



SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Allyn Wind, Brent Nation, Brent Schantz, Bruce Gerck, Darren Beck, Daylan Figgs, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Haly Strevey, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, Joe Frank, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Lynda James, Scott Griebeling, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Donald Baggus, Matthew Schultz, Sean Cronin

Guests: Alex Hippenhammer, Andy Mueller, Annie Berndt, Blain Dwyer, Carmen Farmer, Cory Channell, Corey Deangelis, Courtney Massey, Daniel Gallen, Dawn Jewell, Kara Sobieski, Kelsea Mauk, Kerry Major, Kyle Whitaker, Jake Nemmers, Juliet Lee, Lauren Hix, Leah Hubbard, Lynette Peppler, Matt Machado, Michael Weber, Michael Welsh, Nathan Boyer-Rechlin, Noelle Fillo, Robert Sakata, Sarah Gerenday, Tom Cech, Zane Kessler

CWCB: Amy Ostdiek, Esther Malers, Jackie Doust, Jeff Rodriguez, Kathryn Weismiller, Zach Salin

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sean Chambers at 4:00pm

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

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

3. Approval of SPBRT Meeting Summary November 12, 2024 (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)

It was moved by Jim Yahn to approve the November 12, 2024, SPBRT Meeting Summary with the following revisions: "agenda" to "summary," "Ducks Unlimited" to "City of Lafayette Integrated Water Conservation and Drought Response Plan," and "M&I" to "E&R." It was seconded by Kirk Vincent and the motion carried.

4. Public Comment (3 min.)

No public comments.

5. Annual Officer Elections (10 min.)

Jim Hall stepped down as 2nd Vice Chair and Scott Griebeling was recommended to fill the 2nd Vice Chair role. Sean Chambers and Lynda James made it known that they were interested in continuing to serve in their current roles, as did Jim Yahn as IBCC representative. It was moved by Joe Frank to re-elect all Officers and IBCC appointees who wish to continue serving and to elect Scott Griebeling. It was seconded by Kirk Vincent and the motion carried. SPBRT Officers are as follows:

Sean Chambers: Chair, Alternate IBCC Representative

Lynda James: Vice Chair

Scott Griebeling: 2nd Vice Chair

Jim Yahn: IBCC Representative

Sean Cronin: IBCC Representative

6. Colorado River Update (Amy Ostdiek - 15 min. [presentation](#))

- Discussions about the management of Lake Powell and Lake Mead continue between the Upper and Lower Basins. The [UDS Alternative](#) considers how to refine operations to align with hydrology and implement proportional reductions to the Lower Basin.
- The [System Conservation Pilot Program](#) (SCPP), which was designed to explore potential solutions and to address declining water levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, has not been reauthorized at this time.

- The [Bureau of Reclamation](#) has released an [Alternatives Report](#) with five options regarding post-2026 operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The report was updated with more details on 1/17.
- To recognize and account for undeveloped tribal water rights is another focus going forward. Accounting for Mexico's allocation and Lower Basin Tributary uses are additional points of discussion.

7. CO River District Shoshone Water Rights (Andy Mueller - 45 min. [presentation](#))

Mr. Mueller and Mr. Kessler of the Colorado River District thanked the Roundtable for the opportunity to present and share insights on the Shoshone Permanency project. The Shoshone Water Right Preservation Coalition & Campaign seeks to: protect, develop, and preserve water tributaries. In December of 2023, The CO River District finalized an agreement to purchase the oldest and largest non-consumptive water rights on the upper CO River from Xcel Energy. The rights are tied to the Shoshone Hydroelectric Plant in Glenwood Canyon. Xcel continues to own and operate the plant which provides 15 megawatts of renewable electricity to roughly 15,000 customers, but the aged infrastructure is expected to cease operation eventually. The CO River District aims to protect the 1,250 cfs allocated to the plant by doing the following:



Preserving the rights benefits downstream river and fish health, such as the 15-mile-reach where the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program supports endangered and threatened species. For more information about coalition members or the instream water flow acquisition, visit the [Shoshone Water Right Preservation website](#).

8. WSRF (Garrett Varra - 5 min.)

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status CWCB Basin Account Funds: \$235,000-237,000 will remain in the Basin Account once Cycle 2 of the 2024 grants are approved by the CWCB Board. The statewide account, which had an emphasis on draught resiliency and infrastructure, has been exhausted. Applicants who would have been a good fit for state funding have already reached out to the RT to discuss the spring cycle. The WSRF continues to support many impactful water projects.

