



SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Brent Nation, Brent Schantz, Bruce Gerk, Corey DeAngelis, Deb Daniel, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Gene Manuello, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kirk Vincent, Lisa Leben, Loretta Daniel, Lynda James, Scott Griebeling, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Sean Cronin, Don Baggus

Guests: Audrey Seery, Cari Bischoff, Christi Bode, Courtney Black, Courtney Massey, Cole Kramer, Dale Parker, Jeff Nutall, Jeff Shoemaker, Pat Wells (IBCC Governor's appointee), Greg Peterson, Lauren Hix, Michael Welsh, Noah Nemmers, Noelle Fillo, Scott Southworth, Tom Cech, Skylar Zilliox, Stuart Dykstra

CWCB: Esther Malers, Jackie Doust, Jeff Rodriguez, Zach Salin

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sean Chambers at 4:08 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 October 8, 2024](#) (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)

It was moved by Scott Griebeling to approve the October 8, 2024, SPBRT Meeting Summary as presented. It was seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment (10 min.)

Jeff Nutall, Publisher of BizWest Media, requested feedback from the SPBRT regarding the agenda for the NoCO [Water Confluence Colorado Water Summit](#) which will be held on April 3rd, 2025 at AIMS Community College. The event typically brings together a range of Northern Colorado water industry and business professionals to discuss relevant statewide topics such as scarcity, uncertainty, and resiliency. SPBRT members have spoken at the event in past years and any topical ideas for the upcoming event should be relayed to Sean Cronin.

5. WSRF (Garrett Varra - 45 min.)

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status CWCB Basin Account Funds

Based on the most recent WSRF Balance Summary (November 2023), the South Platte Basin Account Balance is \$356,334. The Statewide account balance is \$5,627,596. The applications for this cycle would total \$169,168.

2. WSRF [Memo of recommendations](#)

The Needs Committee reviewed the second cycle of WSRF applications and recommended that the SPBRT support three of the four applications: Bonny Sediment Drainage Assessment and Design, Sedgewick County Well Users Efficiency Improvements, and the Sterling No. 1 Ditch Bypass.

3. WSRF Applicant Presentations

- [Bonny Sediment Drainage Assessment and Design](#)

Debra Daniel and Nick Stewart presented for the Republican River Water Conservancy District. They will also presented at the Metro Roundtable on November 14th, 2024.

The proposed project seeks to plan and environmental engineer for the rehabilitation of the former Bonny Reservoir using stream restoration efforts and subsurface drainage design. Bonny Dam was drained and converted to a flow-through facility in 2011 in response to legal requirements of the Republican River Compact ([SFRRC](#) info). The project seeks to address current issues in the breached reservoir footprint related to phreatophytes, sediment build-up, and evapotranspiration to deliver an estimated additional 3,000 acre-feet of water downstream. This grant will enable a project to plan and document the path forward toward the ultimate rehabilitation of the former reservoir site, leaving a more useable and ecologically natural area that conveys water through and downstream.

A motion was made to approve the Bonny Sediment Drainage Assessment and Design WSRF proposal for recommendation to the CWCB by Scott Griebing and was seconded by Garrett Varra. The motion carried. Deb Daniel recused her vote.

- [iSprinkler](#)

Jeff Shoemaker and Scott Southworth presented for the Colorado Parks Foundation. This proposal is for prototyping an intelligent sprinkler head that will conserve water on lawns by minimizing waste. This project is geared towards fulfilling the Drought Resiliency emphasis for statewide funds. Although the project is an innovative attempt to conserve water, the SPBRT voiced concerns over the project's early conceptual stage, the accuracy of water savings predicted by modeling, the cost to clients to implement the technology, the benefits development might provide to private interests, and potential limitations of the technology such as the lack of a soil moisture measurement component. The SPBRT suggested that other sources of funding are better suited for iSprinkler such as an incubator fund.

A motion was made to deny the iSprinkler WSRF proposal for recommendation to the CWCB by Jim Yahn and was seconded by Scott Griebing. The motion carried.

- [Sedgwick County Well Users Efficiency Improvements](#)

Greg Peterson and Dale Parker presented for the Sedgwick County Well Users. The project would install 4,235 feet of pipe to replace aged concrete and earthen ditches to deliver water while minimizing transit loss. The current structures are inefficient due to leakage and flooding. The project fulfills the SPBRT criteria for maintenance projects while also fulfilling drought resiliency and aging infrastructure criteria for the statewide fund.

A motion was made to approve the Sedgwick County Well Users Efficiency Improvements WSRF proposal for recommendation to the CWCB by Garrett Varra and was seconded by Kirk Vincent. The motion carried.

- [Sterling No. 1 Ditch Bypass](#)

Greg Peterson and Gene Manuello presented for the Colorado Ag Water Alliance. The proposal is for the replacement of an aged diversion structure with a new reinforced concrete bypass structure comprised of a 40' Obermeyer bladder gate. This project fulfills the aging infrastructure emphasis for Statewide funds, improves the administration of the structure, and revitalizes the delivery of water in the Sterling No. 1 ditch which serves 6,700 irrigated acres with 74 shareholders. The SPBRT voiced appreciation to be able to support the project and recommended the incorporation of bypass measurement technology.

