

# Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Start Time

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Hybrid – Live & Virtual**

## **Members in Attendance:**

Andrea Cole, Brian Tracy, Casey Davenport, David Kamin, Dave Wissel, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Heather Justus, Jenny Bishop (Co Springs water), Jarod Roberts, Lauren Pulver, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Rachel Pence, Sam Caulkins, Sarah Klahn, Shaden Musleh

**Guests:** Courtney Massey, Kerry Major, Megan USGS, Taylor Winchell, Micaela Vondy, Mike Tilko, Jeff Deems, Meghan Bell, Matt Lindburg, Audrey Seeny

**CWCB:** Jackie Carnao, Jenna Battson, Kat Weismiller, Diane Kielty,

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## **Metro Roundtable Business Meeting**

1. **Welcome/Introductions (1 min.)**
2. **Approval of [April 10, 2025, Meeting Summary](#) (1 min.)**  
The April 10, 2025, MRT Meeting Summary was approved by affirmation.
3. **Agenda: additions or changes (1 min.)**  
MRT will walk through recommended changes to the member election for discussion and conduct the vote at the June MRT meeting.
4. **Public Comment (5 min.)**
5. **CWCB MRT Member Election Annual Election (Lisa Darling)**  
**[\(MetroBylawsMarch2017FinalRatified.pdf \(squarespace.com\)\) \(15 min.\)](#)**
  1. **Election of new members**
    - i. El Paso County Muni Rep - Jenny Bishop  
There was an introduction. The MRT approved Jenny Bishop.
    - ii. Representation Adjustments Discussion  
Membership term limitations will be discussed in June. A comparison will be made between the Colorado for the 21st Century Act, CWCB Guidelines, and the MRT By-laws to bring the MRT By-laws in alignment. At this time, the only open seat will be the Recreation At-Large.
6. **WSRF Committee (Sam Calkins) (10 min.)**
  1. WSRF Balance Summary ([WSRF Budget Summary 4/25/2025](#))
  2. WSRF 2025 Cycle 1 Applications Committee Recommendations – Final Approval from MRT
    - [2050 Comprehensive Douglas County Water Plan](#) – Douglas County has split the grant into two parts. They asked for \$120,000 from MRT. The other half will be requested via a Water Plan grant. CWCB is working with Douglas County to ensure these are separate grants.
    - [CMWC ET Study and Floatovoltaic Design](#) – They have had further discussions with the photovoltaic company, and it is ready to go forward. They have been working with NREL.
    - [Youth Development Water Education and the Colorado Water Plan](#) – After this year the program will look at a Water Plan grant for the final three years of the program.

All three projects were approved to advance to submit a full application to the WSRF program.

## 7. Colorado Water Plan Request for Letter of Support (Lisa Darling) (10 min.)

### 1. [2050 Comprehensive Douglas County Water Plan](#)

**Action:** Water Plan LOS requests were moved to the June agenda.

## 8. ASO Flight Results (Taylor Winchell) (15 min.)

A presentation was provided. Slides made comparisons in year-to-year snowpack as well as upper and lower basin comparisons. The data has been useful and has changed management decisions.

## 9. IBCC Update (L. Darling/R. Marsicek) (10 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

There was discussion on the subcommittee crosswalk of documents on No and Low Regrets and the C-9 Summit. They will meet two more times to prepare for the C-9 summit. A document will be shared with the MRT.

## 10. CWCB Update (10 min.)

1. Jenna Battson - 5 min. – This was the 15<sup>th</sup> driest April in 130 years in Colorado. There is a water conditions webinar. The next one is May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 11:00 am. CWCB has a survey on alluvial mapping and ask that MRT members participate. There are new infographics available for all the basins.

Water Conditions Monitoring Webinar: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/Water-Conditions-Monitoring-Committee>

For information on 1051 requirements and CWLI, please reach out to Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us or Sam.Stein@state.co.us

Fluvial Hazard Mapping survey: <https://forms.gle/HPRojvcpEQwkRnaZ7>

CWCB infographics: <https://engagecwcb.org/basin-infographics>

Shed Summit + One Water Day registration:

<https://tickets.botanicgardens.org/events/7c1895a6-b14b-a0dd-68d9-29f60d2c2800>

2. Amy Ost diek – 5 min.

A presentation was provided on post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Mead as they relate to changes in the Federal landscape and actions going forward. They are meeting regularly with the other basin states to come to a consensus. Supply versus demand operations is the Colorado goal.

