

# SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

## HYBRID: LIVE & VIRTUAL

**Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance:** Brent Nation, Bruce Gerck, Cory DeAngelis, Dan Gallen, Daylen Figs, Garrett Varra, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, John Kolanz, Kevin Ross, Kent Swedlund, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Loretta Daniel, Lynda James, Richard Elsner, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers

**Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance:** Casey Davenport, Sean Cronin

**Guests:** Noelle Fillo, Heather Justus, Blain Dwyer, Brenan Bloyd, Quint Redmond, Carmen Farmer

**CWCB:** Sam Stein, Amy Ostdiek, Lauren Ris, Robert Sakata, Russ Sands, Diane Kielty

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:19 pm.

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

It was moved to approve the agenda as presented by acclamation. The motion carried.

**3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary September 12, 2023](#) (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)**

It was moved by Lynda James to approve the September 12, 2023, SPBRT Meeting Summary as presented, and it was seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public Comment (3 min.)**

Guests were introduced, Carmen Farmer with COL and Quint Redmond with Agriburbia. Lauren Ris was introduced. She has been appointed as the new CWCB Director.

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

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status CWCB Basin Account Funds
2. Summary of WSRF 2023 Cycle2 Applications

**1. SPBRT November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Alternate Date/Virtual Only – WSRF Application Review**

Eight summary applications were received. The WSRF Committee met and made a review. Comments were directed back to applicants. There was over \$1M in requests. Three applicants were contacted about the amount requested in their applications. They all intend to revise their requested amounts.

SPBRT WSRF reserves are drawn down to \$123,500. The balance in the reserve for BIP is \$50,000, General reserve is \$50,000, and Education reserve has \$23,500. If all grants are approved, SPBRT will be just above its reserve.

The November SPBRT meeting has been rescheduled to November 21<sup>st</sup>. This RT meeting will focus on the WSRF application recommendations. There will also be 2 or 3 Colorado Water Plan Letter of Support requests to be reviewed at this meeting.

**6. Open SPBRT Seats – [Announcement and Selections Notification](#) (Garrett Varra – 15 min.)**

1. Open At-large seats – Deadline November 1st
  - i. Local Domestic Water Provider Representative (At Large) – A couple of potential parties have expressed interest in this seat. There were questions regarding criteria to be eligible for this seat. Legislative intent is for a domestic supplier outside of a municipal body, such as a

- District. They may be inside a municipality but provide water outside the municipal boundary. Another eligible entity would be a collection of homes with a water system.
- ii. Industrial Representative (At Large) – There have been no applications submitted for this seat. Garrett Varra will be reaching out to possible eligible candidates. Please contact Garrett if you have ideas for potential candidates.

The list of empty SPBRT seats for municipalities and counties was shared. SPBRT is missing approximately 1/3 of its potential membership.

**Action:** Sean Chambers will work with the PEPO Committee to place a notice with the local districts and industrial entities.

## 7. Committee Updates (15 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.) *(No Meeting)*

An announcement was made on the passing of Barb Biggs, Chair of the Metro RT.

During 2023, PEPO continued to work to support the Water Supply Reserve Funding process for the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. Engaged with the Colorado Water Conservation Board funding portal to support the process and provide knowledgeable feedback to facilitate Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) outreach in 2023.

CWA continued to assist the WSRF process for the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. They used the Inflow newsletter to promote the WSRF application cycle. They also provided support for Roundtable committee member recruitment, facilitated meetings of the PEPO, Environment and Recreation Committees and the newly created MBRT Colorado River Committee. They participated in PEPO Coordinator meetings and attended the Colorado Ag Forum, The Poudre Runs Through It, Greeley Chamber of Commerce, South Platte Urban Waters Partnership, Lower South Platte Watershed Association, and the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative to promote engagement with the Roundtable process.

CWA staff and volunteers have participated in the planning and implementation of the Cherry Creek Watershed Conference, Lower South Platte Children’s Water Festival, Confluence on the Confluence, the Rocky Mountain Association of Environmental Professionals’ Envirofest, the South Platte Forum, and the 2024 Colorado Farm Show.

They have engaged with the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership, the Colorado Ag Water Alliance, and the North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association to bring funding proposals to the Metro and South Platte Roundtables.

The Metro and South Platte Roundtables have a new logo, a popup banner, bandanas, and an updated Fact Sheet. They engaged with the Republican River Water Conservation District by attending their annual meeting and contributing to the update of the Republican River Fact Sheet.

#### 2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Larry Rogstad – 5 min.) *(No Meeting)*

3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) *(No Meeting)* *Next Meeting October 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.* Andrea Cole with Dominion WSD has accepted the position as the MRT M&I Committee lead. This will be a regroup meeting.

MRT has created a new committee to look at Colorado River issues as they may impact the SP basin. They would like to know the level of interest from the SPBRT. SPBRT has a standing agenda item on this topic with the fundamental goal to increase understanding of the Colorado River and its impact on the SP basin. There may be an opportunity to funnel RT comments and increase communication with the Commissioner Mitchell’s office.

**8. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin - 10 Min.)** ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. C-9 Summit – November 14th. [C9 Summit | Colorado Department of Natural Resources \(engagecwcw.org\)](#)

Dan Gibbs announced Becky Mitchell as Chair of the IBCC.

**9. CWCB Update (25 min.)**

1. CWCB Staff Report (Sam Stein – 10 min.)

The new CWCB Deputy Director is Anna Moss. As IBCC Director, Colorado River Commissioner Becky Mitchell will have a direct communication route to the RTs.

The WSRF deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Wildfire Ready Watersheds is accepting applications now.

<https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>.

At the last meeting, Becky Mitchell informed the SPBRT that she, along with her fellow Upper Basin commissioners, have been considering whether to implement the System Conservation Pilot Program again this year. Based on input received from water users in Colorado and across the Upper Basin, the UCRC voted a few weeks ago to move forward with SCPP this year, but to implement a number of changes:

- This year's program will roll out in October this year - much earlier than last year.
- They will have increased education and outreach.
- They will develop a more straight-forward and transparent pricing mechanism.
- There will be an increased opportunity to provide input and comments.
- This year's SCPP program will prioritize projects that support innovative water conservation ideas and increase resilience to help water users develop the tools they will need into the future to continue to live within the means of the River and survive prolonged drought

More information will be available soon on the Commissioner's Corner website and at a webinar hosted by UCRC tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27 (no time yet). In the meantime please reach out to Amy Ostdiek with any questions.

2. CWCB Director Report (Robert Sakata - 15 min.)

Director Sakata's report is available at this link, [Sakata+CWCB+Report+to+SBRT+10-10-2023.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#).

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

- [November 30th, 2023. South Platte Forum](#). Aims Community College Welcome Center, Greeley, CO. Early registration is now open. The South Platte Forum is proud to host a conversation about the 1923 South Platte River Compact between Colorado's State Engineer and Nebraska DNR.
- SPBRT November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Alternate Date/Virtual Only – WSRF Application Selection
- 2024 SPBRT Meeting Schedule
  - February 2024 SPBRT Meeting at Northern Water (Jim Hall)
  - Opportunities to meet at other locations across the basin. Two meetings out of the next twelve will give the members a chance to visit different locations.

ASO Update: ASO applied for a Bureau of Reclamation grant. Six applications were submitted, and one was awarded. ASO did not receive the award. There will be another funding opportunity in 2024 and they plan to apply. In the interim, there are 10 entities who have committed matching funds. They are intending to apply for a WSRF grant to help with matching funds.

The January SPBRT meeting will address SPBRT leadership and appointments. A review of positions was made.

A motion was made by Jim Yahn to cancel the December SPBRT and was seconded by Lynda James. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter is being distributed by telecommunication provider Lumen stating they can use existing rights-of-way to install fiber optics without securing agreements. There is confusion as to whether this applies to ditch company rights-of-way. The letter will be shared with the RT.

Northern Water has elected Dennis Yanchunas to be the president of the Northern Water Board.

Dan Gallen requested to present to the SPBRT in January update on the Wild Horse Reservoir in Park County.

State Engineer Kevin Rein is retiring on January 1, 2024.

**11. Upcoming Public Meetings Schedule – See CWCB’s [Online Calendar](#) and [EngageCWCB.org](#)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.**