



SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Adam Gates, Brent Schantz, Bruce Gerk, Byron Fanning (Alt), Daylan Figgs, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Gene Manuello, Greg Larson, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, Joe Frank, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kirk Vincent, Loretta Daniel, Lynda James, Scott Griebbling, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson.

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Casey Davenport, Donald Baggus, Sean Cronin

Guests: Alessandra Desiderio, Brenan Bloyd, Carmen Farmer, Corey Deangelis, Courtney Massey, Daniel Gallen, Dawn Jewell, Karen Schlatter, Kathi LaPoint, Krystle Morey, Jake Nemmers, Lottia Villalba, Lynette Peppler, Micaela Vondy, Michael Welsh, Noelle Fillo, Patrick Wells, Robert Sakata, Sarah Gerenday, Shelby Sommer, Stephen Brant

CWCB: Emily Adrid, Esther Malers, Jackie Carano, Jeff Rodriguez

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sean Chambers at 4:07pm

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

It was moved by Jim Yahn to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Garrett Varra and the motion carried.

3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary February 11, 2025](#) (Sean Chambers – 2 min.)

With the revision of “Los Sauces” to “LaSalle” in the PEPO update, it was moved by Kirk Vincent to approve SPBRT Meeting Summary February 11, 2025. It was seconded by Scott Griebbling and the motion carried.

4. Public Comment (3 min.)

1. [Adams County Water Master Plan](#) (Shelby Sommer): Adams County is developing the Water Master Plan to understand water supply issues and to “define the County’s role in planning and facilitating solutions that support a resilient water future for the region.” Learn more [here](#).
2. [Statewide Virtual Town Hall](#) (Jake Nemmers): SPBRT attendees were encouraged to join Senator Hickenlooper’s statewide virtual town hall 03/12/25.
3. [Climate & Water Workshops](#) (Emily Adrid with CWCB): Accelerated in agenda due to scheduling conflict. See item 10.1 under “CWCB Update.”

5. 2025 Legislative session (Jim Yahn – 15 min.)

1. Bills of interest:

- [HB25-1009](#) Vegetative Fuel Mitigation: Allows a fire protection district to mitigate dead or dry plant materials on privately owned property within a district. Passed through the House and Senate with no amendments.
- [HB25-1010](#) Prohibiting Price Gouging in Sales of Necessities: Prohibits the price of a necessity from increasing more than 10%. The question of concern is whether water is included as a “necessity.” New criteria have been added to this bill.
- [HB25-1014](#) Increasing Efficiency Division of Water Resources: 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.
- [HB25-1029](#) Municipal Authority over Certain Lands: Grants a municipality full authority over land acquired outside its limits for use whether open to the public or not.
- [HB25-1053](#) Landowner Immunity for Emergency Access to Property: Grants limited immunity from civil liability during emergencies (relevant for wildfires).

- [HB25-1090](#) Protections Against Deceptive Pricing Practices: Requires prices of goods, services, and property to be disclosed according to established conditions.
- [HB25-1099](#) Water Quality Data Standards: Requires the water quality control commission to issue guidance for the daily maximum amount of pollutant from all sources that is allowed to enter state waters so that an applicable water quality standard is met. **Postponed indefinitely.**
- [HB25-1106](#) Remove Precipitation Collection Limitations: Removes 100-gallon limitation on the amount of rooftop precipitation that may be collected from a small residence and removes all limitations on how collected precipitation may be used. **Postponed indefinitely.**
- [HB25-1113](#) Limit Turf in New Residential Development: Limits use of certain landscaping practices in new residential development.
- [HB25-1115](#) Water Supply Measurement & Forecasting Program: Authorizes the CWCB to administer a water supply measurement and forecasting program to collect and disseminate data (relates to ASO).
- [HB25-1120](#) Septic-System Replacement Enterprise: Creates enterprise to manage loan program for failing septic systems.
- [HB25-1165](#) Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources: Creates the geologic storage stewardship enterprise in the department of natural resources for the management of underground energy resources. Contentious.
- [HB25-1211](#) Tap Fees Imposed by Special Districts: Outlines requirements for water services within water districts. The bill has been amended to account for water rights and boundaries.
- [HB25-1286](#) Protecting Workers from Extreme Temperatures: Outlines requirements to care for workers exposed to extreme hot or cold temperatures at the worksite.
- [HB25-1292](#) Transmission Lines in State Highway Rights-of-Way: Allows a transmission developer to locate high voltage transmission lines within a state highway right-of-way, subject to a process developed by the department of transportation.
- **HB25-1379** Dredge and Fill Activities in State Waters: Builds from [HB24-1379](#) which authorized regulation. Under Regulation 87, section 6, projects which run long will require a permit renewal obligation. The RT expressed concerns about the resources required to renew permits and problematic leveraging resulting in material injury to water rights. See Mark Shea's presentation to the IBCC for more information (YouTube [27:38](#)). Join CDPHE's Rule making process or make comments [here](#). Email Jeff Rodriguez with questions.
- [HJR25-1004](#) Water Project Eligibility Lists: Concerning approval of water project revolving fund eligibility lists administered by the Colorado water resources power development authority.
- [SB25-040](#) Future of Severance Taxes & Water Funding Task Force: Establishes 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.
- [SB25-081](#) Treasurer's Office: Allows the State Treasurer, Dave Young, to finance eligible projects, including water projects.
- [SB25-137](#) Greenhouse Gas Credits for Water Quality Projects: Authorizes owners to sell or trade greenhouse gas credits. Postponed indefinitely
- [SB25-140](#) Irrigation Districts Inflation Adjustments: Adjusts limitations on administration costs set in 1905 to account for inflation.
- [SB25-172](#) Uncontested Special Director District Election Cancellation: Clarifies conditions under which an uncontested election may be canceled.

