

Metro Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Start Time

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alex Davis, Andy Nye, Brian Tracy, Casey Davenport, Courtney Massey, Cynthia Lane, David Kamin, David Nickum, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Emily Hunt, Heather Justus, Jenny Bishop, Jarod Roberts, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Loretta Daniel, Rick Marsicek, Neddle, Shaden Musleh

Guests: Caleb Cullen, Gisela Merino-Soler, Chelsea Perts, Josh Boissevain, Robert Sakata, Meghan Bell, Jamie Krezelok, Laura Chartrand, William Farmer, Orna Buch Leviatan, Kerry Major, Micaela Vondy, Kate Ryan, Phyllis Thomas, