

# **Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary**

Thursday, September 10, 2020

**Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**GoToMeeting Virtual**

## **Members in Attendance:**

Alexandra Davis, Barbara Biggs, Bob Peters, Courtney Brand, Darren Beck, Dave Allen, Dave Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Jessica Brody, Jim Hall, Kim Gortz, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Mary Hodge, Morgan Lynch, Rick Marsicek, Rick McCloud, Rob Sakata, Sarah Borgers, Shaden Musleh, Susan Nedell, Tom Arnold

## **Guests:**

Chip Paulson, Eric Jorgensen, Jeff Deems, Judy Beck, Karen Burgi, Kara Sobieski, Katherine Weismiller, Kayla Ranney, Kevin Laptos, Mallory Hiss, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Matt Lindburg, Melissa Mosier, Royal Koepsell, Ryan Gilliam

## **CWCB:**

Russ Sands, Sam Stein, Megan Holcomb, Diane Kielty

## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

### **1. Welcome/Introductions**

### **2. Approval of August 2020 MRT Meeting Summary**

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

### **3. Agenda: additions or changes**

None

### **4. Public Comment**

None

### **5. Drought Update (Megan Holcomb)**

Discussed drought virtual tour to assess drought impacts around the state. CWCB is requesting stories from people about their personal impacts from drought and is asking for photos when possible. This is one avenue they're using to collect stories to roll into a report on the drought season and inform how to improve their response. A press release has been sent to the MRT members.

### **6. BIP Update (Matt Cook)**

Made a review of the previous BIP. They're in the process of putting together a survey to send out to both RTs. Provided overview of planning scenarios. Goals & Measurable outcomes were separated into seven categories. Each category was discussed to identify what to work on in the update. Members suggested bringing all basins BIP planning to IBCC to compare and avoid potential conflicting goals. Presentation is available upon request.

### **7. CWCB Update (Sam Stein)**

Basin account balance is at \$879,595. This will change once the Board reviews and approves projects. Due to the oil and gas sector situation, WSRF does not anticipate additional funds from severance tax. The State is accounting for this by stretching the state account over the next 3 years. There is a survey to evaluate the WSRF criteria and guidelines. Suggestions to improve the WSRF process include moving the deadline up one month to allow 2 months of preparation time, update guideline terminology, and instead of the current distribution system, go to a full

allotment of basin account funds on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Take the WSRF survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJXKQZW>.

They are anticipating new Covid guidelines to be released. CWCB staff is on stay at home directive until January. The CWCB Board meeting scheduled on Sept 16-17 and IBCC meeting scheduled on October 21<sup>st</sup> both will be held online. CWCB Board Meeting Agenda can be found at, <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/virtual-board-meeting-september-16-17-2020>

## 8. Committee Updates

### 1. PEPO (Mallory Hiss)

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

Video - Christi Bode, videographer

Focus on the hydrologic function of the South Platte River, the value of agriculture and the unique character of our watershed. Since last month, Christi has been able to get a few good vantage points of the South Platte below Fort Morgan to Julesburg. She was looking to capture visuals of the river corridor surrounded by ag lands and protected wildlife areas (Tamarack). Bruce Gerk and Jim Yahn recommended some sections that visually show the river's return flows and river function. Christi was planning to fly her drone and was hoping for introductions to any landowners that would be receptive to the educational cause. Jim Yahn stepped up and arranged for a plane to take Christi up for a bird's eye view. The Yahn family most graciously hosted Christi at their home for the night. Christi was most appreciative.

Keep It Colorado, statewide 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, will be making a presentation at the October South Platte Roundtable meeting.

They are making progress on the Live Like You Love It (LLYLI) campaign. Our Communications & Social Media Assistant is coordinating the graphics and messaging for SPB Twitter, Facebook and Instagram platforms that will allow potential stakeholders to have easier access to information regarding the South Platte Basin and the collaborations that take place. Not only will information be more accessible, it will be shareable and will allow viewers to easily pass along information. Colorado Watershed Assembly staff will be leveraging LLYLI social media material to post existing, cohesive content on South Platte Basin platforms. The main goals being to a) share the LLYLI toolkit b) further explain the statistic that 86% of South Platte water is used in agriculture and positively showcase agriculture's role in the community and watershed.

The plan will be to post at least three times a week on each social media platform. Curating content and photos, utilizing icons provided by LLYLI, checking with the administrator that all posts look accurate and aligned with SPB goals, and are the actions needed to successfully tell the SPB's story to stakeholders, community members, and voters.

**Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference** – Oct. 6 & 7 is in the early and uncertain planning phase of several low attendance tours because we are all antsy to get outside and have some fun. Greeley Turf Conversion Tour, Cherry Creek Agricultural Practices Tour at Prairie Canyon Ranch in Douglas County and Big Thompson Confluence Mitigation Bank Tour

**Society for Range Management** – October 23 in Ft. Collins.

The Education Action Plan is currently being updated for 2021; CWA was hoping to present a proposal to this Roundtable at the September meeting to request continued funding for the PEPO Working Committee. We need to schedule an Education Committee meeting to finalize this proposal. Casey has not been able to coordinate that schedule and would like to respectfully request another month to complete the 2021 Education Action Plan and budget.

Please visit [Southplattebasin.com](http://Southplattebasin.com) and give your feedback via email link. What does the Roundtable want from the website?

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Nickum)

They will be working with the local experts on measurable outcome questions. If members have specific thoughts on those, please contact David Nickum. There was a presentation from the City of Ft. Collins measuring river health on the Poudre. It's an interesting approach to a river health evaluation framework. The presentation is available upon request.

## 9. Board Member Comments

Is there anything changing to the WSRF guidelines? MRT should plan to adjust our schedule to meet new guidelines.

## 10. Meeting Schedule

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, September 8th, 2020, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, September 10th, 2020, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
3. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, October 6th, 2020, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
4. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, October 8th, 2020, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)