A motion was made to approve the Sterling No. 1 Ditch Bypass WSRF proposal for recommendation to the CWCB by Jim Hall and was seconded by Deb Daniel. The motion carried. Jim Yahn recused his vote.

4. CWP Grant Letters of Support

The SPBRT received three requests for CWP Grant letters of support utilizing the new guidelines for the process.

- **Ducks Unlimited and the City of Loveland ([Summary](#))**

Presented by Courtney Massey with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and Cole Kramer with the City of Loveland. The project seeks to conserve key sites along the Big Thompson River Corridor in Loveland, CO.

A motion was made to approve a SPBRT letter of support for the Ducks Unlimited and the City of Loveland by Garrett Varra and was seconded by Donnie Dustin. The motion carried.

- **City of Lafayette Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan ([Summary](#))**

Courtney Black and Cari Bischoff presented for the City of Lafayette. Lafayette is initiating an update to its 2018 Water Efficiency Plan and 2001 Water Shortage Management Plan. The project seeks to combine drought and water conservation planning into an effective communication platform by leveraging partnerships and common goals.

A motion was made to approve a SPBRT letter of support for the City of Lafayette Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan by Scott Griebing and was seconded by Julia Gallucci. The motion carried.

- **Moxiecran Media- PBS documentary ([Summary](#))**

Christi Bode presented for Moxiecran Media. The project seeks to produce a 30 minute PBS documentary focused on Colorado's climate and water education with youth. The project will seek to include diverse perspectives from educators, tribal leadership, children of various ages, and the CO department of education.

A motion was made to approve a SPBRT letter of support for Moxiecran Media- PBS documentary by Garrett Varra and was seconded by John Kolanz. The motion carried.

6. Committee Updates (40 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 Davenport – excused absent) (No Summary)

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

If there is interest in joining the E&R Committee as a member, an environmental representative, or in a leadership role, contact Lynda James, Larry Rogstad, or David Nickum.

3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 10 min.) (No Summary)

M&I met October 25th to discuss the development of a process to coordinate BIP priorities initiated by RTs and the WSRF funds. A general survey of identified priorities was discussed, but specific projects were not easily identifiable. Going forward, the “low and no regrets,” which were discussed at the C-9 summit, may be a way to identify specific projects and the committee plans to hold a joint meeting with Metro in February or March to discuss them further. A key question which the Committee will seek to address in December 2024 or January 2025 is: would the Roundtable be able to develop projects internally in the future? The next meeting will take place in December or January 2025.

7. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin) (5 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

The next IBCC meeting will be February 26th in the Denver Metro area to discuss “low and no regrets.”

- It was suggested that the SPBRT and the Metro might have a joint discussion following the next IBCC meeting and consider how we could jointly contribute to the important policy and planning discussion that CWCB is having around drought resiliency and the low and no regrets 2.0 concepts.

8. CWCB Update (25 min.) Kat Weismiller

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez – 15 min.)

- It was reported that Russ Sands will be leaving the CWCB. Kat Weismiller and Jeff Rodriguez will continue his work.
- The [CWCB guide](#) is progressing through draft feedback and revision. The next draft will be

reviewed at the November CWCB board meeting and sent to the Governor's office for review. The final copy will be available in January with limited printed copies available. Request a copy from Jeff Rodriguez.

- Guidance on how the roundtables engage and convene conversations regarding legislative proposals remains a major point of interest for the SPBRT and some other roundtables across the state.
 - Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) approved federal funding for diversion measurement structures on the Colorado River.
 - The funding deadline for [Bucket 2E](#) has been extended to November 22. Direct questions to Amy Ostdiek. CWCB will look to have an update for the Roundtable in January.
 - The next [board meetings](#) will be November 20th and 21st in the Denver Metro Area. Discussion will include the [Governor's 2025-2026 budget](#) and its potential impacts on the CWCB and DNR.
 - FY 2025-2026 may impact the CWCB and the [Severance Tax](#).
 - [WSRF](#) and [CWP](#) deadlines are December 1
 - The [Colorado Ag Drought Resiliency](#) Program deadline is Dec. 13th
 - Colorado Proposition JJ passed which removes the TABOR cap on sports betting revenue and will fund water projects such as the CWP grant. In December, \$26.8 million was transferred to the CWCB. The Projects Bill may impact how the funds can be used. An additional \$1.4 million is expected upon certification of the election and will be available for use July 1st, 2025.
2. CWCB Director Brad Wind had a significant conflict and could not attend the meeting, but members were encouraged that they were free to contact him with concerns and input for the CWCB.

9. Member Updates (5 min.)

1. [The Upper Colorado River Commission](#) aims to finalize contracts in February 2025 for aerial snowpack observation through Clear Creek and the Poudre in April 2025.
2. [The South Platte Forum](#) will be November 21st at AIMS Community College.
3. Elections for Chair and Vice-chair will take place in January. Members should consider how to refresh participation in 2025 by inviting guests and candidates.
4. The January 14th SPBRT meeting will include a presentation by Colorado River District Shoshone Water Rights (Andy Mueller).
5. April 2025 NoCO Water Confluence Summit – Provide suggestions to Sean Chambers and Sean Cronin

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

THE SPBRT WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER