

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Annual Meeting Virtual

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alexandra Davis, Andrea Rogers, Anita Seitz, Anne Beierle, Barbara Biggs, Bob Peters, Casey Davenport, Chris Douglass, Courtney Brand, Darren Beck, David Allen, David Nickum, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Eric Hecox, Janet Bell, Jessica Brody, Jim Hall, Kimberly Gortz, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Rick Marsicek, Rick McLoud, Rob Sakata, Sarah Borgers, Shaden Musleh, Steve O'Dorisio,

Guests:

Austa Parker, Blair Corning, Chip Paulson, Eric Jorgensen, Grady O'Brien, Jayla Poppleton, Joshua Baile, Katherine Weismiller, Laura Belanger, Lauren Berent, Laura Chartrand, Lindsay Rogers, Mallory Hiss, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Matt Lindburg, Megan McCarthy, Pamela Gaines, Patricia Wells, Royal Koepsell, Tom Arnold, Will Koger

CWCB:

Russ Sands, Sam Stein, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Approval of April 2020 MRT Meeting Summary

The April 2020 MRT Meeting Summary will be moved to the June MRT meeting for approval.

3. Agenda: additions or changes

The Lookout Mountain Water District Rehabilitation of Beaver Brook Dam presentation will be moved to the June agenda.

4. Public Comment

MRT will not be able to use Denver Water until August, if not longer. Steve O'Dorisio suggested MRT might be able to use the Adams County Government Conference Center.

5. Annual Meeting

1. Election of Chair/Vice-Chair

It was moved to keep Barbara Biggs as Chair and Lisa Darling as Vice-Chair by Rick Marsicek and seconded by Emily Hunt; motion carried unanimously.

2. Review of Committee Chairs / Membership

A review was made of committees and the committee chairs.

It was suggested MRT create two new committees, Municipal & Industrial to provide support with WSRF grant review and help with the BIP process. The second an Ag Committee, which is needed to support collaboration with the SPBRT on the BIP Update. MRT has important pockets of agriculture. There is currently an MRT M&I lead for IPPs and an M&I lead for Reuse and Conservation, shown as separate categories for WSRF funding.

Bob Peters will Chair the M&I committee. Volunteering to assist Bob on this committee are Alex Davis, Chris Douglas, Emily Hunt, Eric Hecox, and Lisa Darling. Interest in the AG committee are Devon Buckels, Sarah Borgers, Shaden Musleh and Rob Sakata.

It was suggested that, given the divisions MRT has had with Ag and Muni over the years, it may be beneficial to combine the two and work together. Cross-pollination could be beneficial. MRT needs to consider how the SPBRT is structuring their committees, since these will be joint committees. Long-term, MRT could have a combined M&I/Ag Committee, but in the near-term separate committees are needed to support collaboration with the SPBRT during the BIP Update process.

3. Membership

1. An attendance review was conducted. Ability to attend was addressed. The current membership will remain the same. If a Member is absent for three meetings in row, that Member may be the subject of removal.

Only members that hold statutory seats can vote to select new members.

2. Recommendation Industrial Rep-Blair Corning
Statutory vote conducted to select Blair Corning as Industrial Rep; unanimously selected.
3. Recommendation At-Large member–Anita Seitz
Statutory vote conducted to select Anita Seitz as Member At-Large; selected with one abstention from Sarah Borgers.
4. Recommendation At-Large member–Patricia Wells
Statutory vote conducted to select Patricia Wells as Member At-large, unanimously selected.
5. Recommendation At-Large member-Thomas Arnold
Statutory vote conducted to select Thomas Arnold as Member At-large, unanimously selected.

Suggestion made to limit recruitment of new members to the time leading up to the May Annual Meeting. At the first of year we could post that the Annual Meeting is in May and announce which seats are open. Interested parties could submit their package for consideration to the SPBRT website.

Does MRT want to create a Development Committee to help reach out to people, develop a process, review the paperwork, and bring information to the group a month before the Annual Meeting to prepare the membership for consideration? A Development Committee was agreed upon. Alex Davis volunteered to lead the Committee.

6. WSRF (Hunt)

1. Adoption of Updated WSRF Criteria and Guidelines

A draft of proposed updates was received in the meeting packet. Two items were addressed, removing reference to funding amounts that change on year to year basis, and adding small utility projects that do not fit into the other categories. The committee asked for feedback on the guidelines and their alignment with the goals of MRT. A second feedback question was asked about the current WSRF grant submittal process, which is on a rolling basis. The SPBRT has a twice a year submittal process that coincides with the CWCB Statewide WSRF Fund process. The committee proposed moving MRT's process to twice a year to align with SPBRT and the Statewide WSRF. Committee recommends going to twice a year process. This would help applicants to have a more disciplined process and would help the MRT award grants based on a prioritization given limited funding. CWCB accepts applications in March and September. About half of the applications MRT receives are also requesting Statewide funds.

