

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Start Time

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Andrea Cole, Andy Nye, Breanna Gonzalez, Brian Tracy, Casey Davenport, Cynthia Lane, David Kamin, David Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Heather Justus, Jarod Roberts, Katie Garrett, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Rachel Pence, Sam Caulkins, Shaden Musleh, Susan Nedell,

Guests: Ann Imse, Nick Harmon, Garrett Varra, Dan Waldvogle, Kara Sobieski, Jeff Deems, Kelly Morgan, Robert Sakata, Orna Buch-Leviatan, Scott Southworth, Stuart Dykstra, Courtney Massey, Emerson Kennedy, Annette Quill, Taylor Winchell, Michael Weber, Deb Daniel

CWCB: Jeff Rodriguez, Jessica Brody, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (1 min.)

The meeting was opened by Chair Darling at 2:02 pm. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of [September 12, 2024, Meeting Summary](#) (1 min.)

The September 12, 2024, meeting summary was approved 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 0924](#)) The MRT balance will be allocated to approximately \$700,000 after the account is replenished. There was discussion about the MRT role in WSRF applicant evaluation and private sector proposals. MRT has a role in the evaluation process, but not the eligibility criteria determination.
2. [Deploying Airborne Snow Observatories](#) (ASO) (Taylor Winchell) (5 min.) This is a request for both MRT and Statewide funds for deploying ASO snow measurement surveys for improving coordinated water management operations and streamflow forecasting of the upper South Platte and upper Blue Rivers. The ask from MRT is \$120,173.50. To improve basin-wide snow measurements, advance streamflow forecasting, and link emerging snow measurement technology with increasingly complex water management operations, they propose to contract with ASO, Inc to conduct ASO snow surveys in adjacent basins in Colorado—the upper South Platte Basin and upper Blue River Basin—and to integrate the ASO data with at least three streamflow forecasting models (WRF-Hydro, CBRFC, Denver Water internal forecasting model).

The MRT approved the proposal to advance to a full proposal to CWCB.

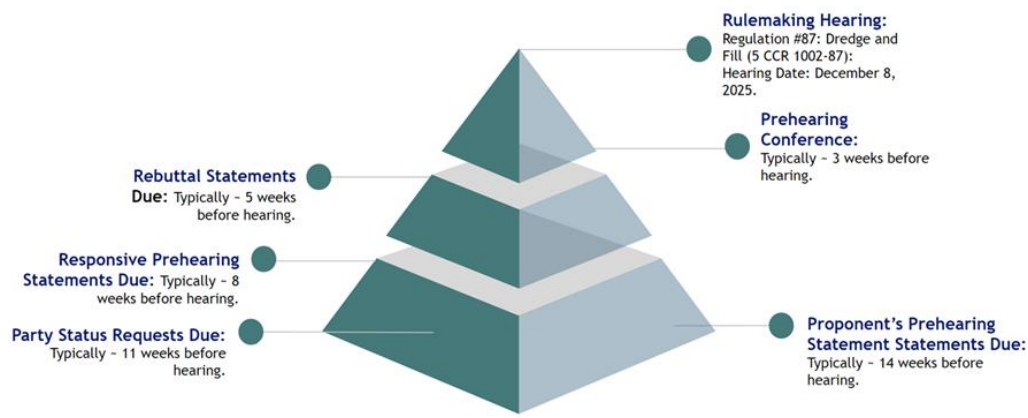
3. [Chatfield Hilldale Pines Fuel Break](#) (Ann Imse) (5 min.) The project is intended to protect Deer Creek headwaters of Chatfield Reservoir Watershed, by completing the last ¼- mile of a 1-mile-long shaded fuel break on the top of Chatfield's western watershed. The total project cost estimate is \$70,000. Request from Metro Roundtable is \$36,000. Other contributors have pledged \$34,000. The completed project will comprise 1 mile long, shaded fuel break

The MRT approved the proposal to advance to a full proposal to CWCB.

6. CDPHE Dredge & Fill Rulemaking Presentation (Commissioner Mike Weber CDPHE) (45 min.)

On May 30, 2024, House Bill (HB) 24-1379 was signed into law. The intent of the legislation is to ensure that state waters are protected from the impacts of dredge and fill activity after the U.S. Supreme Court drastically limited the scope of federal protection under the Clean Water Act through its decision in Sackett v. EPA. The presentation highlighted exemptions and exclusions under what the State will require that are no longer under WOTUS. The rule making hearings will include clarifying terms. They intend to use the federal definitions wherever they can. Implementation components are covered under [HB24-1379](#) which directs the Water Quality Control Division to develop a dredge and fill authorization program and the Water Quality Control Commission to establish program and mitigation rules by Dec. 31, 2025. An overview of the hearing process and requirements were provided. The presentation is available by request. General Inquiries: cdphe.wqcc@state.co.us. Register to attend their next stakeholder meeting on Zoom: Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Virtual Only. [dredge and fill program website](#) / [Colorado dredge and fill program implementation engagement page](#).

Commission Rulemaking hearing Process-Timeline



The State program is intended to be the default when projects are not considered to be impacting WOTUS. If a project is subject to federal jurisdiction, it will always go through the federal process.

7. CWCB Update (15 min.)

1. Jeff Rodriguez - 5 min.

The CWCB Guide is on the CWCB site. They are incorporating comments. Comments must be submitted by November 1st. CWCB Guide Link: <https://engagecwcb.org/cwcb-guide>.

C-9 Summit recordings will be online in a few weeks.

Funding Deadlines

WSRF - December 1

WPG - December 1

Turf Replacement - October 31

CAWA Drought Resilience - 12/13

Upcoming Events

CWCB Board Meeting: 11/20 - 11/21

Water Conditions Monitoring Committee: 11/19 @9:30 am

Colorado River Webinar: 10/17 @ 11:30 am
IBCC Meeting 2/26/25 (All Day)

**Federal Technical Assistance & Local Capacity Funding – (ARPA funds)
DEADLINE 10/15**

Technical Assistance funding now available (CWCB Contractor is under contract)

Applications accepted on a rolling basis through CWCB Grants Portal

The funds must be awarded by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026

Michael Regan is the contact for this program, and he is willing to present more information on this program at BRT Meetings if there is interest.

8. IBCC Update (L. Darling/R. Marsicek) (25 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. An update will be provided at the November meeting.

9. Committee Updates (20 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**)
2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (D. Nickum) (5 min.) ([Meeting Summary 9/25/2024](#))
3. M&I Committee (A. Cole) (5 min.) (**No Summary**)
4. Colorado River Committee (A. Davis) (5. Min.) (**No Summary**)

10. Guests from the South Fork Republican River Coalition and the Republican River Water Conservation District (20 min.) A presentation was provided on the community and water issues in the Republican River basin. The SFRRC and RRWCD aim to increase river flows, conserve water, improve habitats, and improve recreation in the +7,200-acre Bonny area. The BOR leases the land to the State Wildlife Areas (SWA) program. Drained in 2011 for compact compliance, water still becomes trapped due to an elevated outlet and accumulated sediments. The resulting dense phreatophyte growth transpires large amounts of water in self-reinforcing conditions that further impact the area. Recently, it was found that significant BOR investments are needed to breach or renovate the dam for safety requirements. A WSRF application was submitted to the SPBRT for a Bonny Sediment Drainage Assessment and Design. The SPBRT fund request is \$82,500. SPBRT does not have this amount available. A request was made to the MRT to consider splitting the ask between the two roundtables, making the ask to MRT \$41,250. The submission materials will be sent to the MRT for consideration in November. The presentation is available by request.

11. Round Table Member Comments (5 min.) None.

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