

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Remote GoToMeeting
4:00-7:00 p.m.

SPBRT Meeting
Tue, Jun 9, 2020 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MDT)

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South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

1. GoToMeeting Orientation, Questions, and Comments (G. Varra – 10 min)

The meeting started at 4:04 p.m. Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending the SPBRT's third virtual meeting. He went over virtual meeting etiquette (e.g., mute yourself when not speaking, enter questions or comments into the chat box, refrain from eating on camera, be concise and follow agenda).

2. Welcome/Introductions (G. Varra – 10 min)

In attendance: Mary Hodge*, Loretta Daniel*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Dan Brown*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Frank Eckhardt*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, Daylan Figgs*, Larry Howard*, Shane Miller*, Joe Frank*, Allyn Wind*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Jason Roudebush*, Deb Daniel*, Bruce Gerk*, Sean Cronin*, Lynda James*, Sean Chambers*, Robin Wiley*, Samuel Stein, Russ Sands, Casey Davenport, Mallory Hiss, Corey DeAngelis, Christy Wiseman, Shannon Curley, Steve Malers, Kathryn Weismiller, Yoichiro Kanno, Grady O'Brien, Lesley Sebol, Royal Koepsell, Audrey Butler, Austa Parker, Laura Belanger, Bill Szafranski, Chip Paulson, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Natalie Miller, Paul Eggers, Peter Barkmann, Donnie Dustin, Jordana Barrack, Kate Ryan, Kayla Ranney, and multiple members of the public. 25 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

3. Approval of May 2020 SPBRT Meeting Minutes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)

Dick Elsner made a motion to approve the May 2020 meeting minutes and Sean Cronin seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

4. June 2020 Agenda Additions or Changes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)

There were no proposed additions or changes to the June 2020 meeting agenda. Dick Elsner made a motion to accept the meeting agenda and Lynda James seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

5. WaterReuse Colorado: Request for Letter of Support for Metro Roundtable WSRF and Water Plan Grant (Laura Belanger – 15 min action required)

Austa Parker presented WaterReuse Colorado's request for support of their Metro and State WSRF grant applications. The Direct Potable Reuse in Colorado Regulatory Stakeholder Facilitation Project aims to fund a professionally facilitated 15-month stakeholder process. The project deliverable is a regulatory proposal to initiate a Water Quality Control Division rulemaking on direct potable reuse. After the presentation, Laura Belanger clarified that WaterReuse Colorado is not seeking a Water Plan Grant (as incorrectly stated in the agenda); they are seeking WSRF grants from both the Metro Roundtable and Statewide accounts. The Metro Roundtable has already approved the WSRF grant request. Dick Elsner made a motion to provide WaterReuse Colorado with the requested letter of support and Kevin Lusk seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest. Garrett Varra noted that he will follow up on the letter.

6. Colorado Water Trust Instream Flow Presentation (Kate Ryan – 30 min)

Kate Ryan presented Colorado Water Trust's instream flow presentation. After providing background on the Colorado Water Trust, she went over two new instream flow bills, HB20-1037 and HB20-1157, which were signed into law by Gov. Polis in March. Ryan also provided a brief legal history of the state's instream flow program. She concluded by outlining implications for the South Platte Basin; the new legislation may lead to more instream flow projects in the South Platte Basin. Responding to a question from Garrett Varra, Ryan invited any water rights owners wanting to explore potential projects to reach out to her or to one of Colorado Water Trust's project staff. SPBRT members discussed how they can integrate instream flow augmentation opportunities into the BIP update.

7. Committee Updates

a. South Platte Basin and Statewide Account Balances / Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (S. Stein and J. Roudebush – 10 min)

As of May 28, there was \$611,865 in the South Platte Basin account.

Jason Roudebush reminded everyone that the WSRF Needs Committee received two WSRF applications in time for the May 1 deadline and have confirmed the applications' completeness. The applicants will present at the July SPBRT meeting. One application is a continuation of the South Platte Salinity study from Colorado Corn. The other application is from a group of researchers at CSU. The WSRF Needs Committee is waiting to hear more information from CWCB about the future of WSRF funding. The two received applications represent about 10% of Basin WSRF funds as of now. Sam Stein noted that CWCB will likely

not deposit new funds into the Roundtables' WSRF accounts for the next two years due to state budget issues.

i. WSRF Guidelines Discussion (J. Roudebush – 30 min)

Jason Roudebush reminded meeting attendees that he brought forward suggested edits to the WSRF guidelines at the May meeting. He sent the edits to CWCB staff for their review (i.e., to check continuity with statute) and is awaiting comments. The two WSRF grant applications received in May will be reviewed under the old guidelines. The next WSRF grant application deadline is November 1, 2020.

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

Casey Davenhill provided a PEPO update. Along with Mallory Hiss, she has been revamping the South Platte Basin [website](#); hopefully the updated information will be useful to new SPBRT and Metro RT members. Website feedback is always welcome. PEPO activities continue to operate with existing WSRF grant funding. The PEPO Committee hopes to extend their purchase order through December so they can complete the video project. The video has a basic storyline as of now. PEPO Committee members are developing a list of potential interviewees with a wide range of lived experiences for the videographer to contact. The video will be in a documentary style. Please send interviewee recommendations to Casey. Garrett Varra noted that it will be important to highlight how hard the South Platte River works and the need to hone in on that message.

8. BIP Update (G. Varra and Matt Cook – 20 min)

The BIP Update Steering Committee met on May 27 and will meet again on June 10 at 1 p.m. via WebEx. Matt Cook presented process updates. The Local Expert team has a SharePoint site that they're using to relay documents and information to the BIP Update Steering Committee. Matt Cook and his team want to finalize the members of each subcommittee (i.e., environment and recreation, agriculture, municipal and industrial) and the respective chairs of each subcommittee as soon as possible. Some subcommittees may have joint chairs (such as a person from the SPBRT and a person from the Metro RT) and some subcommittees may only have one chair. The meeting schedule for both the Steering Committee and the subcommittees is still being determined. Matt Cook encouraged all SPBRT members to read the previous Basin Implementation Plan as well as the South Platte Basin's section of the 2019 Technical Update to the Water Plan. Chip Paulson and Garrett Varra discussed the need to finalize chairs for each of the subcommittees.

9. IBCC Update (J. Yahn and S. Cronin – 10 min)

Jim Yahn noted that the IBCC has a virtual meeting scheduled for June 17. Sean Cronin discussed the poll that CWCB sent out to IBCC members asking their preferences on meeting logistics as well as asking them to propose topics for discussion.

10. CWCB Update (J. Yahn – 10 min)

Jim Yahn reported that the CWCB Board met on May 20 for a one day virtual meeting. At the meeting, the CWCB Board affirmed the need for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Fund, listened to a CO River update and discussed demand management, tabled Water Education Colorado's request to the July CWCB Board meeting (due to budget uncertainties), approved several instream flow projects, heard a financial update (though it's changing daily as the legislature continues to meet), approved a loan in the South Platte Basin, approved four WSRF grant applications, had an executive session, and authorized funding for litigation (mostly related to CO River issues) for fiscal year 2021. SPBRT members discussed various reasons for declining Severance Tax revenues and associated state budget impacts.

SPBRT members and CWCB staff then discussed the status of various CWCB grant and loan programs and the possibility of finding other sources of funding for Water Plan implementation (such as Prop. DD, which passed in November). Garrett Varra agreed that funding will be a challenge moving forward. Samuel Stein and Russ Sands provided CWCB staff updates. Sam Stein noted that CWCB staff is excited to be making progress on the BIP updates and all Roundtables are on track to finish their BIP update workplans by the end of July. He also thanked everyone who attended the Water Plan listening sessions on June 3 and 4. There will be two more listening sessions on June 10 and 11. Stein reminded attendees that he is happy to answer questions on CWCB grant programs. He also mentioned current drought conditions in the state and the upcoming virtual IBCC and CWCB Board meetings. Russ Sands talked about the latest COVID-19 guidance for state agencies and how that will affect CWCB business in the next few months. Of note, Roundtables will not be able to use CWCB funds to book meeting spaces and cater food. He further discussed budget issues and different sources of funding for Water Plan implementation work.

11. Public Comment (10 min)

Corey DeAngelis noted that Colorado Division of Water Resources staff will continue to telecommute until September 7. He then provided a snowpack update. Other attendees talked about how the stay at home orders are affecting different state agencies.

Leslie Sebol reminded attendees of Colorado Geological Survey's new online [Colorado Groundwater Atlas](#).

Garrett Varra announced that Bill Szmyd's Local Domestic Water Provider SPBRT seat is open. Please forward this information to potential applicants. The application to fill the seat will be open until mid-July. Roundtable members will vote on applications in August. Varra discussed potential legislation that relates to a permitting requires for dredging (i.e., waters of the state). He encouraged Roundtable members to keep an eye on the evolving legislation. Finally, Varra announced that the July SPBRT meeting will be conducted virtually again via GoToMeeting.