

# SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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**Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance:** Daylan Figgs, Dick Elsner, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Hally Strevey, Jim Yahn, Jim Hall, John Kolanz, Ken Huson, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Lynda James, Patrick Wells, Richard Elsner, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson, Lori Saine

**Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance:** Sean Cronin, Don Baggus, Casey Davenhill, Joel Schneekloth

**Guests:** Anthony Cline, John Geerdes, Eric Larson, , Jody Shadduck-McNally, Jen Lynch, Jenny McCarty, Nate Jorgensen, Will Ettema, Steve Malers, Marc Dettenrieder, Keely Murphy

**CWCB:** Robert Sakata, Jeff Rodriguez, Cory DeAngelis, Diane Kielty

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**1. Welcome/Introductions (Sean Chambers - 5 min.)**

A quorum was established.

**2. Approval of Agenda: (Sean Chambers - 5 min.)**

It was moved by Garrett Varra to approve the agenda and seconded by Kirk Vincent. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of [October 11, 2022, SPBRT Meeting Summary Link](#) (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)**

It was moved by Kirk Vincent to approve the October 11, 2022, SPBRT Meeting Summary with correction to Environmental Representatives standing for position in attendance requested by Lynda James and seconded by Jim Yahn. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public Comment (3 min.) – No comments.**

**5. WSRF (Garrett Varra - 50 min.)**

**1. WSRF Update and Funds Status (10 min.) – Discussed account status and allocation status.** Once the CWCB Board approves the money, the money is classified as spent. This spending cycle and the next must spend \$550,000 to receive full allocation in the next funding round. The Needs Committee accepts applications on an October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline schedule. The Committee reviews applications to ensure they meet the CWP and the SPBRT BIP criteria. Tonight, the entire SPBRT votes on the applications selected to move forward for final approval by CWCB. There is money in the SPBRT WSRF budget to fund all four applications.

**1. WSRF Applications Received**

**1. [Agditch Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Development](#), Anthony Cline**  
This is a multi-use facility used for recreation, Ag water users, and by USFS for wildfires. The have match and in-kind from stakeholders in the ditch. The WSRF application shows the funds are being leveraged with the MRT request and furthers the goals of both the SPBRT BIP and the CWP. The Needs Committee recommends funding at a level of \$25,000. The ask was for \$37,500. 25% is the SPBRT guideline, the maximum amount that can be awarded is \$25,000.

It was moved by Jim Yahn and seconded by Larry Rogstad to approve the applicant in the amount of \$25,000 and advance to CWCB for final approval. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. [Elbert County Water Plan](#), Eric Larson**  
Requesting \$45,000 through WSRF with the County matching that amount. They will not be soliciting support from other RTs. Elbert County's water plan is needed to show they are proactively striving for balance between up-front cost

and long-term sustainability of new developments and addressing the concerns of existing residents to preserve their access to their water. The focus of this plan is economic development. Concern was expressed that the approach is lacking in water policy understanding. The County was asked to add analysis on water policy and identify what is within their authority. Integrating land use and water use process will be essential to this plan. The mission for conservation is in line with WSRF criteria. The committee recommended funding at the full amount request of \$45,000.

It was moved by Dick Elsner and seconded by Garrett Varra to approve the applicant in the amount of \$45,000 and advance to CWCB for final approval. Motion carried unanimously.

3. [Open Water Foundation River Basin Information Websites](#), Steve Malers  
The overall project cost is \$160,000 asking for \$70,000 from SPBRT WSRF. With match secured to date they are at \$120,000 for this project. This is a cross-jurisdictional community information resource website used for education, to inform basin operations, a source of data and information to evaluate and implement projects, and to facilitate fundraising for the Poudre Basin. This project will continue to enhance the features of the software and provide additional information inputs including additional historical and planning information. OWF will also develop basin information websites for the Big Thompson River and Saint Vrain Creek. OWF has determined that a water district is the right size for this type of website. All the data is open source. As this is developed, the scaling will help more basins lower the incremental costs for their own OWF website. It has been a challenge for stream management plans to publish their data. This project supports getting that data collected ahead of time. Integrating data sets from different sources and in different forms is a flexibility offered through this system. The Needs committee recommends funding the full amount of \$70,000.

It was moved by Jim Yahn and seconded by Jim Hall to approve the applicant in the amount of \$70,000 and advance to CWCB for final approval. Motion carried unanimously with recusals from Larry Rogstad, Garrett Varra, and Scott Griebing.

4. [St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Airborne Snow Data Analysis & Interpretation](#), Scott Griebing  
The WSRF request is \$349,000. There is match from multiple sources with a total project cost of \$698,128. The project will produce high resolution, distributed snow depth, snow water equivalent, and snow albedo data for the Northern Front Range watersheds, including Clear Creek, South Boulder Creek, Boulder Creek, Left Hand Creek, St. Vrain Creek, Little Thompson River, Big Thompson River, and Cache La Poudre River watersheds (collectively the "Northern Front Range Basins." Flights will be planned to provide local stakeholder agencies with measurements timed to be available before key water resources decisions. It will also include data analysis and interpretation. The needs committee recommends funding the full amount of \$349,000.

It was moved by Kirk Vincent and seconded by John Kolanz to approve the applicant in the amount of \$349,000 and move forward to CWCB for final approval. Motion carried unanimously with recusals from Garrett Varra, Scott Griebing, and Sean Chambers.

**6. Colorado Water Plan Letter of Support Requests (Garrett Varra - 10 min.)**

1. [Coalition for the Upper South Platte Lake George Diversion Structure Removal Water Plan Grant](#)

Request for Letter of Support, John Geerdes

The Needs Committee looks favorably on this application. It fulfills many objectives within both the Water Plan and SPBRT BIP. A CWP grant was determined as the best route for the applicant. This project has been underway for several years. They are working through SHPO requirements now. The request is \$350,000 from CWCB. There are multiple financial contributors. The partnership includes the US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Park County, S. Park Enhancement Board, Trout Unlimited, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife, combining several funding sources to remove the diversion structure and restore the natural river on approximately 1,200 feet of river. The work will enhance habitat, increase recreation access, and improve safety.

It was moved by Scott Griebing and seconded by Jim Yahn to approve a letter of support from SPBRT. Motion carried unanimously with recusals from Lynda James and Patrick Wells.

**7. Committee Updates (15 min.) [Roundtable Meeting Records – The South Platte Basin](#)**

1. PEPO Committee (Casey Davenhill - 5 min.) ([PEPO EDU Comm 10.27.2022 Summary](#)) There were no questions.
2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Lynda James & Larry Rogstad – 5 min.) ([10.26.22 Env and Rec Joint Subcommittee Meeting Summary](#)) Discussed members on the subcommittee working on the M&I committee RT proposed projects. Most of the meeting was a presentation from TU on Greenback Cutthroat Trout.
3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) (No Meeting Summary) Discussed the subcommittees formed. One subcommittee has held their first scoping meeting.

**8. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin - 15 Min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))**

The basin updates were provided with a focus on the Colorado River situation. There is a graphics package on the CWCB website. It shows how the water is being used on the Colorado River. A letter was sent from California about their increased efforts to conserve water. There was a capacity building discussion that included available funding ideas to help with water issues around the state. Suggested an open-door policy from all IBCC representatives to help basins with their efforts. Lisa Darling shared a presentation on water history and water leaders around the state. A DNR package proposal letter was distributed from Dan Gibb's office with water information that included a proposed new water commissioner position. The proposal has a focus on the Colorado River. This increase in staff is to prepare for the Colorado River negotiations. If this goes forward Becky Mitchell will be the Commissioner and will step down as head of CWCB.

**Action:** Request to set a tour for the RT to see the new Chimney Hollow reservoir. Spring was the suggested time for this tour.

**9. CWCB Update (Jeff Rodriguez - 10 min.)**

The Regional Grant Coordinators for the CWP have been hired. Jackie Doust was hired for this region. CWCB has another \$2.5M set aside for a contractor to support the grant application process. The Statewide grant application portal is open. A local capacity and technical assistance person is in place. His contact information will be sent out. There is a Board meeting next week. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for several CWCB grants. Save the date of January 24<sup>th</sup> for a CWCB celebration of the work that went into the CWP and they are giving out basin hero awards at that time.

**10. Round Table Member Comments (5 min)**

1. Discuss December Meeting – There are three CWP grant applications that may need Letter's of Support. Applicants have been directed that there will likely be no SPBRT meeting in December. If there is a virtual meeting it can be reviewed remotely by the members and voted upon. The RT delegated the letter of support decision to the Needs Committee and, if approved, send the letters to CWCB. Garrett Varra will reach out to the applicants. This can be ratified at the January RT meeting. There will be no December SPBRT meeting.

Meeting adjourn at 7:25 pm.

## Colorado Water Conservation Board Basin Roundtable Meetings

[Metro roundtable - 11/10/2022](#)

[Arkansas basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[Colorado basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[North Platte basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[Southwest basin roundtable - 10/27/2022](#)

[Rio Grande basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[South Platte basin roundtable - 11/8/2022](#)

[Yampa/White basin roundtable - 11/9/2022](#)

[Gunnison basin roundtable - 11/21/2022](#)