

South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
4:00-7:00 p.m. (MST)
Hybrid Meeting

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

South Platte Basin Website: <https://southplattebasin.com/>
CWCB SPBRT Website: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/basin-roundtables/south-platte-basin-roundtable>

1. Welcome and Introductions (Garrett Varra and Christy Wiseman – 10 min)

In attendance: Lynn Baca*, Loretta Daniel*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Kirk Vincent*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, Daylan Figgs*, Donnie Dustin*, John Kolanz*, Joe Frank*, Brent Nation*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Larry Rogstad*, Bruce Gerk*, Lynda James*, Sean Chambers*, Sean Cronin, Casey Davenport, Christy Wiseman, Robert Sakata, Kat Weismiller, Sam Stein, Carmen Farmer, Cole Bedford, Corey DeAngelis, Erik Jorgensen, June Vincze, Kari Linker, Kayla Ranney, Ken Curtis, Matt Cook, Matt Lindburg, Matt Machado, Phyllis Thomas, and multiple members of the public. 21 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

2. Approval of July 2021 Meeting Minutes (Garrett Varra – 5 min action required)

A motion was made to approve the July 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

3. August 2021 Agenda Additions or Changes (Garrett Varra – 5 min action required)

A new “Demand Management Discussion” item was added after the “SPBRT Committee Updates” agenda item. A motion was made to accept the August 2021 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

4. Public Comment (5 min)

Garrett Varra invited members of the public to comment by speaking up or using the chat throughout the meeting.

5. Forest Health Discussion (Garrett Varra – 10 min)

Garrett Varra presented forest health materials created by the Colorado Forest and Water Alliance (COFWA). COFWA requested that the SPBRT vote to adopt a resolution in support of certain forest health principles. Multiple SPBRT members commented on the materials. There was general agreement that COFWA needs to present their position at a SPBRT meeting before SPBRT members vote. Garrett Varra said that he will follow up with COFWA and invite them to present at a future SPBRT meeting.

6. Flooding off of Cameron Peak Fire Scar (Kirk Vincent – 10 min)

Kirk Vincent opened discussion about the Cameron Peak Fire Scar. He expressed concern about erosion downstream of burn scars and wondered whether SPBRT members had information about related water quality problems. Multiple SPBRT members contributed to a discussion about natural wildfires, prescribed fires, snowpack, and funding for watershed protection. Members also discussed the state's Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC) created by HB16-1255 as well as the governance structure of the Colorado State Forest Service.

7. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update (Garrett Varra and Matt Cook – 60 min)

Matt Cook, Matt Lindburg, and Kayla Ranney presented the latest BIP update. They covered the outline of the draft BIP to date and provided a project timeline update. Joint Steering Committee members and BIP update subcommittee members received an email invitation to login to engagecwcb.org to review the draft plan and submit comments. The next Joint Steering Committee meeting is on September 15; the consultant team will review feedback received thus far at that meeting. A public review period will open in the coming weeks, after Roundtable members have a chance to review the draft BIPs. Matt Lindburg commented that the new online review platform allows users to see comments that other people have left. It should make for a more efficient process for CWCB staff and consultants to address comments and questions.

Lynda James asked for clarification on dates for the upcoming BIP Joint Steering Committee meetings. The August 18 meeting will focus more on process steps. The September 15 meeting (which is two days after the close of the first review period and one day after the September SPBRT meeting) will cover comments and feedback more extensively.

Lynda James and Matt Cook discussed environmental and recreational case studies. James had previously sent the Local Expert consultant team a case study about a fish habitat improvement but did not see it referenced in the draft. Cook noted that this is the type of input the team is looking for before the draft is sent out for public review. James noted that the E&R subcommittee can gather more project examples.

Garrett Varra reminded everyone that Metro Roundtable members will join the SPBRT's September meeting.

8. SPBRT Committee Updates

a. South Platte Basin and Statewide Account Balances / Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (Garrett Varra and Sam Stein – 10 min)

Garrett Varra noted that October 1 is the next WSRF deadline. He is aware of one potential project at this point. Hopefully there will be additional applications.

Sam Stein reported \$505,865 for the South Platte Basin WSRF balance. Each Roundtable will receive about \$200,000 in their basin account due to state stimulus funds. The stimulus

funds need to be spent by the May 2023 CWCB Board meeting. Stein answered a couple of clarifying questions about the stimulus funds, which can be used as regular WSRF funds.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) (Casey Davenport – 15 min)

Casey Davenport shared an online GIS map showing projects that have been funded by the Metro RT and/or the SPBRT. The map is still in prototype form so not all projects have been added. There are many projects to add going back 15 years. Davenport seeks feedback on the map as well as volunteers who want to help. Lynda James and Kirk Vincent complimented the map. Kevin Lusk suggested that Davenport share the map with other Roundtables so they could do something similar. Bruce Gerk applauded Davenport for her work and suggested that the PEPO Committee be given more resources. Phyllis Thomas asked whether analysis has been done about geographic trends and types of projects that have been funded. Davenport responded that those questions have not yet been explored to her knowledge. Garrett Varra agreed that the mapping tool could generate a lot of valuable metrics. Davenport also noted that the South Platte video project is nearing completion.

9. Demand Management Discussion

Sean Chambers gave an update on the Colorado River Demand Management Committee. Since last month, the committee has assembled and developed a draft scope of work. The committee intends to meet 2-3 times before the September SPBRT meeting to solidify key talking points. Chambers stated that it's important to think about the state as a whole and avoid deepening the divide between east and west. The Roundtables should support CWCB with their work statewide.

The committee will meet on Tuesday, August 17. Folks who can't make the meeting are welcome to invite their colleagues to attend. The committee will present at the September 14 SPBRT meeting and ask for an endorsement to move forward before engaging with the Metro RT.

10. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (Sam Stein and Robert Sakata – 10 min)

Robert Sakata provided a CWCB Board update. The CWCB Board met on July 21-22. That was Sakata's first in-person CWCB Board meeting, which he enjoyed. Sakata gave an overview of the meeting. Highlights included the CWCB budget, operating agreements for Lake Powell, updated measurement rules for the Colorado River, the Anti-Speculation Work Group's forthcoming report, CWCB staffing updates, weather modification activities (e.g., cloud seeding), Demand Management, Water Plan update drafting, floodplain rules and criteria manual rulemaking, the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project, and the Water and Agriculture Tax Reform Act.

After Robert Sakata's report, Sam Stein gave a CWCB update. He introduced Elizabeth Schoder, a new member of CWCB staff in the Water Supply Planning Section. Schoder is the Water Planning and Community Outreach Specialist. She will work closely with all the PEPO liaisons.

Stein went over dates of upcoming meetings. He encouraged everyone to register on engagewcwb.org and read the draft updated BIP. Stein then gave a COVID update for events. Elgin Turner is requesting 30-day notices for any in-person Roundtable events. It's unclear how things will go with the Delta variant. There may be another Executive Order to give updated guidance.

Kirk Vincent and Garrett Varra commented on the floodplain rulemaking, which is more of a tweak than an overhaul (compared to changes in 2010). Vincent thanked Robert Sakata for his work as a CWCB Board member.

Garrett Varra asked SPBRT members to comment on whether the September meeting should be at the SW Weld County building or virtual. There were four members present in person that evening. Multiple virtual attendees said that they would attend a September in-person meeting. Varra will keep everyone updated as anything changes.

Varra pointed out the list of upcoming meetings. The September SPBRT meeting will have high attendance because Metro Roundtable members are encouraged to attend (the September Metro RT meeting is cancelled). Casey Davenport announced the 23rd Annual Cherry Creek Watershed Conference on September 10. Kelsea Holloway announced the virtual inaugural Colorado Beaver Summit on October 21-22.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.