A suggestion was also made to go through the document and remove references to M&I and make the guidelines more general. When the language is too detailed it can limit flexibility. Making the guideline language broad could open opportunities for different types of projects.

The membership agreed that taking the WSRF application submittal process timing to twice a year is preferred going forward as long as the timeline aligns with SPBRT and the Statewide WSRF process. Revisions will be made for a final document to be reviewed and voted on at the June MRT meeting.

2. 1st Presentation - Irrigated Agriculture's Role in South Platte Basin Salinity - Grady Obrien

Proposing a follow-up study on salinity that impacts crop yields, irrigated agriculture's salinity contribution, lower basin reservoir salinity and geologic and groundwater baseflow salinity. Asking for \$25,000 from MRT. Total project cost is \$396,890. They have submitted a full proposal to the South Platte RT. MRT asked the applicant to ensure all interested participants are at the table. This is an important issue for the entire basin. It would be helpful for MRT to understand the concerns in greater detail. The applicant was asked to present at the June MRT meeting to allow for a broader discussion.

3. 1st Presentation - 10.10.10 Application

Only soliciting funding from MRT. If they receive approval, they will get their application submitted for the June State application period. 10 problems in 10 days is the approach. The main event would take place in October. The effort is focus on public education and engagement that illuminates the problem for the entrepreneur. They break down issue complexity using system maps to allow entrepreneurs to better understand and address the problem. There would be two public facing events that are marketed and live streamed. Requesting \$45,000 from MRT. They have a private contribution and event aligns with innovation element of CWP.

Applicant was asked to come back next month and address the difference between this presentation and the original presentation they made to MRT.

4. 2nd Presentation - WaterReuse Colorado Update (Laura Belanger, Western Resource)

They are pursuing a Statewide Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant. Asking for funding to hire a facilitator to go through a formal stakeholder process with the Water Quality Control Division to develop a proposal for statewide direct potable reuse regulations. The budget is \$149,800 for an anticipated 15-month process to start in late 2020. They have secured \$50,000 in matching funds. Asking for \$50,000 from MRT WSRF Basin Grant.

Motion to approve the WaterReuse Colorado application made by Lisa Darling and seconded by Alex Davis; approved unanimously.

5. Funds Status Per Category Update

1. WSRF Balance Summary provided in meeting packet. If you have questions, contact Emily Hunt.

7. Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) (Jayla Poppleton)

There are funding uncertainties with all statewide funded initiatives. Outreach Education efforts are in the CWP. They received a 2018 CWP grant and match with a USDA ThinkWater Grant to advance water education. They hired a strategic planning consultant to guide the collaborative stakeholder process. This is a 5-year plan with common vision for water educators. They are enrolling co-implementers to participate. Designed outcomes are around multiple disciplines. The strategic framework for the plan was provided. They are working on a form to be embedded in the SWEAP website to engage people to get involved at www.wateredco.org/sweap. They will be seeking endorsements.

8. BIP Update (Matt Cook/ Mary Prescan)

HDR provided vision for BIP documents that would involve two volumes and streamlines future updates. Volume I will be the strategy document. Volume II is the original BIP with edits. The work plan and local expert workshops were discussed. An overview of the timeline of next steps was shared that extends to January 2022. BRT action items include updating the project lists that should be finalized by June 30, 2021. There will be a Joint Steering Committee, subcommittees (E&R, M&I, AG) and RT review of previous SP-BIP of overarching themes, plan elements, goals, and measurable outcomes. SPBRT website (www.southplattebasin.com) is being updated to make BIP information easier to access. Technical update is provided at, <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/technical-update-plan>.

Use BIP to update SPB IPPs and create a useable roadmap. Define process for participation to get MRT members onto BIP committees. The frequency and level of effort will change at times. Request made by MRT to HDR to put together a document describing the BIP committees and what participation on each committee may involve.

9. CWCB Update (Stein)

The Local Expert workshop was well attended. CWCB has determined that Demand Management will not be addressed in the BIP update, because there is parallel work being done. The Board will look at this during the July meeting. July 20th is the date for the Board meeting. \$120,000 was put into the Basin account in April. This is likely equal or more than what will be put into the account over the next couple of years. All grant reviews except the WSRF have been delayed until the July meeting. Introduced new Deputy Director of Water Supply Planning, Kathryn “Kat” Weismiller.

10. IBCC Update (Darling/Bennett)

IBCC meeting will move forward on June 4th.

11. Committee Updates

1. PEPO (Davenhill)

1. MRT/SPB Education Coordination Report

We are in the process of developing a short video to provide background and context for South Platte basin water supply planning.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Nickum)

12. Meeting Schedule

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, May 12th, 2020, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, May 14th, 2020, **3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
3. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, June 9th, 2020, 4:00 pm, Southwest Weld County Bldg., 4209 Weld County Rd 24 ½, Longmont (**location tentatively scheduled**)
4. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, June 11th, 2020, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Denver Water, between 12th and 13th on Shoshone*, Denver, CO 80204 (**location tentatively scheduled**)

Meeting Adjourned – 6:00 pm