



## SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance:** Adam Gates, Brent Schantz, Daylan Figgs, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Hally Strevey, Jason Gemmer, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, Joe Frank, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Loretta Daniel, Lynda James, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

**Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance:** Casey Davenhill, Donald Baggus, Esther Malers

**Guests:** Alex Tennant, Amanda Hoff, Anna Greenberg, Bruce Sonnenfeld, Carmen Farmer, Cheryl Lindsay, Corey Deangelis, Dawn Jewell, Daniel Gallen, Eric Westlind, Greg Peterson, Jarod Roberts, Jenny McCarty, Joe Pitti, John Crawford, Karen Schlatter, Katharine Cody, Keith Schlagel, Krystle Morey, Lilly Cory, Lottia Villalba, Matt Lindburg, Meghan Bell, Michael Thomas, Michael Welsh, Micaela Vondy, Noelle Fillo, Robert Sakata, Scott Jones, Skylar Zilliox, Sarah Gerenday, Todd Williams, Zach Hedstrom

**CWCB:** Jackie Carano, Jenna Battson, Jeff Rodriguez

---

**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.)**

Garrett Varra moved to approve the agenda with the revision that the Glacier Lake Property Owners, Inc. WRSF presentation be removed from item 6 (application withdrawn). The motion was seconded by Scott Griebing and carried.

**3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary April 8, 2025](#) (Sean Chambers – 2 min.)**

It was moved by Scott Griebing to approve SPBRT Meeting Summary March 11, 2025. It was seconded by Kirk Vincent and the motion carried.

**4. Public Comment (3 min.)**

No public comments.

**5. 2025 Legislative Session (Jim Yahn – 15 min.)**

The First Regular Session of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly adjourned May 7, 2025. However, the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee operates year-round and will likely continue to discuss bills of interest to the RT. See the Committee's [schedule](#):

### Committee Schedule

---

MEETING DATE	AGENDA	TIME	LOCATION
June 30	Agenda		State Capitol
August 20	Agenda		Steamboat Springs - Colorado Water Congress
September 16	Agenda		State Capitol
October 29	Agenda		State Capitol

**The following bills passed:**

- [HB25-1009](#) Vegetative Fuel Mitigation: Allows a fire protection district to mitigate dead or dry plant materials on privately owned property within a district. Signed by the Governor.
- [HB25-1010](#) Prohibiting Price Gouging in Sales of Necessities: Prohibits the price of a necessity from increasing more than 10%. There were concerns about how that may apply to water and conditions were added.
- [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. Signed by the Governor.
- [HB25-1053](#) Landowner Immunity for Emergency Access to Property: Grants limited immunity from civil liability during emergencies (relevant for wildfires). Signed by the Governor.
- [HB25-1090](#) Protections Against Deceptive Pricing Practices: Requires prices of goods, services, and property to be disclosed according to established conditions. Signed by the Governor.
- Limit Turf in New Residential Development: Limits use of certain landscaping practices in new residential development. Considering amendments and it is getting laid over daily.
- [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).
- [HB25-1165](#) Geologic Storage Enterprise & Geothermal Resources: Creates the geologic storage stewardship enterprise in the department of natural resources for the management of underground energy resources.
- [HB25-1211](#) Tap Fees Imposed by Special Districts: Outlines requirements for water services within water districts. Bill has been amended to account for water rights and boundaries. Signed by the Governor.
- [HB25-1215](#) Redistribution of Lottery Fund: Modifying distributions to multiple environment-focused funds (wildlife, parks and outdoor recreation, outdoor equity fund, outdoor recreation industry office, and a new outdoor recreation management and infrastructure cash fund).
- [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. Signed by the Governor.
- [HB25-1318](#) Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects: Appropriates \$5,000,000 from species conservation trust fund for various wildlife conservation programs.
- [HJR25-1004](#) Water Project Eligibility Lists: Concerning approval of water project revolving fund eligibility lists administered by the Colorado water resources power development authority. Signed by the Governor.
- [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.
- [SB25-140](#) Irrigation Districts Inflation Adjustments: Adjusts limitations on administration costs set in 1905 to account for inflation. Signed by the Governor.
- [SB25-172](#) Uncontested Special Director District Election Cancellation: Clarifies conditions under which an uncontested election may be canceled.
- [SB25-199](#) Suspend Legislative Interim Activities: Concerning reduction of an appropriation. It was clarified that the Water Committee will continue to meet. Signed by the Governor.
- [SB25-283](#) Funding Water Conservation Board Projects: Concerning CWCB's operations and funding projects with appropriation. Bill includes funding requests for BIPs and a technical update.

**The following bills have been postponed indefinitely:**

- [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.
- [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.

- [HB25-1120](#) Septic-System Replacement Enterprise: Creates enterprise to manage loan program for failing septic systems.
- [HB25-1286](#) Protecting Workers from Extreme Temperatures: Outlines requirements to care for workers exposed to extreme hot or cold temperatures at the worksite.
- [HB25-1323](#) Division of Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Recreation: Concerning their authority to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and the development of a river recreation program. There were some concerns on how this relates to water management and language within the bill. However, *it mentions the roundtable as a resource for stakeholder conversations.*
- [SB25-137](#) Greenhouse Gas Credits for Water Quality Projects: Authorizes owners to sell or trade greenhouse gas credits.

**6. WSRF (Garrett Varra – 10 min.)**

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status CWCW Basin Account Funds: \$248,415 remains in the basin fund account. The account will be renewed with \$300,000 in July at the start of the new fiscal year.
2. WSRF Needs Committee [Memo of Recommendations](#): The Committee neither approved nor disapproved the Eleven Mile Ranch Association application and recommended approval of all other active applications. Glacier Lake Property Owners Inc. withdrew their application, and the Agricultural Ditch and Reservoir Company application was withdrawn as it pertains to Metro's geographical boundary. Additional correction: the Eleven Mile Ranch Association requested \$40,000 not \$14,000.

**7. 2025 Cycle 1 WSRF Application Presentations (60 min.)**

Applicants whose grant was approved should provide a drafted one-page letter of support to Sean Chambers, Garrett Varra, and Esther Malers.

1. **Colorado Ag Water Alliance:** [Plumb and Dailey Return Structure](#). The proposal is to replace a failing water return structure. The project will remove the existing structure and replace it with a cast-in-place concrete structure. The project helps to meet the basin's goal to "maintain and improve irrigated agriculture" by modernizing infrastructure used to provide irrigated water for productive farmland under conservation easement. It was moved by Jim Hall to approve the application and seconded by Joe Frank. The motion carried.
2. **Colorado Watershed Assembly:** [Youth Development, Water Education, and the Colorado Water Plan \(Y1\)](#). This proposal seeks to create and implement a quality, research-based control system to identify "Colorado Water Education Exemplars." The project evaluates programs teaching K-12 students about water. This year, 15 program reviews will be completed and nine youths recruited and trained leveraging the question, "how old will you be in 2050?" CWA will pursue statewide funding, but requests one year of support from Metro and SP WSRF funds to allow time to identify additional funding partners to satisfy match requirements. Starting in 2026, the 5-year project will complete 100 program reviews, engage and compensate 35 youth participants, and impact most K-12 CO students, thereby accelerating water literacy and aligning with statewide and basin-wide policies and plans. It was moved by Larry Rogstad to approve the application and seconded by Daylan Figgs. The motion carried.
3. **Consolidated Mutual Water Company:** [CMWC Evapotranspiration Study & Floatovoltaic Design](#). The proposal is to study evaporative losses from four raw water reservoirs and to gauge potential evaporative loss savings using an existing floatovoltaic pilot project. The project will also include the design and permitting of a larger floatovoltaic system with the goal of reducing evaporative losses. It was moved by Scott Griebeling to approve the grant and seconded by Garrett Varra. The motion carried.
4. **Eleven Mile Ranch Association:** [Lake Water Intake](#). The proposal is to install a pre-filter for a raw water intake from Lake George for a community water system. The project will reduce waste and maintenance requirements. The RT voiced concerns regarding details like project design and water savings. Applicant was encouraged to explore funding opportunities from CDPHE or CWRPDA (resource [1,2](#)) and to consider returning for a later cycle of WSRF. It was motioned by Scott Griebeling to not approve the application at this time, and it was seconded by Donnie Dustin. The motion carried.
5. **Water Supply and Storage Company:** [Larimer County Canal Headgate & Flow Monitoring Improvements](#). The proposal is for improvements to the Larimer County Canal Headgate and flow monitoring structure. The new structure will incorporate automated flow measurement and real-time data collection. The project will reduce the need for manual verification of flows and improve

operational efficiencies. It was moved by Scott Griebing to approve the application, and it was seconded by Garrett Varra. The motion carried.

The RT applauds all presenters for the time and work dedicated to the WSRF application.

#### **8. Colorado Water Plan Grant Letter of Support Requests (30 min.)**

Both CO WPG letter of support requests were approved. Please provide Sean Chambers, Garrett Varra, and Esther Malers with a drafted one-page letter of support highlighting how the project supports the Water Plan.

1. Boulder Mushroom: [Advancing Biological Fire Mitigation & Water Storage Technologies for Front Range Watershed Resiliency](#) (Zach Hedstrom – 15 min.).

In Colorado, removing biomass from forests is necessary for wildfire mitigation. However, hauling material is costly and inefficient and slash piles present risks. Fungi can decompose wood rapidly, help soil retain water, and is a scalable treatment. The Boulder Mushroom project would consist of in-situ forest treatment, biomass transport and hauling, satellite biomass processing and agricultural application, monitoring/data collection/analysis, educational outreach, and organization overhead. It was moved by Garrett Varra to approve the request for a letter of support, and it was seconded by Kirk Vincent. The motion carried.

2. [South Platte Salinity Stakeholder Group Roadmap for the Future](#) (Karen Schlatter – 15 min.)

The South Platte Salinity Stakeholder Group was formed in 2020 with a CWCB WSRF grant to foster collaboration and coordination on salinity research in the SPRB from Waterton Canyon to the CO/NE state line. The group meets quarterly and is facilitated by the Colorado Water Center with support from Northern Water staff. The objectives of the roadmap project are to: 1) create a self-sustaining SPSSG focused on assessing and addressing salinity issues in the basin 2) cultivate and retain diverse stakeholder buy-in and support and 3) ensure that salinity stakeholders understand sources, contributions, and loads in the SPRB and co-develop management and mitigation strategies. Project deliverables would include: 1) SPSSG Roadmap Development; a 5-year roadmap for group structure and direction and 2) SPSSG Data Management and Access; to provide stakeholders with useful and accessible salinity data. For more information or to participate in the SPSSG, visit this [webpage](#). It was moved by Joe Frank to approve the request for a letter of support, and it was seconded by Jim Yahn. The motion carried.

#### **9. Colorado PEPO Grant Letter of Support Requests (30 min.)**

Both PEPO grant letter of support requests were approved. Please provide Sean Chambers, Garrett Varra, and Esther Malers with a drafted one-page letter of support highlighting how the organization/project(s) support PEPO goals.

1. [Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#) (Anna Greenberg – 15 min)

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' mission is to conserve birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education, and land stewardship. The team consists of a network of Wildlife Habitat Biologists (WHBs) who partner with state agencies and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The CWCB PEPO grant would fund the production of a wetland habitat management guide for an audience of landowners, land managers, and conservation practitioners. Bird Conservancy has produced other guides before (e.g. Sharing Your Land with Northern Prairie Birds) and will organize the next one by wetland type. The guides would be dispersed at outreach events, to landowners and managers during site visits, and through local partners. Jim Yahn moved to approve the letter of support request and Larry Rogstad seconded. The motion carried.

2. [Colorado Watershed Assembly](#) (Casey Davenport – 15 min)

The Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA) proposes to provide services to the South Platte Basin Roundtable and the Metro Roundtable to promote the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and the Colorado Water Plan (CWP). CWA staff have identified tasks which have formed the basis for Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO) for the two roundtables since 2018. It was moved by Scott Griebing to approve the letter of support request and seconded by Larry Rogstad. The motion carried.

## 10. Committee Updates (30 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 Davenhill – 10 min.) ([05/01/25 summary](#)): PEPO had a joint SP & Metro meeting 05/01/25 to discuss the 2025/2026 Work Plan (for reference: [2024/2025 Work Plan](#)). Feedback encouraged ag-focused outreach and engagement with non-water professionals. The 05/02/25 statewide PEPO meeting allowed the CWCB and IBCC to give guidance to coordinators. PEPO was created from the [Water for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act](#) (HB 1177). PEPO's mission is to inform, involve, and educate the public on IBCC activities and negotiations and act as a conduit to relay feedback from the public to the IBCC. RT participation is one way that PEPO fulfills this mission, in addition to managing the [website](#), promoting the [WSRF Projects Map](#), and leveraging existing materials like the [SPBRT bylaws](#), member handbooks, and [EAP](#). PEPO will be bringing more awareness to the Water Plan, possibly with tote bags and hats. Additionally, a new consistent factsheet has been developed for each basin.
2. **ER&W Committee** (Larry Rogstad – 10 min.) ([04/30/35 summary](#)): ER&W discussed how they might interact with the Ag committee (has not been active since development of BIP). Casey Davenhill will join ER&W at the next meeting to discuss how ER&W can interact with PEPO. In the future, Daylan Figgs will discuss a regional stakeholder group that he participates in with ER&W. Other discussion points will include the NISP settlement and its distribution/conditions and the cumulative impact of gravel ponds on wildlife and their resources.
3. **M&I Committee** (Jim Hall – 10 min.) ([04/25/25 summary](#)): M&I meets the fourth Friday of each month at 9:30am on zoom (upcoming 05/23/25). The committee is hoping to meet with CWCB to get guidance on how to support a joint SP & Metro meeting and how to best leverage resources for specific projects.

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

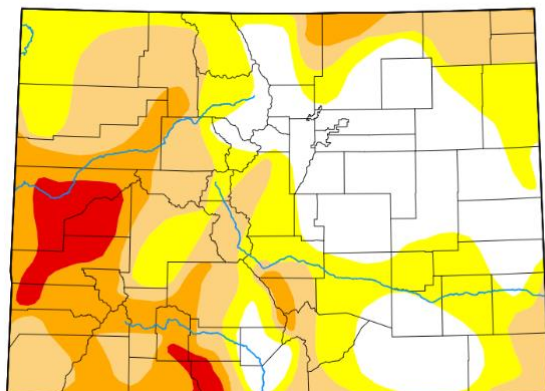
1. "No & Low Regrets" IBCC subcommittee update (04/11/25 meeting, 04/28/25 meeting): The subcommittee continues to make progress comparing the 2013 No and Low Regrets with the 2024 C9 Drought Resiliency Action Plan and will update the IBCC at the 06/25/25 meeting in Grand Junction. The next subcommittee meeting will be 05/28/25.

## 12. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jenna Battson – 10 min.):  
General Updates:
  - Water Supply Planning Update: There has been early snow melt this year and 75% of CO is at the least severe level of drought (D0). For more information, visit the [Water Conditions Monitoring](#) webpage to see drought conditions, scheduled committee meetings (upcoming: 05/20/25), and recorded webinars.

Colorado

[Home](#) /



Map released: Thurs. May 15, 2025

Data valid: May 13, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

### Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

### Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



- 1051 AWWA water loss audits are due soon. CWCB offers free training ([Urban Water Efficiency](#)). For information on 1051 requirements and CWLI, please reach out to [Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us](mailto:Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us) or [Sam.Stein@state.co.us](mailto:Sam.Stein@state.co.us).
- [Fluvial Hazard Mapping Survey](#)- responses are welcome.
- CWCB will be hiring to support planning and forecasting as well as the technical update.
- The state fiscal year will end June 30<sup>th</sup> and the CWCB will be funded with around 36.77 million dollars for 2026/2026.

Resources:

- In coordination with PEPO and the RTs, new basin [infographics](#) have been developed.

Events:

- [One Water Day and Watershed Summit](#): 06/20/25 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The theme is managing water for thriving communities.
- CWCB Board Meeting: May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

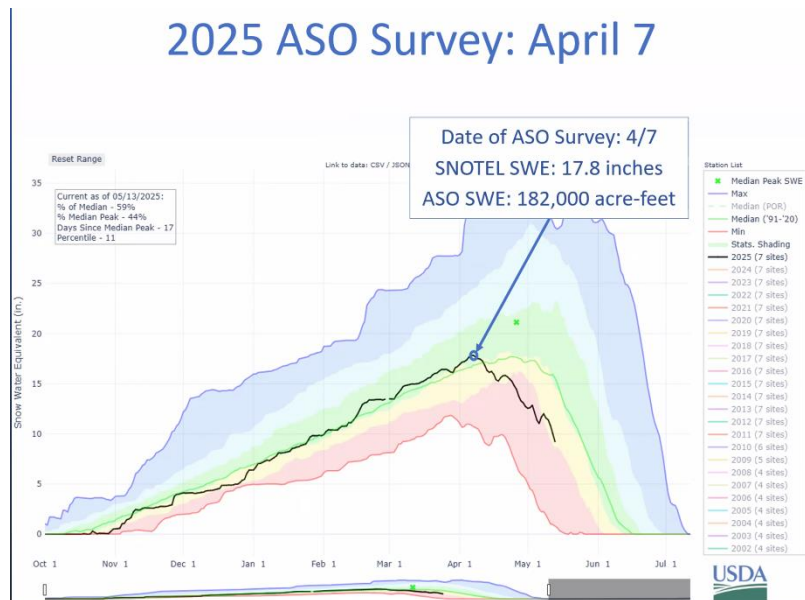
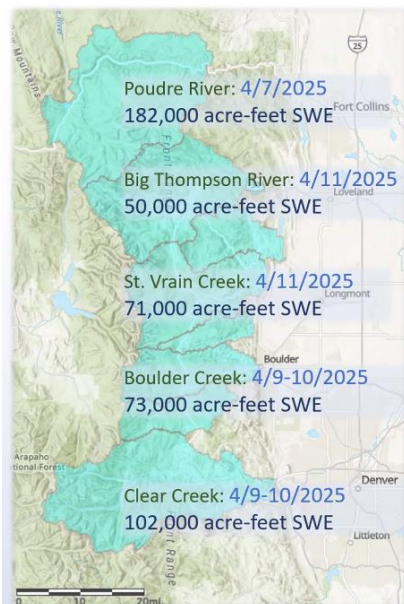
Financial:

- PEPO grant deadline: 06/01/25
- Water Plan Grant deadline: 07/01/25

2. Director Wind Update (10 min.): not in attendance.

### 13. Member Updates (15 min.)

1. Update on 2025 Basin Tour (Sean Chambers): The SPBRT will tour the Upper South Platte, likely 09/09/25. Details under consideration are a water restoration site, the Montgomery Reservoir expansion project, the London Mine water right (in coordination with Aurora), and others. Members should try to reserve the full day September 9<sup>th</sup> for the tour. The Lower South Platte will be a priority for the coming year.
2. [ASO Reports](#) (Scott Griebing): The ASO reports and helpful visuals are available to public.



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

1. The Southwest Weld County Building will be closed for Veterans Day (11/11/25). Instead, SPBRT will meet there the **third Tuesday of November, 11/18/25.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm**