



SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Brent Schantz, Darren Beck, Daylan Figgs, Deb Daniel, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Gary Barber, Greg Larson, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kirk Vincent, Lisa Leben, Lynda James, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Esther Malers, Sean Cronin

Guests: Bernadette Kuhn, Carmen Farmer, Cheryl Lindsay, Christie Coleman, Christopher Smith, Dan Betts, Jake Nemmers, Kerry Major, Lisa Fardal, Lottia Villalba, Matt Lindburg, Micaela Vondy, Michael Thomas, Patrick Wells, Phyllis Thomas, Robert Sakata

CWCB: Amy Ostdiek, Jeff Rodriguez, Zach Salin

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sean Chambers at 4:12 pm

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

Scott Griebing moved to approve the agenda with the revision that item 12.1, “Welcome Recent Appointments” follow item 2 “Approval of Agenda.” The motion was seconded by Donnie Dustin and carried.

3. Welcome Recent Appointments

New members were welcomed, thanked for joining the SPBRT, and encouraged to share their perspectives and expertise.

- El Paso County: Gary Barber.
- Adams County: Steve O’Dorisio, Byron Fanning (alternate)
- Park County: Jason Gemmer
- Liaison with the Bureau of Reclamation: Mathew Schultz

4. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary May 13, 2025](#) (Sean Chambers – 2 min.)

John Kolanz moved to approve SPBRT Meeting Summary May 13, 2025. It was seconded by Kirk Vincent and the motion carried.

5. Public Comment (3 min.)

No public comments.

6. WSRF (Garrett Varra – 5 min.)

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status CWCB Basin Account Funds: No update, WSRF applications are still being processed.

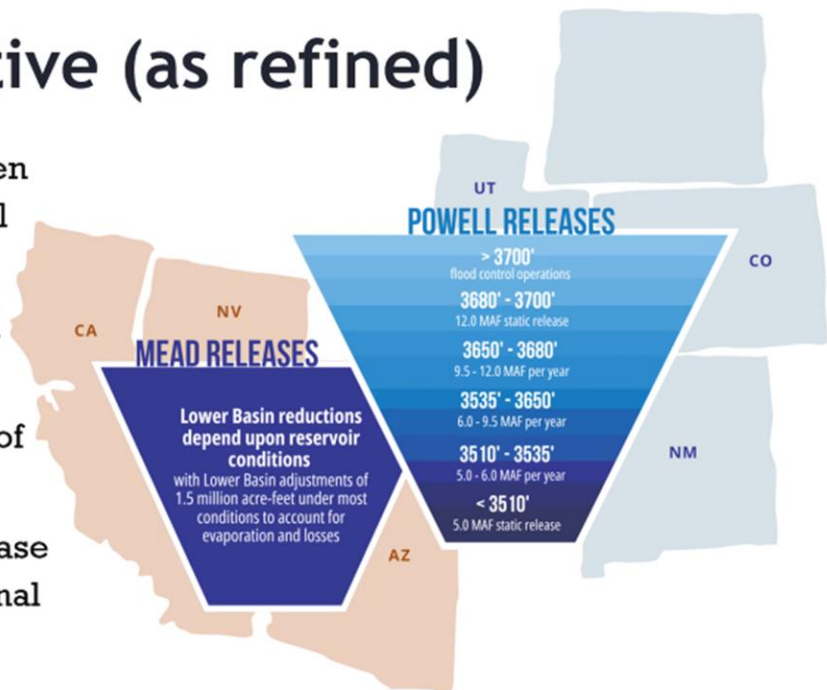
7. Colorado River Update (Amy Ostdiek – 15 min.)

1. Negotiations for Post-2026 Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead have progressed as follows:
 - March 2024 – Upper Division States (UDS) submit Alternative to Reclamation.
 - December 2024 – UDS submit refinements to Alternative for Reclamation to model.
 - Early 2025 – Reclamation releases [Alternatives Report](#) and Basin State discussions continue.
 - 2026– 2007 Interim Guidelines expire.
2. Key Points: 1) Selection of an alternative and seven-state consensus is needed *soon* to move forward with the NEPA analysis. 2) The UDS Alternative is designed to manage Lake Powell and Lake Mead based on hydrology, not demand. 3) Extending the 2007 guidelines would prolong demand-based management and require a NEPA analysis anyway, so exploring the alternatives is worthwhile.

Slide Highlights:

UDS Alternative (as refined)

- Sustainable, supply-driven operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- Designed to help rebuild storage
- Operates within the Law of the River
- Refinements: Powell release curve expanded; additional details about parallel activities

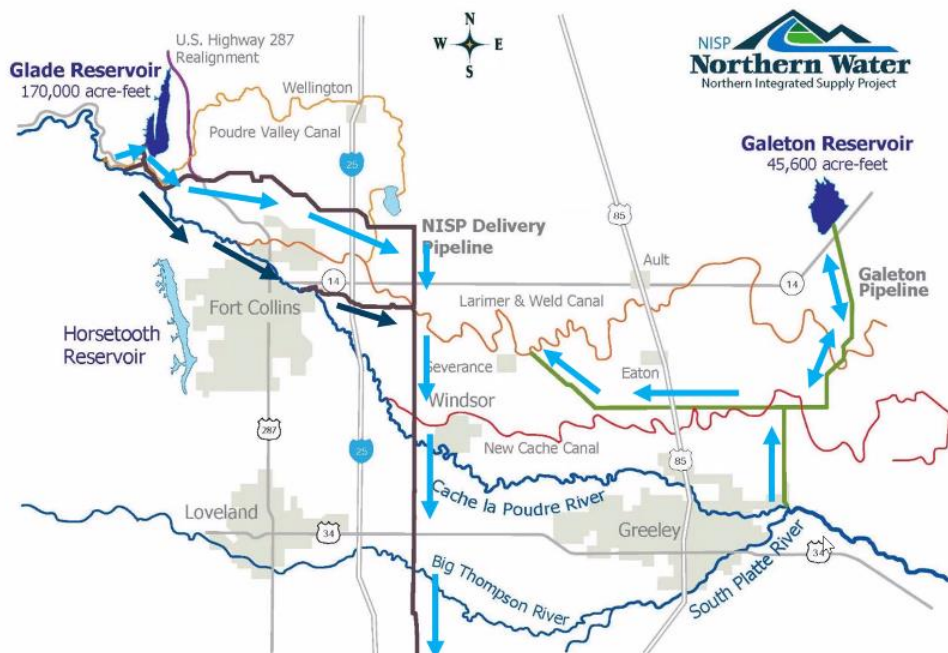


BOR Alternatives Report

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

8. NISP Update from Northern Water (Christie Coleman, Cheryl Lindsay, Chris Smith – 40 min.)

NISP is a large-scale project organized by Northern Water which will apportion approximately 40,000 acre-feet of new reliable municipal water supply annually to fifteen participating entities to meet a portion of their “current and reasonably projected” needs in the future (EIS). See the list and map of “participants” on Northern Water’s [website](#). 80 miles of pipeline will deliver water to the participants:



Glade Reservoir (top left corner in image above) would store 170,000 acre-feet of water and have a surface area of approximately 1,600 acres at full capacity. Seven miles of Highway 287 will be relocated east.

Federal and State permitting for NISP has followed this timeline:

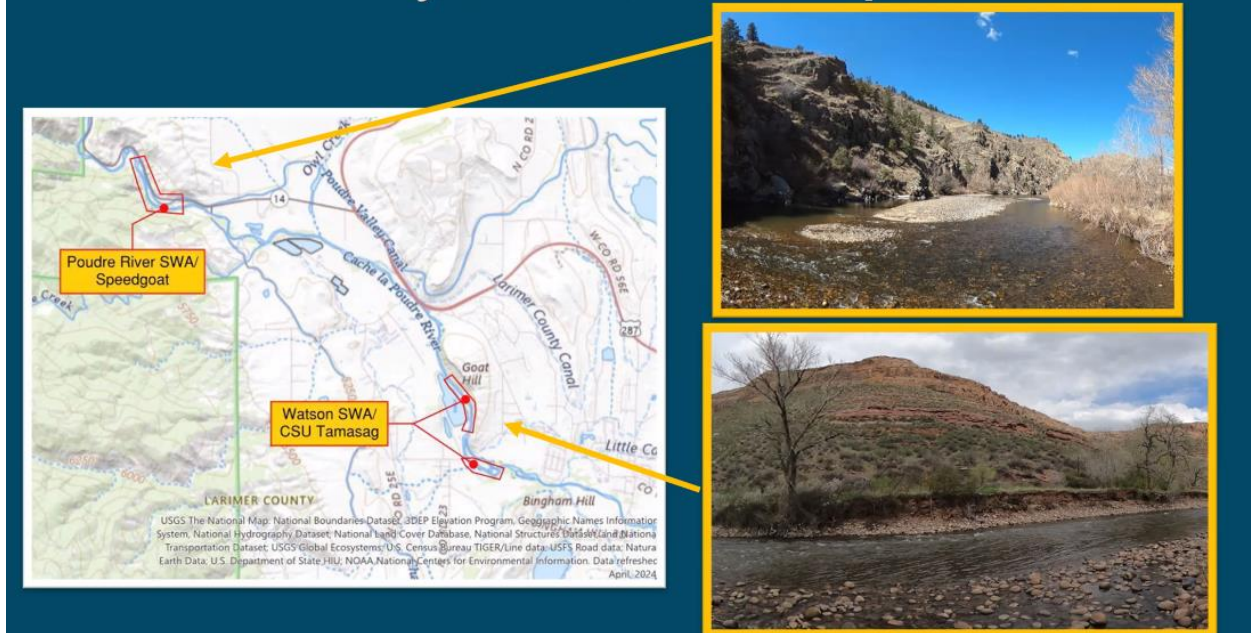
- 2002 – Participant Group Formed
- 2004 – Federal NEPA Process Begins
- 2008 – Draft EIS Released
- 2017 – State FWMEP Approved
- 2018 – Final EIS Released
- 2018 – State Reservoir Release Bill
- 2020 – State 401 Water Quality Certification
- 2020 – Larimer County 1041 Permit
- 2022 – Section 404 Permit & Record of Decision
- 2025 – \$100M Poudre River Improvement Fund

The NoCo Foundation will hold and manage the Poudre River Improvement Fund and future projects. A 6-member committee will determine funding parameters and projects.

9. Colorado Water Plan Grant Letter of Support Request (15 min.)

1. NISP Water Activity Enterprise – [Phase I Design: Cache la Poudre River Restoration](#) (Christie Coleman, Cheryl Lindsay, Chris Smith – 15 min.):
 - Poudre River State Wildlife Area River Channel and Habitat Improvement Project.
 - Watson Lake State Wildlife Area River Channel and Habitat Improvement Project.

Project Location & Description



These locations were selected because they provide multi-objective benefits and have public access. Restoration efforts would increase fish habitat and support Basin and Water Plan goals.

Jim Hall and Sean Chambers recused their votes. Jim Yahn moved to approve a letter of support from the SPBRT. It was seconded by Daylan Figgs and the motion carried. A drafted letter of support will be sent to Sean Chambers and Esther Malers.

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 Davenport – 10 min.) ([06/10/25 Written Report](#)):

Casey could not attend the SPBRT since she was at the Adams County Water Master Plan meeting with the PEPO display. However, members were recommended to review:

- The [06/10/25 Written Report](#).
- The document PEPO and ER&W discussed: “Special Study: Environmental and Recreational Benefits of Irrigated Agriculture in the Lower South Platte Basin” (Appendix B of the [South Platte BIP Volume II](#)).

Finally, Casey also thanked the RT membership for the 2025/2026 PEPO grant letter of support.

