

SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

HYBRID: LIVE & VIRTUAL

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Bruce Gerck, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Jim Yahn, Jim Hall, John Kolanz, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Lorretta Daniel, Lynda James, Michael Neale, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson,

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Sean Cronin

Guests: Kyle Whitaker, Calven Goza, Matthew Cook, Ken Curtis, Blain Dwyer, Meryl Corbin, Carmen Farmer, Will Ettema

CWCB: Robert Sakata, Jeff Rodriguez, Sam Stein, Jackie Daoust, Diane Kielty

1. Welcome/Introductions (Sean Chambers - 15 min.)

A quorum was established at 4:06 pm.

1. Congratulations to SPBRT Basin Hero Garrett Varra

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

It was moved by to approve the agenda by acclimation.

3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary January 10, 2023 v1](#) (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)

It was moved to approve the January 10, 2023, SPBRT Meeting Summary with the addition of Joe Frank and Bruce Gerck to the attendee list. Approved by acclimation.

4. Public Comment (3 min.) Meryl Corbin announced an upcoming workshop on the Growing Water Smart Program empowering community and regional water resilience to be held on May 18th in Estes Park. The deadline to register is March 1st. [| COLORADO GROWING WATER SMART \(resilientwest.org\)](http://www.resilientwest.org), mcorbin@sonoraninstitute.org.

5. WSRF (Garrett Varra - 5 min.)

1. WSRF Update and Funds Status – The fund balance was provided. CWCB is working to finalize contracts from the last round. Once the Board approves the recommendations, the projects will be removed from the basin account balance. There will be solid numbers to present next month.

6. WSRF Committee Recommendations of WSRF Policies and Program Guidelines (WSRF Committee – 45 min.)

1. [WSRF GrantsGuidelines Sept2022.pdf \(state.co.us\)](#)
2. WSRF Polices on Funding Aging Infrastructure Projects

The goal is to harmonize the SPBRT and MRT guidelines with updated CWCB guidance. A change to have an additional two weeks to receive proposal summaries has been added to allow the Needs Committee adequate time in their evaluations (March 15th deadline). The summary proposal on-line form approach is being trialed for this cycle of submissions. Guidance language was revised around a quorum vote on project proposals to align with the bylaws more clearly. The maintenance element was addressed to make funds for maintenance projects more accessible. The link to the guidance document with changes is at [2_8_2023_SPBRT_WSRF-Draft+Guidelines_Matching+w+MRT+COMMITTEE+Changes_2.13.2023.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#). A multi-basin project would need a total of 10% match from the combined basin roundtables. It will depend on how much each basin RT wants to contribute and the spending needs in the basin when these projects come up.

A motion to approve the revised SPBRT WSRF Guidelines was made by Jim Yahn and was seconded by Bruce Gerck. Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Replace SPBRT Guidelines on the SPBRT website.

7. Committee Updates (30 min.) [Roundtable Meeting Records — The South Platte Basin](#)

Link to Announce a Meeting Form - [Add a meeting — The South Platte Basin](#)

1. PEPO Committee (Casey Davenhill - 5 min.) ([1.19.2023 Meeting Summary](#)) – Casey emailed her report - They had good engagement at the Colorado Farm Show with well over 100 conversations with folks about the Colorado Water Plan. Everyone spoken with placed an arrow on the South Platte River watershed map, so there is a good idea where people came from. Several upcoming presentations are scheduled in the Ft. Collins and Longmont areas. They are also working on short articles and press releases directed to local publications and audiences.
2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Larry Rogstad – 5 min.) (*No Meeting*) There was a slide presentation in December on low-elevation cottonwood habitat and wildlife diversity. The discussion revolved around a proactive way to develop and still preserve this vital habitat for so many species.
3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) (*No Meeting*) There was no meeting. They are still working on RT initiated project scopes.
4. Colorado River/Demand Management (Sean Chambers & Kyle Whitaker – 15 min.) All states except California put together a model as a path forward to change the approach to Lake Powell and Lake Mead. California released their response several days later which was different than the six states model that was put forth. The California letter pointed to upper states taking a reduction in use, mostly out of Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Demand Management is still a concept in the upper basin states. The System Conservation Pilot Program and Demand Management Program were discussed. This is a complex negotiation. The SPBRT will continue to follow the situation as it evolves. Any Colorado River questions can be sent to Interstate and Federal Section Chief Amy Ostdiek at amy.ostdiek@state.co.us.

8. State Legislative Update (Sean Chambers – 10 min.)

1. [Colorado Water Congress State Affairs Committee 2023 Tracking Sheet](#)

The link to the bill tracking sheet was provided to raise awareness to the RT members on what bills are in session. The tracking sheet provides a general summary. A number of bills have been introduced for water related activities including building capacity, watershed health, and wildfire preparedness. Members are encouraged to review the tracking sheet. There are groups forming for wetland mitigation and WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) gap issue based on significant nexus. There is an opportunity to participate in these groups. Jeff Rodrigues can provide more information for those interested. The Gap Water issue and current legislative efforts were discussed. On February 23rd at 3:00 pm there will be a WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) TASK FORCE convening on this water matter.

Action: Recorder will send agenda with ZOOM link to the membership.

9. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin - 5 Min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. Next IBCC Meeting is February 15, 2023, at the CSU SPUR. IBCC meeting agenda link, [CLEAN Copy of IBCC draft agenda 02 2023 meeting \(state.co.us\)](#)

10. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez – 10 min.)
The Turf Replacement Program is now live.

FEBRUARY CWCB UPDATES

Colorado Water Plan

- Thank you
- Implementation already underway

Reminders

- All-Chairs Meeting
- PEPO Statewide
- Wildfire Ready Watersheds

Turf Replacement Program

- 2 Application Periods
- Two Ways to Apply
- TLC Challenge
 - March 1st Deadline
- Turf Program
 - March 31st Deadline

Urban Landscape Conservation

- Governor's Task Force
- Water Plan Action 1.7

Drought Summit

- Planning a Drought Summit event for 2023



TLC – Transformative Landscape Change Challenge - A competitive program for smaller entities. RTs are being asked to post the statewide PEPO goals on their websites. Turf Program details: <https://engagecwcb.org/>

Action: Recorder post statewide PEPO goals on SPB website.

PEPO Statewide Initiatives: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/pepo-grants>

Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/>

2. CWCB Director Report (Robert Sakata - 10 min.)
The written report was made available by link.

11. Round Table Member Comments (5 min)

Thank you to Jackie Daoust for her site visit to SPB projects last week.

A recent report on wildfire recovery from Northern Water may be a presentation of interest for the RT members.

12. Upcoming Public Meetings Schedule – See CWCB's [Online Calendar](#) and [EngageCWCB.org](#)

Colorado Water Conservation Board Basin Roundtable Meetings

[Metro roundtable - 2/16/2023](#)

[Arkansas basin roundtable - 2/8/2023](#)

[Colorado basin roundtable - 3/27/2023](#)

[North Platte basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[Southwest basin roundtable - 4/27/2023](#)

[Rio Grande basin roundtable - 2/14/2023](#)

[South Platte basin roundtable - 2/13/2023](#)

[Yampa/White basin roundtable - 3/8/2023](#)

[Gunnison basin roundtable - 2/20/2023](#)