The Federal Authorities alternatives is the alternative that could be implemented immediately. The hybrid alternatives have more flexibility but would require additional agreements or federal approval to initiate.

## BOR Alternatives Report

Alternative	Key Components
No Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powell release 8.23 MAF or higher based on equalization line</li><li>• No new conservation mechanisms</li><li>• Reduced releases from Mead, distributed based on priority, up to 600,000 ac-ft</li></ul>
Federal Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powell release curve 5 – 9.5 MAF; protection of 3490'</li><li>• CRSPA Initial Unit releases contemplated if Powell projected below 3525'</li><li>• No new conservation mechanisms</li><li>• Reduced releases from Mead, distributed based on priority, up to 3.5 MAF</li></ul>
Federal Authorities Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powell release determined by (1) physical storage in Powell &amp; Mead; (2) target storage distribution curve; (3) preceding 10-year running average inflow to Powell; (4) reductions to Mead releases for upcoming calendar year</li><li>• CRSPA Initial Unit releases contemplated if Powell projected below 3525'</li><li>• Conservation pool in Powell with increased federal authorities and ICS-like mechanism in Mead</li><li>• Reduced releases from Mead, up to 3.5 MAF</li></ul>
Cooperative Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powell release based on 7 reservoir storage and climate response indicator</li><li>• Combined Powell and Mead conservation reserve, distributed across both with increased federal authorities</li><li>• Reduced releases from Mead, up to 4 MAF based on 7 reservoir contents and climate response indicator</li></ul>
Basin Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powell release curve 5 – 12 MAF based on Powell elevation with balancing up to 1 MAF 3525' – 3560' depending upon Powell/Mead differential</li><li>• Conservation mechanisms in Upper Basin and ICS-like mechanism in Mead</li><li>• CRSPA Initial Unit releases contemplated if Powell projected below 3525'</li><li>• Reduced releases from Mead, up to 2.1 MAF, with varying distribution scenarios</li></ul>

Media statement excerpt on Pillars document:

The "*Essential Pillars for the Post-2026 Colorado River Guidelines*" include areas of shared interest with the Upper Division States Alternative and Commissioner Mitchell's Post-2026 [negotiation priorities](#). The Upper Division States support sustainable operations; storage recovery; cooperation with Mexico and the Basin's Tribal Nations; and compensation for the Tribes' forbearance of water rights.

However, the pillars overlook the Upper Basin's water rights administration, which reduces uses in the Upper Basin and puts water into the system every year. These mandatory and uncompensated cuts represent how Upper Basin water managers respond to the physical and legal availability of water each year. Colorado water users do not enjoy a guaranteed delivery of the full amount of their water rights each year. Reductions average 600,000 acre-feet in Colorado alone. Estimates over the last 24 years in the Upper Division States average 1.2-1.3 MAF per year.

**11. 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) (10 min.) ([4/3/2025 Meeting Summary](#))

A subcommittee meeting was held on May 1<sup>st</sup> to solicit guidance with intention of submitting a grant application this coming year. An outline was developed and is in the PEPO meeting agenda. An overview of the four categories of the PEPO plan was provided. There was a statewide PEPO coordinator meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. MRT PEPO is waiting for additional guidance based on the outcome of the statewide meeting. There was encouragement to expand efforts with local communities that are not water professionals. The message is "There is a Colorado Water Plan." A final draft PEPO application will be shared with MRT next week.

A motion was made by Heather to provide a Letter of Support for the Colorado Watershed Assembly to submit a PEPO application. It was seconded by Devon Buckels. The motion carried.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (D. Nickum) (5 min.) ([4/30/2025 Meeting Summary](#)) The Committee is in a revisioning period. All are welcome. Larry Rogstad will be meeting with the PEPO committee to discuss a possible coordination of efforts.

3. M&I Committee (A. Cole) (5 min.) ([M I+Meeting+Minutes+28\\_03\\_2025.pdf](#)) The Committee is looking for synergies on how to help the SP Basin and the leadership of CWCB. Is there a space for MRT to advance projects where there doesn't seem to be proponents? The Committee is developing questions to ask of CWCB and intend to invite CWCB leadership to the June M&I Committee meeting. A goal is to not duplicate efforts by other committees and the State.

4. Colorado River Committee (A. Davis) (5. Min.) ([4/21/2025 Meeting Summary](#)) The Committee meetings will be paused until the fall.

**12. Round Table Member Comments (5 min.)** – No comments.

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