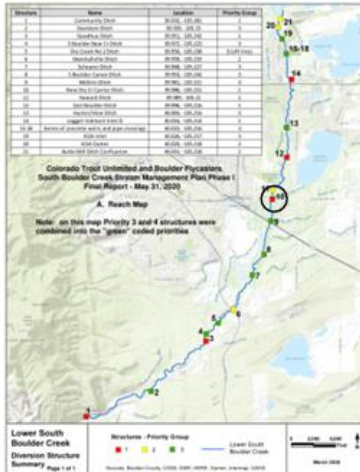
6. WSRF (Garrett Varra – 5 min. & Stephen Brant – 10 min.)

1. SPBRT Funds Status CWCB Basin Account Funds: \$237,000 remains in the basin fund account.
2. WSRF 2025 [Cycle 1 Applications](#) (closed March 1st): Needs committee will review the applications in March and presentations to the RT will be in May. Excluding the Lake Water Intake project (no amount stated), the five other projects requested \$180,490 total. \$56,510 would remain in the basin fund account if the following applications were approved:
 1. Youth Development, Water Education, and the Colorado Water Plan (Year One)
 2. Plumb and Dailey Return Structure
 3. Larimer County Canal Headgate & Flow Monitoring Improvements
 4. Lake Water Intake
 5. Glacier Summer City Reservoir Dam
 6. CMWC Evapotranspiration Study & Floatovoltaic Design

3. WSRF [Interim Project Progress Report](#)- South Boulder Creek Watershed (Stephen Brant): The RT was updated on a WSRF project which included the installation of new head gates, security measures, updated telemetric flow gauges, actuators, solar power, electronic controls, and vegetation removal. See slides below for “original conditions” vs upgraded infrastructure:



New Dry Creek Carrier Ditch Automation Demonstration Project Original Conditions



New Dry Creek Carrier Ditch Automation Demonstration Project Phased Implementation – Upgrade Head Gates / Access



The RT applauded South Boulder Creek Watershed for being an exemplary WSRF applicant and for utilizing the WSRF grant for an impactful water project. Stephen Brant was thanked for providing the update.

7. Committee Updates (15 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 – 5 min.) (2/11/25)

Events:

- [Greeley Farm Show](#): PEPO engaged with many people.
- [Colorado Agriculture Forum](#): Director Wind and Patrick Wells represented the South Platte and presented about the future of agriculture.
- [Water Workforce Career Fair](#): leveraged the activity “How Old Will You Be In 2025?”
- PEPO meeting 05/02/25: coordinators will share key interactions with the public and will discuss common goals.

Highlighted Projects:

- QR code sticker: Uses SPBRT logo and links to website. Used for snack bags and may be developed into an ad. RT members are welcome to join future meetings and efforts.
- Youth research cohort: Donny Roush and the group will research and review water plan topics at the Poudre Learning Center and High Plains Library Innovation Center.
- Standardized basin infographics: basic model under development using South Platte and Arkansas materials as reference.
- Farm visits (idea for future): The RT discussed the possibility to connect urban learners with working farms to educate and connect urban and rural perspectives.

2. E&R Committee (Kirk Vincent – 5 min.) (2/26/25)

- Structure & Leadership (discussion continues): Leadership must transition away from David Nickum who participates as a member. The Committee discussed whether meeting invitations could extend beyond RT membership. Ag perspective and participation are welcome in meetings as irrigated agriculture is closely related to the environment (open spaces, wetlands, running water).
- Possible Goals/Direction: Update the Colorado Watershed Assembly directory to facilitate cooperation, identify places to be toured or topics for presentations (Henderson mine).

3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) (no meeting)

- Next meeting 03/14/25.

8. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin – 20 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. [02/26/25 Summary](#). IBCC discussed:

- C9 Summit's efficacy in cultivating discussion between basins. CWCB applauded for organizing.
- "Low & No Regrets" vs "Drought Resiliency Action Plan" and process to identify the top three items in each basin. IBCC decided to create a subcommittee to review the 2013 "Summary of Low and No Regrets Actions."
- Colorado River Update from Amy Ostdiek. Becky Mitchell applauded for post-2026 negotiations as they relate to Colorado's quality of life, water demands, and operations.
- IBCC members applauded for their active representation of the SPBRT, informed by the monthly discussions.
- Next IBCC meeting 06/25/25.

9. "Low & No Regrets"/ Drought Resiliency Action Plan Update (Scott Griebing – 10 min.): RT received an [updated draft](#) with an explanation of the structure and top identified priorities. The committee was thanked for their efforts and the RT will continue progress.

10. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. [Climate & Water Workshops](#) (Emily Adrid – presented during "Public Comment"): The workshops will foster discussion on how climate change is impacting Colorado communities using case studies. **Events are free, but require an [RSVP](#).**

CWCB Climate and Water Workshops

- **Workshop 1: April 3, 2025 in Pueblo, CO**
at CSU Pueblo from 1pm - 5pm
- Workshop 2: April 23, 2025 in Grand Junction, CO at the Clifton Community Center from 1pm - 5pm
- Workshops are free to attend! Food and drinks will be available.
- Register for the event using this QR code!



2. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez – 10 min.)

General:

- Governor Polis announced three new CWCB representatives: Greg Johnson, Taylor Hawes, and Mike Camblin.
- The next CWCB meeting will be in Greeley, March 19th and 20th.
- Information about the Upper Division State Alternative available [here](#).

Financial:

- **Deadline 04/01/25:** [WSRF](#) applications to CWCB.
- **Deadline 04/01/25:** [Diane Hoppy scholarship](#)- opportunity for a Colorado high school student or Colorado college freshman interested in western water issues.
- **Deadline 04/15/25:** [Agricultural Emergency Drought Response Program](#)- provides up to \$1 million annually in loans or grants for emergency drought-related water augmentation purposes to CO agricultural water users.
- **Deadline 06/01/25:** [PEPO Grants](#).
- **Deadline 07/01/25:** [Water Plan Grants](#).

Reports & Resources:

- [CWCB Events](#).
- [2025 CWCB Guide](#).
- [Colorado Water Plan Progress Report](#).
- [10 Strategies to Protect Irrigated Agriculture](#).
- [Floatovoltaics Feasibility Report](#) in response to [SB23-092](#).
- Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements (CWSAs) [Report](#).
- There will be an update to turf replacement studies ([2024](#)) and a DIY Turf Replacement Guide.

3. Director Wind Update (10 min.)

- Not in attendance.

11. Member Updates (5 min.)

1. Ideas for 2025 Basin Tours (share additional suggestions with Sean Chambers):

- Henderson Mine (organize with Colorado Watershed Assembly).
- Upper South Platte infrastructure: Removal of Lake George Dam, wildfire mitigation efforts, ranching, Wild Horse Reservoir progress, Spinney Mountain, Eleven Mile, Cheesman.
- Chimney Hollow (estimated completion June). Possible tour/regular meeting combination between August and October (organize with Northern Water).

2. Airborne Snow Observations (Scott Griebing): The “snow water equivalent” (SWE) is peaking, so ASO flights will happen soon. Reach out to Scott with questions or resources.

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

1. **Alternate location for April 8th meeting: Greeley FunPlex, 1501 65th Ave, Greeley, CO 80634**
2. Alternate location or date for November 11th meeting (Veterans Day)- **TBD**
 - The Southwest Weld County Building will be closed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm