

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Start Time

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alex Davis, Andrea Cole, Andy Nye, Blair Corning, Breanna Gonzalez, Casey Davenport, Cynthia Lane, David Kamin, David Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Erik Jorgensen (Alt. Heather Justus), Greg Johnson, Jarod Roberts, Kim Gortz, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Rick Marsicek, Sam Caulkins, Sarah Borgers, Sarah Klahn, Shaden Musleh, Susan Nedell

Guests: Katie Garrett, Orna Buch Leviatan, Dave Breindel, Jamie Krezelok, Brent Soderlin, Rachel Pence, Bret Gardner-Smith, Matt Lindburg, Skylar Zilliox, Becky Bolinger, Taylor Winchell, Aiden Lyde

CWCB: Russ Sands, Jeff Rodriguez, Andrea Harbin-Monahan, Emily Adrid, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (1 min.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Darling at 2:05 pm.

2. Approval of [June 13, 2024, Meeting Summary](#) (1 min.)

The minutes were accepted by acclamation.

3. Agenda: additions or changes (1 min.)

None.

4. Public Comment (5 min.)

None.

5. WSRF Committee (Kim Gortz & Sam Calkins) (10 min.)

1. WSRF Balance Summary ([WSRF Budget Summary 05.2024](#))

6. CWCB Update (15 min.)

1. Jeff Rodriguez - 5 min.

JULY CWCB UPDATES

[CWCB Guide](#)

- Draft on EngageCWCB
 - Finalize in Fall

[C9 Summit](#)

- Register Early
 - October 1 & 2
 - Crested Butte Arts Center



[Water Conditions](#)

- Next meeting 7/23/24
 - 9:30 am
 - Virtual

[Water Plan Grant Cycle 1](#)

- 41 applications
- \$11.6M
- Updated Web page

[Colorado River Webinars](#)

- 7/11
 - Cancelled
 - Next one is August 8
 - CWCB Calendar

[Reminders](#)

- **CWCB Board Meeting**
 - July 17-18 - North Platte Basin
- **CWCB Deadlines**
 - WSRF Deadline August 1
- **Wildfire Ready Watersheds**
 - Accepting Applications
- **Technical Assistance & Local Capacity**
 - Accepting Application
 - Both Programs (ARPA Funds)
 - Contracted by 12/31/24

Tours are being lined up for the C-9 Summit. You can sign up for those when you register. CWCB has a reimbursement option for ten RT members per basin for lodging and milage. Work with

your MRT Chair to determine who will represent the RT. Contact Jeff Rodriguez for more information. Register for the C9 Summit Today. C9 Summit: <https://engagecwcb.org/c9-summit>

CWCB Board meeting will be in Walden next week. Please tune in.

The CWCB Guide draft is up on the CWCB Engagecwcb.org platform for your review. They plan to finalize it in the fall. It will be presented to the CWCB Board in November.

Thursday's 7/11 CO River Webinar Canceled. Next webinar is tentatively scheduled for 8/8. Visit the CWCB Calendar for more info and webinar link.

Water Plan Grant Cycle 1: 41 applications for \$11.6M.
<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants>

Read and comment on the CWCB Guide on EngageCWCB.org. <https://engagecwcb.org/cwcb-guide>

Still accepting applications for the Wildfire Ready Watersheds and Technical Assistance programs. Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/>.
Questions/interest contact Steve Reeves (steven.reeves@state.co.us)

Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants:
Questions/interest contact Michael Regan (michael.regan@state.co.us)

7. IBCC Update (L. Darling/R. Marsicek) (25 min.)

A No/Low Regrets Strategy presentation was provided. At the IBCC there was a Shoshone Water Rights presentation discussing the benefits to all communities. There was a legislative update followed by presentations from the tribes in the area.

The Drought Resilience Action Plan was discussed. IBCC is modernizing its 2013 No & Low Regrets action plan.

A NEW LOW REGRETS ACTION PLAN

- Low regrets can work alongside the Water Plan.
- IBCC & Roundtable surveys outputs speak to topics:
 - DROUGHT & CLIMATE
 - FOREST/WATERSHED HEALTH
 - FUNDING
 - CWSAS/AG INNOVATION
 - WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
 - WATER CONSERVATION
 - REGIONAL PROJECT PLANNING
 - ROUNDTABLE COORDINATION
 - EDUCATION/OUTREACH
 - WATER QUALITY & REUSE
- Moving from broad areas to a specific strategies.

Developing a Drought Resilience Action Plan (Low Regrets Actions for the Next Decade)

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) staff and the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) worked for several years to develop a set of "No & Low Regret Actions" that folded into the Basin Implementation Plans and ultimately the first Colorado Water Plan (Water Plan). This was done through iterative workshoping with the basin roundtables and the CWCB board. The final product focused on specific actions that could be taken to minimize the risk of future water shortages but it was produced over a decade ago. It's time for a new plan that can be used to advance and align local and state water strategies.

As Colorado is on the cusp of 2025 and works to implement the current Water Plan, new Drought Resilience Actions are needed to not only address the call to action in the Water Plan but to help basin roundtables identify the projects that should be elevated in their next Basin Implementation Plans. The IBCC is working to develop a set of concepts that can help to address these needs and make Colorado more drought resilient - understanding there is a potential for up to 740,000 Acre Foot per year gap identified in the Water Plan by 2050.

Ideas will be developed under each of the four action areas of Water Plan and some examples have been populated for initial contemplation based on IBCC discussions:

Vibrant Communities

- Idea 1 - Example Idea
- Idea 2 - Example Idea
- Idea 3 - Example Idea

Robust Agriculture

- Idea 1 - Example Idea
- Idea 2 - Example Idea
- Idea 3 - Example Idea

Thriving Watersheds

- Idea 1 - Example Idea
- Idea 2 - Example Idea
- Idea 3 - Example Idea

Resilient Planning

- Idea 1 - "The State should support scaling-up and stabilizing funding for Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement (CASM)?"
- Idea 2 - Example Idea
- Idea 3 - Example Idea

There was discussion about the Airborne Snow Observatory CASM program being one of the ideas that had general agreement to advance. The State is asking for feedback regarding the State exploring how to scale up and stabilize support for CASM. The program is still looking for a home and lacks stable funding. Every year they have had to reach out to many entities to continue the program. Without a program

champion there is the risk of it not moving forward. Having an agency taking this on as a regularly funded program is desirable. There are other technologies that could complement this technology. The ASO is the most accurate so far. The MRT was in general agreement that CWCB explore scaling up this program.

The areas for consideration by the IBCC in addressing drought resilience are Vibrant Communities, Robust Agriculture, Thriving Watersheds, and Resiliency Planning. The MRT discussed additional concepts or specific ideas or challenges the MRT thinks IBCC should explore as part of a new Drought Resilience Action Plan. The project lists from the BIPs are very specific and often narrow. They may be one or two levels down in specificity from what is being asked to bring to the IBCC. CWCB is looking to narrow it down to a select few ideas or one idea for IBCC to pursue. What are some actions and solutions to be done about heat? This will be brought to the C-9 Summit.

The MRT was tasked with bringing ideas to the August MRT meeting.

8. Colorado Climate Center (Emily Adrid, CWCB & Becky Bolinger, Climate Center (30 min.)

A presentation was provided on the trends and projections for Colorado's climate and hydrology. A report was released January 2024. Key messages were on temperature and precipitation, snowpack, soil moisture, and streamflow, and climate hazards and extremes. The presentation is available by request.

Key takeaways about Colorado's water

- ☐ There is uncertainty regarding trends in precipitation. Despite that, warming temperatures will impact our state's water resources.
- ☐ Medium confidence that peak snowpack will overall be lower and melt out earlier.
- ☐ Streamflows are more likely to be reduced, unless there is a significant increase in precipitation.
- ☐ Summer soil moisture and evaporative demand will be much higher.
- ☐ Despite changes in precipitation, we are likely to experience more frequent and intense droughts.

- ☐ Any good news?? Yes! We are building resilience. We are planning for the future, and we're arming ourselves with the information we need to make more informed decisions!

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER



9. 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 (C. Davenport) (5 min.) (No Summary) There was a meeting with PEPO liaisons from around the state to engage with CWCB. Strategic by Nature has been hired to conduct interviews with the PEPO liaisons and CWCB representatives. This is an effort by the State to provide a network and materials to distribute. The survey tended toward water education. SPBRT and MRT has been comfortable focusing on the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan and alternative use information. PEPO is distributing materials coming from CWCB and water education outlets through many partnership networks. It has been a priority of SPBRT/MRT PEPO to encourage people to come forward with proposals for the WSRF grants. Ag questions and aquifer storage is of interest to this basin.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (*D. Nickum*) (5 min.) (No Summary) The E&R Committee is poised and ready to begin holding meetings again. On July 24th there will be a presentation from Kelsey Holloway on wetlands. A request has been made to CDPHE to present to the MRT and SPBRT on the Dredge and Fill bill.
3. M&I Committee (*A. Cole*) (15 min.) (No Summary) The Committee met and is continuing to select projects associated with the BIP. A survey is going to be distributed to the Committee for prioritizing. Once a list has been compiled they will bring it to the larger membership. The next meeting will be in August. More information on the upcoming meeting is at the below link.
 1. [M&I Committee Meeting August 23rd](#)
4. Colorado River Committee (*A. Davis*) (5. Min.) (**No Summary**) Nothing to report.

10. Round Table Member Comments (5 min.)

An idea for the IBCC to do is highlight the successes. Action items are desired. We know the problems. A two year anniversary report on the CWP is underway that will be highlighting successes.

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