



OPEN HOUSE & ENGAGEMENT SOUTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE August 13, 2024 Meeting Summary

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Brent Schantz, Bruce Gerk, Corey Deangelis, Dan Gallen, Deb Daniel, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kirk Vincent, Lisa Leben, Lynda James, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Casey Davenhill, Sean Cronin, Pat Wells, Don Baggus

Guests who registered in advance: Phyllis Thomas, Robert Sakata, Jorge Vidal, Jody Shadduck-McNally, Steve Smith, Pat Wells, Kyle Whitaker, Jason Ullmann, Alex Tennant, Amanda Hoff, Amber Kauffman, Amber Weber, Andrew Case, Andrew Cutler, Anna Greenberg, Ashley Mertz, Barbara Luneau, Carmen Farmer, Catharine Kellogg, Charles Painchaud, Charles Sonnier, Courtney Massey, Dave Young, Dawn Jewell, Don Hajar, Donny Roush, Esther Malers, Ethan Cozzens, Frank Kinder, Harold Evans, Jason Graham, Jenny McCarty, Jeremy Fisher, Joan, Andrew Green Turner, Julie Kallenberger, Karen Schlatter, Ken Kehmeier, Kristan Buck, Lance Wheeler, Lauren Hix, Leah Hubbard, Margo Drummond, Mary Huisenga, Michael Welsh, Mike Weber, Miles Daly, Nathan Boyer-Rechlin, Nathan Phelps, Nita Gonzales, Noelle Fillo, Randy Ray, Roy Otto, Ryan Van Pelt, Samantha Harshbarger, Sarah Parmar, Sharon Bywater-Reyes, Steve Malers, Taylor Cox, Timothy Hoskens, Tom Cech, Wallie Weld

CWCB: Lauren Riss, Russ Sands, Brad Wind (Director), Amy Ostdiek, Jeff Rodriguez, Jackie Daoust, Diane Kielty

3:07 pm Open House Welcome: Sean Chambers, SPBRT Chair

A welcome was given, and housekeeping items were announced. There were approximately 75 people in attendance live. [House bill 05-1177](#), which created the Water for the 21st Century Act, was highlighted as the foundation for the Roundtables and their grass roots water policy role. An overview of SPBRT programs and committees was provided along with an invitation for interested persons to participate and engage in the Roundtable process

3:10 pm CWCB Vision and the Roundtables Nexus, Lauren Riss, Director

An overview of CWCB, its mission, and the Roundtable role was provided. There were distinctions made between regulatory agencies and CWCB. CWCB is geographically based. Discussed the functions of the 9 basin roundtables throughout the state and focused on the unique qualities and needs for each basin. The Interbasin Compact Committee, known as the IBCC was discussed as an advisory group that can advance roundtable priorities and influence the CWCB.

The CWCB is working toward enhancing transparency and access. The CWCB Guide is an effort toward meeting transparency goals. CWCB is providing a report updating accomplishments since the CWP has gone into effect. They are working to take advantage of federal funding through loan and grant programs. It was noted that state Proposition JJ will be on the ballot in November, and if passed, it would remove the TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) cap on sports betting to allow all the associated tax revenue to go toward water project funding.

3:25 pm Roundtable Successes Panel Facilitated by Robert Sakata, Department of Agriculture

The panel consisted of Robert Sakata, Sean Cronin, and Jim Yahn. The panel discussed the value of participation, the role for local influence on water policy and the importance of relationship building with folks you wouldn't meet otherwise. The panel also leaned into the importance of water users from across geography and user types developing a common language to discuss unique water issues and developing synergy around common interests. SPROWG – the South Platte Regional Opportunities Working Group was provided as an example. Mr. Sakata and the panel shared their appreciation for the Roundtables, roundtable process, the relationships they've developed in the water community, and the opportunity to influence statewide policy.

4:00 pm Networking & Engagement Break

4:15 pm South Platte & Metro Basin Public Education and Outreach (PEPO): Casey Davenport, PEPO Coordinator (PEPO = Public Education & Public Outreach)

South Platte Basin handouts were provided, and a booth was set up of education and outreach materials distributed via PEPO. The SPB: A River Shaped by Use video was played. The video was created by PEPO with input from RT members. A link to the video was provided in the Zoom chat - <https://youtu.be/mbILUorgq3M>.

4:30 pm Interstate Compacts Fireside Chat: Living with scarcity and uncertain hydrology, an outlook for the future: Amy Ostdiek, CWCB, Kyle Whitaker, Northern Water, & Jason Ullmann, Colorado State Engineer

The panelist introduced themselves and discussed the pressing interstate issues of 2024 were discussed. Among the issues discussed was the renegotiation of interim drought operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and the proposed Perkins County Canal and how it fits into water rights administration and the Platte River Recovery program. The guidelines currently in place facilitated the draw down of the largest reservoirs in the United States. CWCB is committed to negotiating sustainable operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead with the Basin States, federal government, and the Tribal Nations.

- [Where The Water Flows Infographic](#)
- [UPPER DIVISION STATES ALTERNATIVE FAQ](#)

Compacts need adjustments to ensure we conserve what we have. There are a number of transmountain diversions. There are a number of return flows that add to that water. Arizona water rights suggest return flows don't exist. The Colorado approach is foreign to them. There is a sense of urgency. To plug into the conversation, engage with the Roundtables.

Based upon the interconnected nature of the South Platte and Colorado River systems, an attendee asked the group about the proposed sale of the Shoshone hydropower plant senior water right. The state's water court process was discussed. The senior and junior Shoshone water rights and capabilities for diversions were discussed. It was noted that the Colorado water court adjudications can take a long time. The Colorado River District has offered to present information on the Shoshone water rights transaction at a future South Platte Basin Roundtable meeting, likely this fall.

5:15 pm Heavy Appetizer Food & Beverage Break – Greenpoint Catering

5:45 pm Roundtables, Water Supply Reserve Funds and Colorado Water Plan Grants; funding the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and Basin Implementation Plan: Garret Varra, SPBRT / Jeff Rodriguez, CWCB / Russ Sands, CWCB

The Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant program and its purpose was presented. An outline of eligible projects was provided. It is funded through State Severance taxes with supplement from CWCB. The WSRF cycle for submissions and the application process was discussed Colorado Water Plan (CWP) grants have different categories than WSRF grants. CWCB asks that CWP grant applicants obtain letters of support from the associated roundtable.

6:00 pm Water: a foundation and building block of NE Colorado economy, resiliency and quality of life:

Brad Wind, CWCB Board

Director Wind addressed the audience and shared his perspective on the value of water in Northeast about CWCB Board engagement with the RTs and the Board composition. The framework of the various basins and the process of creating a culture of preservation of resource was discussed. SPBRT may not be positioned as strategically as other basins to protect its senior water rights. This may be a conversation to elevate at the SPBRT.

6:20 pm IBCC - a statewide "super roundtable" informed by the pulse of Roundtable insights and priorities: Sean Cronin / JimYahn / Pat Wells, SPBRT

The [Interbasin Compact Committee](#) (IBCC) was created in 2005 as directed by the "[Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act\(opens in new window\)](#)." The Water for the 21st Century Act contemplated conflicts between the Colorado River Basin and the Front Range. The development of the Act involved the creation of the Interbasin Compact Committee with this anticipated conflicts between basins within Colorado. The IBCC is an advisory board that represents the RTs. SPBRT has two roundtable appointed representatives on the IBCC, one alternate and a Governor's appointee to the IBCC. The panel noted the importance of the SPBRT to bring the issues important to this basin to the IBCC. Roundtable and IBCC members discuss water as a building block for a healthy environment, thriving communities, resilient agriculture and economy. The IBCC functions like a super statewide roundtable and our representatives need input from members and others interested in water policy. The water community is struggling with defining collaborative process and how we tackle the big and difficult issues, and the transition to true partnerships is an area for growth in the water community.

6:40 pm Closing remarks and transition to social hour: Sean Chambers, SPBRT Chair

Attendees were encouraged to stay engaged with the roundtable, join a future meeting and share their ideas..

6:45 pm Networking and social hour

Attendees visited, discussed water policy, and networked in the courtyard at the Platte River Fort.

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