

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Remote GoToMeeting
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Tue, Oct 13, 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 4:06 p.m. Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending the SPBRT's seventh virtual meeting. He reminded attendees of 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: Loretta Daniel*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, Jim Ford*, Daylan Figgs*, John Kolanz*, Shane Miller*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Bruce Gerk*, Jason Roudebush*, Lynda James*, Sean Chambers*, Sean Cronin, Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Casey Davenport, Christy Wiseman, Carmen Farmer, Chip Paulson, Chloe Lewis, Corey DeAngelis, David Bonga, Ed Millard, Erik Jorgensen, Ian Stafford, Larry Rogstad, John Geerdes, Jordana Barrack, Matt Cook, Matt Stearns, Melissa Daruna, Peter Barkmann, Robert Sakata, Royal Koepsell, Scott Griebing, Steve Malers, and multiple members of the public. Larry Howard*, Rich Belt*, and Joe Frank* were excused from the October meeting. 18 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

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

Jim Yahn made a motion to approve the September 2020 meeting minutes and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

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

Garrett Varra noted that Jim Yahn has to leave the meeting early; therefore, Jim's CWCB report (agenda item #11) should be moved up to before the committee updates (agenda item #9). Garrett Varra made a motion to accept the October 2020 meeting agenda with the aforementioned changes and Lisa Leben seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

5. Membership Updates (G. Varra – 15 min action required, roll call vote)

a. Local Domestic Water Provider, At-Large Water Rights, At-Large Recreation

Garrett Varra announced that he has still yet to receive any applications for the open local domestic water provider seat. However, there are applicants for the remaining two open voting seats, the at-large water rights seat and the at-large recreation seat, here tonight.

Kirk Vincent was the sole applicant for the at-large water rights seat. He represents the City of Boulder's Water Resources Advisory Board. Kirk Vincent introduced himself and provided background on his experience with water-related policy and projects. Varra reminded everyone that Kirk Vincent's application materials were included in the meeting materials folder. Varra noted that Vincent's application met the criteria for the voting seat as outlined in state statute. Responding to a question from Jim Ford, Vincent clarified that he is retired from his career with USGS and volunteers on the Water Resources Advisory Board as a resident of Boulder. Jim Ford made a motion to appoint Kirk Vincent to the open at-large water rights seat and Bruce Gerk seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest. Varra welcomed Vincent to the SPBRT.

There were two applicants for the at-large recreation seat, Ian Stafford and Larry Rogstad. Garrett Varra did a coin toss to decide which applicant would introduce himself first. Ian Stafford introduced himself to the Roundtable, providing background on his relevant experience. After Stafford's remarks, Larry Rogstad introduced himself and explained his relevant experience. SPBRT members did not have any questions following the applicants' introductions. Varra reminded everyone that per the SPBRT bylaws: "A motion is not passed unless it receives 60% of those voting. No officer or representative shall be elected unless the office or representative receives 60% of the votes of those voting in the election." A roll call vote was then taken, with each present voting member stating their vote for either Ian Stafford or Larry Rogstad. Larry Rogstad won the election with 14 votes. After the vote, Garrett Varra thanked Ian Stafford for his interest and encouraged him to continue attending Roundtable meetings. Varra welcomed Rogstad to the SPBRT.

b. Legislative Appointment: John Kolan

Garrett Varra reminded everyone that John Kolan was officially confirmed as the SPBRT's new legislative appointment at the September meeting. Varra welcomed Kolan to his first meeting as a SPBRT voting member.

6. Keep It Colorado Presentation (Melissa Daruna – 15 min)

Melissa Daruna, Executive Director of Keep It Colorado, presented about Keep It Colorado's work and the state's land trust community. Keep It Colorado's mission is "to unite, elevate and empower Colorado's conservation community to protect the lands and waters that define our state." After her presentation, Daruna and SPBRT members discussed tailoring conservation easements (CEs) for gravel mining and resource extraction sites to recognize various conservation values and uses. Casey Davenport thanked Melissa Daruna for speaking at the meeting as well as for presenting at the virtual 2020 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference earlier in the month. Davenport noted that it is important to have conservation-oriented organizations (especially those that work with private landowners) involved with Roundtable PEPO activities. Bruce Gerk and Larry Rogstad made further comments about the importance of irrigated agriculture and access for hunting on conserved lands. Jim Yahn made comments about the potential for more CEs to consider Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs). Melissa Daruna thanked everyone for their interest.

7. Peak Spatial Water Plan Grant Project Update (Royal Koepsell – 15 min)

Royal Koepsell of Peak Spatial Enterprises presented an update on phase two of the H2info for Colorado project. The SPBRT provided a letter of support for the project's Water Plan Grant application earlier this year. After Koepsell's presentation, Sean Chambers noted that municipal water providers often have to explain to property owners that water provider boundaries do not necessarily match city jurisdictional boundaries. Other SPBRT members commented and agreed that this tool will help homebuyers and real estate agents be more informed.

8. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (S. Stein and J. Yahn – 10 min)

The CWCB update was moved ahead in the agenda because Jim Yahn had to leave the meeting early. Jim Yahn reported that the CWCB Board had a finance committee meeting on September 15, along with a regular Board meeting on September 16-17. The Board discussed WSRF program changes, approved a water lease with the Colorado River District, discussed changes to the instream flow program as a result of HB 20-1157, approved a loan for Genesee Water & Sanitation District, and approved several WSRF grants (including CSU's Sustaining Plains Aquatic Ecosystems project and NEIRBO Hydrogeology's South Platte Basin Salinity, which the SPBRT heard in July).

Sam Stein then covered changes to the WSRF program. Craig Godbout retired from CWCB; the new WSRF contacts for Roundtables are himself and Ban Wade. The WSRF program deadlines now align with Water Plan Grant deadlines. WSRF criteria and guideline updates, as well as the updated WSRF application can be found on CWCB's website. Going forward, there will be one dispersal into Roundtables' WSRF accounts per year. Roundtables will likely have to stretch WSRF funds for three years. CWCB has developed a three-year spending plan for the statewide WSRF account.

Sam Stein also noted that because the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted in-person meetings, CWCB has been doing more online public engagement via engagecwcb.org. Stein demonstrated various pages on the website. According to the latest Executive Order from Governor Polis, in-person Roundtable meetings must be limited to ten people or fewer. CWCB is unable to pay for meeting space or food for the foreseeable future. Lastly, Stein announced that there will be an

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO) joint virtual meeting on October 21.

9. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update (G. Varra and Matt Cook – 60 min)

Matt Cook presented the latest progress on the BIP update. Cook went over survey results from Roundtable members' review of the 2015 BIP's Goals & Measurable Outcomes (G&MOs) as well as the draft organizational structure of the updated BIP. Cook noted that CWCB is trying to streamline and somewhat standardize the organization of each BIP. The updated BIPs will also use the generic term "projects" instead of "IPPs" going forward. The next step for the Local Expert team is to compile all survey feedback and begin putting together a draft that is mapped to the new organizational methodology. The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will review the draft before it is shown to all Roundtable members. The Local Expert team aims to have a solid draft of updated goals, strategies, etc. around the time of the November SPBRT meeting. Then, the team can utilize the new policy guidance to begin the project tiering process. Jim Hall commented that the organizational structure of the 2015 BIP was confusing. Matt Cook reminded everyone that the goal is to have a final BIP draft by June 2021. As of now, the consultants are on schedule.

10. Committee Updates

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

Jason Roudebush gave a WSRF update. As mentioned in the CWCB update earlier in the meeting, CWCB's WSRF application deadlines have changed. Roundtables now have to turn in WSRF applications to CWCB by December 1. Therefore, the SPBRT's deadlines for submittal will probably need to change. The SPBRT's deadlines must still align with CWCB Board hearings in March and September. Roudebush suggested that the SPBRT's new deadlines be September or October for fall and March or April for spring.

Roudebush asked for guidance on how to proceed with the SPBRT's existing November 1 deadline, which needs to be sorted out before tackling changes to the SPBRT's 2021 WSRF deadlines. He proposed that the WSRF Needs Committee meet a few days after the applications are received on November 1, which would mean that Roundtable members would have less than a week to review the committee's memo before the SPBRT meeting on November 10. Ken Huson agreed with Roudebush's plan. Roudebush clarified that he does not want to push the incoming November WSRF applications to a spring deadline because that would leave basin projects at a disadvantage for asking for a statewide account match. Jim Hall commented that he supports the plan to review the applications quickly before the November meeting. Daylan Figgs, Lynda James, Bruce Gerk, and Garrett Varra also agreed with the plan.

Roudebush then explained that if the SPBRT were to make a decision on 2021 deadlines tonight, he can update the SPBRT's WSRF guidelines right away. He feels confident that the

WSRF Needs Committee can complete their review in one month. Roudebush recommended that the SPBRT's WSRF application deadlines be changed to October 1 for the fall cycle and April 1 for the spring cycle. Lynda James made a motion to accept the deadline changes and Jim Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest. Russ Sands then encouraged the SPBRT to think about creating a three-year spending plan for the basin WSRF account.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup (C. Davenport – 5 min)

Casey Davenport provided a PEPO update. They are still making progress on the South Platte video; the video should be wrapped up in the next month or so. The PEPO Committee is also curating messaging for the Live Like You Love It (LLYLI) campaign materials, using the City of Greeley's water conservation messaging as inspiration. Davenport noted that there will be a WSRF application from Denver Urban Gardens; the Metro Roundtable is involved with the project. Davenport reminded everyone of the joint IBCC/PEPO meeting on October 21. Davenport again thanked Melissa Daruna for speaking about Keep It Colorado; the PEPO Committee has been supporting outreach to conservation districts for the last few years. Finally, Davenport noted that there will be a virtual Society for Range Management event from October 20-29.

11. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update (J. Yahn and S. Cronin – 10 min)

Sean Cronin did not have an IBCC update. The next IBCC meeting is the joint IBCC/PEPO meeting on October 21.

12. Public Comment (10 min)

There was no public comment. Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.