

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alex Davis, Andrea Rogers, Anne Beierle, Barbara Biggs, Blair Corning, Bob Peters, Casey Davenport, Chris Douglas, Courtney Brand, David Allen, Dave Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Jim Hall, Ken Lykens, Kim Gortz, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Patricia Wells, Rick McCloud, Rob Sakata, Sarah Borgers, Shaden Musleh, Susan Nedell, Tom Arnold

Guests:

Ed Millard, Eric Jorgensen, Garrett Varra, Kayla Ranney, Mary Presecan, Marissa Essells, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Melissa Mosier

CWCB:

Russ Sands, Sam Stein, Katherine Weismiller, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (5 min.)

2. Approval of November 2020 MRT Meeting Summary (2 min.)

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

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

None

4. Public Comment (3 min.)

Ken Lykens was introduced as the alternate MRT representative for Eric Hecox.

5. WSRF (Hunt) (10 min.)

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

1. WSRF Balance Summary was provided in the meeting packet

6. Committee Updates (30 min.)

1. PEPO Committee (C. Davenport) (10 min.)

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 completed the interview with Emily Hunt, City of Thornton bringing the municipal and industrial water supply perspective to the video. Thanks Emily! PEPO has started a conversation with Matt Jones, volunteer fire fighter and current Boulder County Commissioner in to develop an appropriate forest health / wildfire segment. They are in the process of reviewing all interview transcripts in preparation for the first draft version of the video. The audience for this video are Roundtable members, community groups, and educational media platforms.

Christi Bode, Moxiecran Media, has been asked by the Colorado Film Commission to create a video on the topic of agricultural 'buy and dry' with support from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. The PEPO committee has discussed adding support to this effort.

Action: Would the Roundtable like more information to consider supporting this project?

LLYLI – PEPO has completed reviewing a narrative provided by Evoque Communications as part of the agreement with the Live Like You Love It campaign. Thanks to the PEPO Committee members for their thoughtful review of a message which seeks to clarify the statistic that 86% of South Platte water is used in agriculture and positively showcase agriculture's role in the community and watershed. PEPO is asking for an updated 'life cycle of water' graphic that illustrates agricultural water use, return flows and the value of agriculture. The audiences for this effort are north eastern Colorado residents, educators, interested citizen groups, taxpayers, and voters.

Action: Could Roundtable members please share any graphics or resources they have that depict the concept of 'return flows' and explain the math for how 1.4 million acre feet of native supply and 0.5 million acre feet of transbasin diversions = 4 million acre feet of water supply diversions.

Basin Implementation Plan Update – Goals and measurable outcomes for PEPO being revised to include reference to increased participation with IBCC. Lisa Darling and Robert Sakata are IBCC liaisons to PEPO. This Committee will continue to coordinate with other Roundtable PEPO liaisons. PEPO has been asked to attend the Arkansas Roundtable meeting to discuss possible collaborative messaging.

Education Action Plan – Currently being updated for 2021 due in March, 2021

PEPO and WSRF funding – Application for 2021 PEPO budget supplement has been submitted along with letters of support from the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. Thank you.

Southplattebasin.com website

Action: Please visit the website; give us your feedback via email link; what does the Roundtable want from the website.

Action: Colorado Association of Conservation Districts expressed interest in becoming a member of MRT. Check bylaws to determine eligibility.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (*D. Nickum*) (10 min.)
They've been working on elements of the BIP update being discussed during the BIP discussion on today's agenda.
3. M&I Committee (*B. Peters*) (10 min.)
Report was provided in the meeting packet.

7. BIP Update (Matt Cook) (45 min.)

Please define the meaning of "improve agriculture". It could mean efficiency, production, or other items. We will want a clear definition if we plan to measure the improvements. Why is reuse focused solely on municipal and industrial? Agriculture could have a relationship to reuse.

There is nothing in M&I about improving the quality of life or climate change. If we are improving and protecting everything, people in urban areas should be included. Consider adapting the language for municipal and industrial to more positive messaging.

Environment and recreation attributes and inputs are currently under development. Environmental and recreation benefits of irrigated agriculture in the lower South Platte was discussed. They will highlight examples of locations within lower South Platte where there is collaboration with agriculture, environment, and recreation. They will also make recommendations for follow-on work.

Project tiering statistics were provided. Approximately 150 more projects have been added. Categories have been created to identify projects status: concept, planned, implementing, completed, not pursuing, and unknown. A map was provided showing most projects fall within the Denver Metro area and lower South Platte. The tiering effort will kick off January 6th. The process agreed upon is to take 10 projects from the current project list and run a 2-hour workshop practice session virtually. The practice tiering session will confirm the approach. Once approach is confirmed, a draft tiering will be done with all remaining projects. Tiering focus has been on the WSRF program. As the tiering matrix is applied to all projects, new questions have come up. Events like fires can drastically alter planning. Level stratification is used to inform conversations. There is no money that comes with being in upper tiers.

Action: They are looking for final input by December 18th, 2020. The presentation is available by request.

8. IBCC Update (Lisa Darling) (10 Min.)

There are no new updates.

9. CWCB Update (Sam Stein) (10 min.)

They are planning a fireside chat on January 27th, 2021. The time TBD. Goal is to provide water plan update. Planning a virtual tour for director Becky Mitchell to visit with all the RTs. The fireside chat will kick the tour off. She is scheduled to attend the February MRT meeting. Next Board meeting will be January 25th – 26th 2021 prior to the fireside chat. February 23rd is the next IBCC meeting which will be the day before the PEPO meeting.

How to better incorporate the Forest Health Study update in the CWP was discussed. There have been technical issues with modeling. Objective is to create alignment with respect to water-focused forest health related activities that may be integrated into the BIP and Water Plan updates. A 4-step process was identified to develop actions and projects as they align the study with the CWP. They are currently collecting information. April is the target for ideas to be shared out by CWCB describing inputs and ideas before advancing on how to integrate.

10. Round Table Member Comments (5 min)

We will continue to work on the BIP for several months. The aim is to keep MRT at one presentation each month to continue to allow time to receive inputs on the BIP. Topics members would like to advance in 2021 include:

- Becky Mitchell, Director CWCB (February)
- Poudre River Augmentation Plan (later in the spring)
- Demand Management (CWCB)
- Climate Change (Laurina Katz)
- Municipal Drought Task Force/Drought Update
- Front Range Roundtable and Forest Health
- Salinity Study Update (summer)
- Env & Rec CPW Initiative (Dave Nickum)

11. Meeting Schedule

1. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, December 10th, 2020, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
2. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, January 12th, 2021, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
3. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, January 14th, 2021, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)