2. **ER&W Committee** (Larry Rogstad Kirk Vincent – 10 min.) ([05/28/25 summary](#)):

At the 05/28/25 meeting, ER&W and PEPO considered how they might collaborate. Members were encouraged to review the “Special Study: Environmental and Recreational Benefits of Irrigated Agriculture in the Lower South Platte Basin” (Appendix B, [South Platte BIP Volume II](#)). It was also suggested that “Water Plan” hats be distributed to RT members to encourage engagement and discussions with the public.

3. **M&I Committee** (Jim Hall – 10 min.) ([05/23/25 summary](#)):

M&I discussed how to utilize WSRF to complete projects that fulfill BIP goals without diminishing the opportunity for other applicants. M&I will meet with CWCB to discuss how to proceed.

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

1. “No & Low Regrets” IBCC subcommittee update from 05/28/25 meeting: The IBCC subcommittee was established February 2025 with the goal of comparing the terminology, similarities, and differences between the 2013 “No & Low Regrets” and the 2024 C-9 Summit “Drought Resiliency Action Plan.” The subcommittee will discuss their work at the next 06/25/25 IBCC meeting and consider how to use the documents to inform the next Water Plan and BIPs. CWCB’s [“Ripple Effects”](#) document was mentioned as one way that CWCB has tracked progress on Water Plan goals.

12. CWCB Update (25 min.)

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

General:

- [SB25-283](#), “Funding Water Conservation Board Projects,” passed and will support the Water Plan and BIP update cycle. The RT will hear more about the process in early 2026.
- [Lorelei Cloud](#) has been elected Chair of the CWCB. She is a representative of the San Miguel-Dolores-San Juan drainage basin, and CWCB’s first Tribal Council member.
- [Barbara Vasquez](#) was elected Vice Chair and serves as a representative of the North Platte drainage basin.
- The Shoshone Plant was discussed in the May board meeting and a follow-up is scheduled to determine if a hearing is necessary.
- The Fluvial Hazard mapping team hosts webinars about their program and topics (see [events](#)).

Events:

- October 28th & 29th – 2025 C9 Summit (Lakewood):
Registration will open soon (more information at [EngageCWCB.org](#)).
- June 17th – [Water Conditions Monitoring Committee](#) meeting.
- June 25th – [IBCC Meeting](#).

Deadlines:

- June 30th – 1051 AWWA M36 water loss audits are due. CWCB offers free training (Urban Water Efficiency). For information on 1051 requirements and CWLI, please reach out to Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us or Sam.Stein@state.co.us.
- July 1st WPG deadline.

2. ~~Director Wind Update~~ (15 min.)

Not in attendance.

13. Member Updates (15 min.)

1. Welcome Recent Appointments (agenda amended, see item 3)

2. Filling Roundtable [Vacancies](#)

The SPBRT operates its best with full membership and active participation. Members are encouraged to inform suitable contacts regarding vacancies and reach out to members who have not attended in 2025 yet. The RT discussed how to improve the online attendee experience, possibly by adding another owl. The executive team is also developing an informational handout about the RT to provide context to discussions.

3. Recognition of Awards: The RT applauded Robert Sakata for winning the Diane Hoppe Award and Kyle Whittaker for the Greg Hobbes emerging leader Award which will be presented at Water Education Colorado’s [President’s Reception](#), September 10th.

4. Member Events:

- June 16th-18th – Colorado Water Congress Retreat in Sterling.
- June 20th – One Water Day and Watershed Summit at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The theme is managing water for thriving communities.
- July 21st “[Eastern Plains Automation Tour](#)” – DARCA has organized a tour of Sterling.
- August 19th-21st – Colorado Water Congress [Summer Conference](#).
- December 3rd – [South Platte Forum](#) at AIMS Community College.

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

1. Possible Chimney Hollow Tour and Meeting at Northern Water in August or October.

2. SPBRT 09/09/25 Meeting and Tour: Fairplay (12pm-6pm)

- Members are encouraged to reserve the full day for travel, lunch, tours, and dinner if possible. More details to come.

3. SPBRT ~~11/11/25~~ 11/18/25 Meeting: Southwest Weld County Building

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

Meeting adjourned 6:23pm