

Metro Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Anne Beierle, Barbara Biggs, Blair Corning, Bob Peters, Casey Davenhill, Courtney Brand, David Allen, Dave Nickum, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Jim Hall, Jan Yeckes, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Morgan Lynch, Patricia Wells, Rick Marsicek, Rick McCloud, Rob Sakata, Sarah Borgers, Susan Nedell, Tom Arnold

Guests:

Andy Nye, Eric Potyandy, Chip Paulson, David Bennett, Kayla Ranney, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Melissa Mosier, Jessica Brody, Hope Bartlett, Sophie Porcelli, Phyllis Thomas

CWCB:

Becky Mitchell, Sam Stein, Russ Sand, Katherine Weismiller, Diane Kielty, Linda Bassi, Kaylee White

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Approval of January 14, 2021 MRT Meeting Summary

It was moved and seconded to approve the January 14, 2021 meeting summary; motion carried unanimously.

3. Agenda: additions or changes

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. CWCB Update (Becky Mitchell)

The information being provided by the RTs for the update is critical to understanding the full cost of water projects throughout the state. Getting the BIP draft and project list in a timely fashion is important. CWCB is trying to take advantage of Covid by doing this RT tour virtually. CWCB has created an engagecwcb.org website and recently held a fireside chat. There will be a March 3rd Agriculture Workshop and March 17th Ag / Water Workshop. Other work at the state is Demand Management. Concern over speculation is a high focus right now. They are looking at compact compliance and mitigating possible results if there is a call on the river. As they get further into the process, they will be looking at existing programs to help fund this process. Colorado is in a drought which is a challenge to these initiatives. Code of Conduct is being evaluated to prepare for difficult discussions going forward. How might PEPO help drive these conversations? The Code of Conduct suggested language will be shared when ready. They are looking at needs of users across the state and the hottest topics. CWCB will possibly engage ambassadors, likely organizations that already exist that can message it. Does CWCB envision Proposition DD money coming in to fund some of the Demand Management initiatives? The numbers are encouraging, but CWCB has not received this money yet. It will be the 2022 legislative session when CWCB will make a request for appropriation. The intention of the Prop DD money is to go into projects according to the CWP.

Learn more about the Riverside Chats, take the survey and read the new information sheets at: <https://engagecwcb.org/>

For specific upcoming workshop dates scroll down to "Upcoming Workshops & Meetings" on this page: <https://engagewcwb.org/water-plan-update-survey>

Here's where you can see a list of budget impacts on grants.
<https://wcwb.colorado.gov/loans-grants/program-budget-impacts>

Here's where you can learn more on recent watershed efforts (see Disaster Recovery Resources at the bottom of the page). <https://wcwb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/ecosystem-health/watershed-protection-and-restoration>

The CWCB board meeting schedule is available here: <https://wcwb.colorado.gov/board-meetings>

The next board meeting is March 10th & 11th.

6. WSRF (Hunt)

1. Funds Status Per Category Update – Last year the WSRF funding process was changed to grant open periods twice a year. We are in our first cycle in the 2021 season. Please spread the word. Asking for a 1-page overview.
 1. WSRF Balance Summary was reviewed. We will not be receiving funds this year.

7. BIP Update (Matt Cook)

The three topics covered were project tiering, basin challenges, and schedule. Asking for feedback on tiers by February 18th. A survey has been sent to MRT members. The draft BIP is due to the CWCB staff by June 30th and final BIP completed by end of January 2022. The presentation is available by request.

8. IBCC Update (Lisa Darling)

The next IBCC meeting is scheduled on 2/23/2021. The agenda will be distributed to members.

9. Colorado Water Trust – Poudre Instream Flow Augmentation Plan Update (Emily Hunt)

The goal is to restore and improve flows on the Poudre from the canyon mouth to the South Platte river without affecting existing operations and rights. It is a complex river that is over appropriated. They were successful in getting House Bill 20-1037 passed that clarifies how plans to augment stream flows must be structured and identifies key terms and requirements. The application will be filed to the water court first quarter 2021. For more information go to, www.coloradowatertrust.org. Presentation is available by request.

10. Committee Updates

1. PEPO Committee (C. Davenport)
Next PEPO meeting is February 22nd. **PEPO Committee Meeting 01/27/2021**
 - Basin Implementation Plan Update Education & Outreach Theme and Strategy
Line item 11-The basin will have education action plan that coordinates with the BIP plan Potential wording: Round tables will support actions and plans that relate to the BIP.
 - 86% Graphic for LLYLI campaign – Agricultural Water Cycle – collecting agricultural water cycle graphics for incorporation into the LLYLI campaign; also using language from Colorado Water Plan to develop newsletter article.
 - CSU 'Human Dimensions of Aquatic Sustainability' "How can educational or outreach tools support public knowledge and BRT goals?" Introductions were made - Introductory discussion with Kanno, et al to offer PEPO support for the WSRF funded project.
 - Sustaining plains aquatic ecosystems using an integrated ecological and social approach

- 1) Ecological: Evaluate impacts of non-native mosquitofish on native fish under different flow & salinity conditions in the lab.
 - 2) Social: Assess stakeholders' values and actions regarding aquatic ecosystems, and evaluate the stakeholder decision-making network [i.e., what are the diverse views & which voice is heard or not heard?]
 - 3) Outreach: Develop a video that documents aquatic species, habitat, and people working towards aquatic sustainability.
- SWEAP/IBCC Upcoming meeting 2/23/21
 - Review the status of the South Platte Synergies video draft copy week of 2/8/21; Christi Bode at SPBRT Meeting; Upcoming PBS ATM documentary

Video - Christi Bode, videographer

Focus on the hydrologic function of the South Platte River, stewardship of South Platte basin resources, and the unique character of our watershed. The audience for this video are Roundtable members, community groups and educational media platforms.

Christi has completed all interviews including:

Mark Beardsley and Brad Johnson speaking to headwaters condition and protection history

Former Mayor Wellington Webb speaking to the urban renaissance of the South Platte River in Denver and the importance of preserving South Platte River values for future generations

Marc and Brett Arnusch speaking to the value, history and future prospects of agriculture in the South Platte River Basin. Emily Hunt speaking to municipal water supply capacity and the City of Thornton's Northern Properties Stewardship Plan

Please note that 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. Would the Roundtable like more information in order to consider supporting this project?

LLYLI – we have completed reviewing a narrative provided by Evoque Communications as part of our 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. We are 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.

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.

Targeted Outreach – Upper South Platte Basin Watershed Association includes Districts from Douglas and Jefferson Counties on to SE Weld CD AND Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Water Committee to engage their participation and engagement with the Roundtables and the Colorado Water Plan.

Planned outreach to Left Hand Watershed Center; Poudre Learning Center and other watershed groups March 2021.

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 – please, please, please visit the website; give us your feedback via email link; what does the Roundtable want from the website.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (*D. Nickum*)

The E&R committee continues to work with the Local Expert team to provide input and support as they help the Roundtables in refining the Goals, Outcomes, and Measurable Outcomes for the Basin Plan revision. The committee appreciated and agreed with suggestions from the M&I Committee to incorporate additional language on the value of urban environments. We also reviewed and addressed LE team questions regarding the special study on environmental benefits associated with irrigated agriculture in the lower South Platte basin. We anticipate diving more deeply into the Measurable Outcomes at our upcoming meeting on February 24th.

The committee was also advised of Governor Polis' new executive order regarding regional partnerships focused on collaborative, sustainable recreation management (PDF copy provided with this update for those who are interested in learning more). At an upcoming meeting our committee is hoping to be joined by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff working on the new EO, to begin conversation on what potential there may be for regional recreation 'roundtables' as partners with our basin roundtables on areas where water resources and recreation management have overlapping interests. Other Basin Roundtable members who have interest or suggestions in this area should contact me at dnickum@tu.org to share your input and/or get on our invite list when we are able to schedule a presentation from CPW on the regional recreation partnerships effort.

3. M&I Committee (*B. Peters*)

Most of meeting was on the issue of competition for water. They have split into subgroups to address local expert questions. M&I efficiency is the topic that is being developed regarding efficiency. Next Tuesday they will have a meeting focused on basin challenges.

11. Round Table Member Comments

March meeting survey members for terminology on alternate transfer messages. Does CWCB have a report on ATM language or can it be addressed during the March meeting? CWCB will look into this and bring back information.

12. Meeting Schedule

1. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, February 9th, 2021, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
2. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, February 11th, 2021, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
3. South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting – Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, 4:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)
4. Metro Roundtable Meeting – Thursday, March 11th, 2021, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, [GoToMeeting Online](#)

MRT 2021 Presentation Topics

Demand Management (CWCB)
Demand Management Economic Study (Doug Jeavons)
Climate Change (Laurina Katz)
Front Range Roundtable and Forest Health
Salinity Study Update (Summer)
Env & Rec CPW Initiative (Nickum)
View the South Platte video