

# **Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary**

Thursday, August 13, 2020

**Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

GoToMeeting - Virtual

## **Members in Attendance:**

Alexandra Davis, Andrea Rogers, Anita Seitz, Anne Beierle, Barbara Biggs, Blair Corning, Bob Peters, Casey Davenport, Courtney Brand, Dave Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Janet Bell, Jim Hall, Kim Gortz, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Rob Sakata, Sarah Borgers, Shaden Musleh, Steve O'Dorisio, Susan Nedell, Tom Arnold

## **Guests:**

Andy Nye, Carolyn Roan, Chip Paulson, Dave Bennett, Eric Jorgensen, John Covert, Katherine Weismiller, Katy Keefe, Katy Rider, Kayla Ranney, Mallory Hiss, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Rick Presecan, Will Koger

## **CWCB:**

Russ Sands, Sam Stein, Diane Kielty

## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

### **1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min.)**

### **2. Approval of July 2020 MRT Meeting Summary (2 min.)**

It was moved by Tom Arnold and seconded by Lisa Darling to approve the July 2020 meeting summary as presented; motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Agenda: additions or changes (5 min.)**

### **4. Public Comment (3 min.)**

### **5. WSRF (Hunt) (5 min.)**

#### **1. Funds Status Per Category Update (5 min.)**

1. WSRF Balance Summary – No change from last month. There are four grants going to CWCB in September. Assuming they all get approved, the balance will change. A review of potential changes was provided.

### **6. Thornton's Northern Project (Emily Hunt) (10 min.)**

Discussed Thornton's Northern Properties Stewardship Plan as a process for Thornton's agricultural-to-municipal water transfer. Thornton is conducting a community informed land transfer process starting with data gathering. They will be embarking on a regional planning effort. They may come back to MRT with a grant request. Presentation is available upon request.

### **7. Douglas County Water Supply & Land Use Review (Kati Rider) (30 min.)**

Douglas County is not a water provider. They use other mechanisms. The only nexus the County has with water supply is through the land use process implemented through zoning and subdivision regulations. Their groundwater is administered by CO Division of Water Resources and the State Engineer. They developed margin requirements, participate in a WISE agreement with Aurora Water, Denver Water and South Metro WISE Authority, and work with water districts to promote collaboration and conservation as opposed to competition. They also developed a water alternatives program to assist developing water supply alternatives and protect ground water and property values. Presentation is available upon request.

## **8. IBCC Survey/MRT Priorities and Direction (Darling/Bennett) (20 min.)**

The survey link is still active, and they would appreciate feedback. Climate change and issues around drought and water availability did come up in the survey. Climate change scenario planning is on the MRT radar. It would be interesting to see IPPs from other RTs to help inform MRT activities. There are overarching projects that have been identified that effect many basins. What are the next steps with this survey information? Find the common denominators and focus on a few key topics. A request was made to bring the priority issues back to the RTs to provide additional input. A presentation was provided and is available upon request.

## **9. BIP Update (Matt Cook) (20 min.)**

Tiering approaches for projects and WIG was discussed. A CDOT projects webpage was provided as an example of a potential outcome (<https://www.codot.gov/projects>). The tiering mechanism is designed to identify states of readiness of all projects throughout the state. It's a tool for considering all projects (E&R, Ag, M&I) on an equal footing. Project categories are implementation, planning and conceptual. The prioritization criteria are project readiness, alignment with BIP/local plans/CWP, availability of descriptive data, and criticality. Project tiering approaches for the SP basin BIP update were presented for feedback from MRT to inform the workplan to be submitted later this month.

## **10. CWCB Update (Sam Stein) (5 min.)**

### Key Dates:

August 26<sup>th</sup> - Public Demand Management Workshop from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board Demand Management Workshop from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – CWCB Board Meeting

All meetings will be held virtually.

Link to public comment with dates for meetings: <https://engagecwcb.org/public-comment-survey-on-colorados-demand-management-feasibility-investigation-update>

Email will be sent out to set a date for an all chairs call to clarify RT duties as it relates to statute and WSRF criteria and guidelines.

Governor has activated the Drought Task Force. If you are interested, the next task force meeting is August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **11. Committee Updates (10 min.)**

### **1. PEPO (Davenhill) (5 min.)**

#### **1. MRT/SPB Education Coordination Report**

Video - Christi Bode is videographer leading the project. The focus is on the hydrologic function of the South Platte River, the value of agriculture and the unique character of our watershed. With input from this Roundtable Christi has contacted Brent Schantz (who recommended Brad Stromberger), and Andy Bartlett (who recommended Brett & Mark Arnusch and Kyle Kautz).

Agreed to interview:

- Micaela Fenton - former executive with FFA, looking for FFA member who has a family connection to agriculture
- Patti Wells - formerly with Denver Water, now a member of the Metro Roundtable
- Former Denver Mayor, and NJC basketball champion, Wellington Webb
- Mark Beardsley and Brad Johnson - 30 years' experience working with Denver, Aurora Water and the South Park community promoting headwaters protection

Keep It Colorado (KIC) – Colorado Watershed Assembly was put in touch with KIC by the Land Trust community. They're an umbrella organization promoting conservation, protection, and stewardship of rural lands in Colorado including Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Douglas Land Conservancy, South Metro Land Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, TNC and other conservation minded landowners. If the RT would be interested in having a presentation/conversation with KIC, Garrett has offered the opportunity for KIC to make a presentation to the South Platte RT, learn more about the RT process and become more engaged with the RT and the BIP process.

PEPO has a meeting tomorrow with the Live Like You Love It (LLYLI) organization to develop water conservation messaging that will resonate in the South Platte watershed. LLYLI provides the template for WC messaging for Northern Water, City of Greeley, City of Thornton, and others. By working with LLYLI, PEPO can leverage the work that's already been done and identify with the water conservation branding that is becoming more familiar in the South Platte basin.

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference will be held virtually Oct. 6 & 7. It's in the early and uncertain planning phase of offering several low attendance tours to get outside and have some fun. Tours may include Greeley Turf Conversion Tour and Cherry Creek Pollution Abatement Project Tour

SRM is on October 23rd in Ft. Collins.

Southplattebasin.com website – Please visit the website and give PEPO your feedback via email link - **What does the Roundtable want from the website?**

The PEPO Education Action Plan is currently being updated for 2021. CWA will present a proposal to the MRT Roundtable at the September meeting to request continued funding for the PEPO Working Committee.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Nickum) (5 min.)  
Return flow regimes are a significant topic for E&R. A better understanding of this is important and the group is looking into how they could best investigate.

## **12. Board Member Comments (5 min)**

Last month a presentation was given on SWEAP. The coalition for SWEAP is looking for endorsements as they move toward goals in the plan. They have put together a summary sheet for the ask. WEco will come to speak about this.

Water Congress has a workshop of interest in timing conflict with the MRT September meeting. The workshop may be recorded. Members who want to attend may want to check into this option.

Link to the July Board Workshop which lists the grants that were heard:  
<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/virtual-board-meeting-july-15-16-2020>

## **13. Meeting Schedule**

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, August 11th, 2020, 4:00 pm, **GoToMeeting Online**
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, August 13th, 2020, **3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, GoToMeeting Online**
3. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, September 8th, 2020, 4:00 pm, **GoToMeeting Online**
4. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, September 10th, 2020, **3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, GoToMeeting Online**