9. 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 (Summary by Casey Davenport, reported by Esther Malers - 5 min.)
[12.08.24 PEPO Report](#), [08.07.24 PEPO Report](#)
 - [2025 Colorado Farm Show](#) in Greeley, January 28-30th - Casey will have a PEPO booth and welcomes any available RT members to join her (email Casey to coordinate).
 - PEPO's Youth Development and the Colorado Water Plan is currently working with Greeley/Evans School District 6. The Poudre Learning Center is an exemplar of water education in Colorado.

- [Colorado Water Workforce Summit](#), Denver Spur Campus, February 13th - PEPO booth welcomes RT members to participate. This event is a part of PEPO's work with the Workforce Development Office which is a partnership with the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.
 - Christi Bode is developing a 30-minute PBS documentary related to youth and water scarcity.
 - PEPO is working to select water education handouts and materials from around the state to engage youth audiences. Communicate suggestions to Casey.
 - PEPO will continue to work toward identifying potential WSRF grant proposals that further the goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Plan.
2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Larry Rogstad – 5 min.) (no meeting)
 - SPBRT members Lynda James, Hally Strevey, Larry Rogstad, and Kirk Vincent voiced commitment to revitalize the E&R Committee.
 3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) (no meeting)
 - The next meeting: January 17th

10. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin - 15 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. No & Low Regrets 2.0 subcommittee (Scott Griebeling – 5 min.)
 - Aims to bring the RT productive and digestible topics by February or March.
2. 2025 Colorado General Assembly Session (Sean Cronin)
 - It was noted that Basin Roundtables are well attended by a wide range of subject matter experts in water, including current and former CWCB members, yet the RTs are not often considered as a resource or mentioned in emerging water-related bills. The SPBRT considered how the group or individual members might contribute constructive stakeholder feedback to relevant bills like SB 25-040, which calls for the creation of a committee to recommend ways to fund water planning needs more sustainably. The CWCB staff have developed a [guidebook](#) for CWCB, IBCC and RT member conduct, which includes guidance that limits the RT's from taking formal positions on legislation. Multiple members voiced the understanding that individuals would be able to discuss legislation, engage in grass roots information sharing, while being careful not to take any formal stance.
 - It was suggested that the SPBRT consider how they might participate in the 2026 legislative session and gauge the interest of other RTs in legislative participation.
3. The IBCC members are expecting to review outcomes of the Oct. C9 Summit and discuss Drought Resiliency Planning and what makes a No/Low Regrets strategy at the February 26th IBCC meeting.

11. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez - 10 min.)
 - The Statewide Grant Fund is fully allocated. Starting in February, only basin funding will be available.
 - Multiple CWCB reports will be available after the next board meeting (January 27 & 28) including a Water Plan Progress update report and a report with 10 strategies to protect irrigated agriculture.
 - Letters of Support for water grant applications must be submitted with application to be considered.
 - CO's ARPA funding was fully committed to projects before the Dec 31st deadline. The projects must be implemented within two years.
2. Director Wind Update (Dir. Wind arrived late and was unfortunately locked out of the facility, and therefore did not make a report)

12. Member Updates (5 min.)

1. Republican River Update (Jim Yahn)
 - In accordance with the Republican River Compact of 1943, irrigated farmlands are being permanently retired to deliver water to Kansas and Nebraska.
 - 10,000 acres have already been retired and 7,000 are contracted for dry up. The Republican Basin continues to use the \$30 million allocated by Colorado lawmakers to fund these efforts. A total of 25,000 must be retired by 2029.
2. 2025 Colorado General Assembly Session (Jim Yahn)

Members were informed about the following bills:

- HB25-1009- Addresses vegetated fuel mitigation and how fire protection authorities can manage dead and dry plant material. The bill could impact watersheds.
- HB 25-1014- modifies procedures and fees for permitting groundwater use, and the timing of a decennial report on abandoned water rights by the Division of Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources. The bill aims to increase the efficiency of water resource administration.
- SB 25-040- The bill seeks to establish a Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee; a task force responsible for recommending ways to continue funding water needs as severance tax revenue is decreasing.
- A bill is in development to raise spending limits used for irrigation and to lower vegetation.

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

1. Alternate location for April 8th meeting
 - The SPBRT will not meet at the Southwest Weld County Building on April 8th, 2025. City of Greeley staff offered to host at their facilities.
2. Alternate location or date for November 11th meeting still under consideration (Veterans Day).
 - The Southwest Weld County Building will be closed. Members can meet at the Weld County Building a week BEFORE or AFTER the 11th OR meet on November 11th at an alternate location.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm