varra*, Jason Roudebush*, Stephen Larson*, Casey Davenhill, Lisa Leben*, Kelsea Holloway*, Deb Daniel*, Shane Miller*, Frank Eckhardt*, Joel Schneekloth, Mary Hodge*, Daylan Figgs*, Larry Howard*, Bruce Gerk*, Bill Szmyd*, Kevin Lusk*, Jim Hall*, Ken Huson*, Loretta Daniel*, Sean Chambers*, Sean Cronin*, Sean Conway*, Mallory Hiss, Mike Shimmin, Gail Shimmin, Hally Strevey, Mark Thomas, Jack Greene, Hunter Hoshiko, Royal Koepsell, Dan Gallen, and multiple members of the public.

Joe Frank* and Jim Yahn* were excused from the November meeting. 20 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

2. Approval of October 2019 Meeting Minutes (G. Varra – action required)

Shane Miller made a motion to adopt the October 2019 meeting minutes and Frank Eckhardt seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

3. November 2019 Agenda Additions or Changes (G. Varra – action required)

There were no proposed additions or changes to the November 2019 meeting agenda. Bill Szmyd made a motion to accept the agenda and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed without discussion or contest.

4. Plaque Presentation to Mike Shimmin (G. Varra – 10 min)

Garrett Varra took the floor to present an honorary plaque to longtime SPBRT member Mike Shimmin. Varra thanked Mike Shimmin for his many years of service to the South Platte Basin and to the Roundtable. Mike Shimmin accepted the plaque and said that it had been a pleasure serving on the SPBRT for 14 years. He encouraged SPBRT members to keep up the good work.

After the plaque presentation, Garrett Varra noted a few housekeeping items and announced two new members of the SPBRT: Mary Hodge (representing Adams County) and Robin Wiley (representing Yuma County).

5. Jacobs Engineering: Salinity Management Plan Study (Jack Greene – 20 min)

Jack Greene from Jacobs Engineering presented the WISE Salinity Management Plan Study. After explaining the Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency (WISE) Partnership structure and the project background, Greene discussed various desalinization technologies and their relative costs. Desalinization methods include options for membrane technologies (e.g., nanofiltration, reverse

osmosis, electrodialysis) and options for brine disposal (e.g., deep well injection, mechanical evaporation and industrial waste landfill, mechanical evaporation and hazardous waste landfill).

Throughout the presentation, SPBRT members asked about the comparative efficacy and cost of each combination of options and what volumes of water Jacobs used in the calculations. Greene then explained blending options (i.e., the mixing of elevated TDS water and cleaner, lower salinity water). There are options to blend the two water sources instantaneously or to blend them over time in storage (such as in a reservoir). Finally, Greene compared costs between desalination and blending. Greene's key takeaways included the fact that though the cost of blending is highly dependent on timing, the amount, and the location of the different water sources, blending can be cost competitive if phosphorus pre-treatment is not necessary. SPBRT members thanked Greene for his presentation and insights.

6. Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed: Water Plan Grant (Hally Strevey – action required)

Hally Strevey from the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) took the floor to request the SPBRT's recommendation for CPRW's Water Plan Grant application. CPRW's Water Plan Grant application focuses on stakeholder engagement, community outreach, and citizen science. Strevey noted that CPRW has completed three large scale restoration projects since the 2012 High Park Fire and has continuing plans to build upon their existing foundation of outreach and engagement tools related to water quality.

The Water Plan Grant application outlines how CPRW's efforts meet several of the Water Plan and SPBRT's BIP goals. For example, Section 5.5 of the SPBRT BIP states the need to fill existing data gaps. CPRW's citizen science program aims to collect data on how prescribed fire affects watershed health and water quality. After the presentation, Bill Szmyd asked how CPRW measures the success of their programs. Strevey replied that they track community engagement with metrics (e.g., number of attendees at events) and that the goal of the data collection component is to have the public and land managers utilize the water quality data in decision making. Strevey and SPBRT members then discussed the relationship between prescribed burns and water quality. Strevey noted that CPRW's intent is to share data after the pilot citizen science program is completed. Jason Roudebush made a motion for the SPBRT to recommend the Water Plan Grant and Sean Chambers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Committee Updates

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

Craig Godbout reported \$529,615 for the South Platte Basin balance and \$3,263,240 for the statewide balance.

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

Casey Davenhill took the floor to provide a PEPO update. The PEPO workgroup met prior to the SPBRT meeting. During the PEPO meeting, Craig Godbout provided a list of projects that have been funded by both the SPBRT and the Metro RT in the last few years. The PEPO workgroup would like to highlight a couple recent influential projects on the SPBRT [website](#). Davenhill also reported that the workgroup is in the process of putting together a 2020 events calendar. PEPO members participated in various water-related events in 2019 (e.g., Poudre River Forum, South Platte Forum, Upper South Platte Watershed Association, CO Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting) and plan to attend many of them again in 2020. In addition, Davenhill has been talking with Colorado WaterWise about the

Live Like You Love It campaign. PEPO members are developing a relationship with Colorado WaterWise and see potential to use their messaging materials for public facing events and publications.

Davenhill then addressed the Statewide Education Plan update (funded by CWCB). Each Roundtable has a PEPO committee and plan. The statewide PEPO group has been meeting for the past year to refine the communication principles to focus on water educators and school-aged children. The statewide PEPO group will go to the November CWCB Board meeting to present findings. Davenhill reminded SPBRT members that in the current SPBRT Education and Action Plan, there is a small budget to possibly develop a video about the South Platte Basin. Davenhill has started talking to a videographer named Christi Bode. Bode has experience working with Roundtables and making videos about water issues. Davenhill then played one of Bode's videos for the group: <https://vimeo.com/364411112/290f64c478> After the video, Davenhill and SPBRT members discussed potential topic ideas for a 5- to 10-minute video. SPBRT members generally agreed that the PEPO workgroup should pursue the video idea and provide updates as the project moves forward.

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

Jason Roudebush took the floor to provide a WSRF update. He reminded everyone that the SPBRT accepts WSRF applications in May and November of each year. The November 2019 round produced five applications on a wide variety of topics. Thus far, there is \$416,000 in requests this round, which would be almost 80% of the SPBRT's basin account balance now; however, this will lower to around 65% when the basin account gets a deposit in January. Roudebush noted that SPBRT members can ask WSRF applicants to make an accompanying statewide account request to lower the impact on the basin account. Over the next couple months, Roudebush and the WSRF Needs Committee will review the applications and make recommendations about whether to accept, delay, or decline each of the five applications before WSRF applicants present at the January 14, 2020 SPBRT meeting.

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

Jim Hall took the floor to provide a groundwater update. He handed out a chart displaying groundwater levels in Gilcrest at various times of the year. The chart is included in the November 2019 meeting materials folder. Hall noted that during this time of the year (November), water is closest to the ground surface. The groundwater committee will meet on December 18. Casey Davenhill asked about the impacts of the dewatering well. Mark Thomas with the North Front Range Water Quality Association explained that Gilcrest had to install the dewatering well because groundwater was interfering with wastewater treatment lagoons.

Bob Longenbaugh then explained how high groundwater levels affect farmers who are trying to harvest ground crops such as onions. The pipeline that carries water away from the dewatering well is limited in size, which limits the dewatering capacity of the well. Longenbaugh stressed the need to manage both ground and surface water. He expressed that water quality is the biggest issue to tackle right now and passed out a flyer for a water quality meeting taking place on November 20-21. The flyer is included in the November 2019 meeting materials folder.

Dinner was held from 5:35 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

8. Water Resources Review Committee (WRRC) Legislative Update (G. Varra – 10 min)

Garrett Varra took the floor to present a legislative update. At the October 2019 SPBRT meeting, members requested to have a regular update of bills in front of the Water Resources Review Committee. Six bills were included in the November meeting materials folder for review. Varra noted that the legislative session begins again in January. Recently, the WRRC was given a presentation on the Technical Update (i.e., SWSI). The chair of each Roundtable also had a chance to speak with the WRRC. The WRRC asked various questions for each RT, such as how far people must travel to go to meetings and whether they could obtain technology to allow people to participate remotely. When Varra spoke to the WRRC, he emphasized that the SPBRT is focusing on funding projects in order to fill the gap by 2050.

Casey Davenport then asked how the passing of Proposition DD, which legalized sports betting, will impact the Roundtables' work. Craig Godbout responded and said programmatic details still need to be ironed out; two new full-time employees were funded through the bill in addition to the bill's focus on funneling sports betting tax dollars towards the Water Plan Grant program.

9. SPROWG Update (J. Frank – 10 min)

Joe Frank was not present at the meeting to provide a SPROWG update. The next SPROWG task force meeting is on December 10 (location to be determined).

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

Jim Yahn was not present at the meeting. Sean Cronin reported on the October IBCC meeting. As part of the IBCC meeting, Cronin attended the WRRC legislative meeting that Garrett Varra spoke about earlier in the meeting. Cronin suggested that CWCB staff present about demand management strategies at an upcoming SPBRT meeting. Cronin reminded the group that he serves on the local government and economics demand management workgroup; however, he missed the last workgroup meeting. The IBCC is focusing on demand management for the Colorado River and is trying to come up with equitable demand management solutions. Cronin encouraged SPBRT members to reach out to him or to Jim Yahn if they have concerns or ideas to bring up at IBCC meetings. Craig Godbout and Garrett Varra mentioned that demand management could be a topic at the February 2020 SPBRT meeting. Cronin then noted that the Governor asked Russ George to serve as the IBCC Chairperson and thanked Garrett Varra for representing the SPBRT well at the WRRC meeting.

11. CWCB Update (J. Yahn – 5 min)

Jim Yahn was not present at the meeting to provide a CWCB update. There hasn't been a CWCB Board meeting since October.

12. Public Comment (15 min)

Bob Longenbaugh and SPBRT members discussed Regulation 84 and 85, which affect water quality standards. Dan Gallen added that Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) is reaching out to ditch companies along the Front Range to discuss these issues, particularly Regulation 85. Jason Roudebush then invited SPBRT members to join the WSRF Needs Committee if they were interested. Daylan Figgs volunteered to help the Needs Committee review applications.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.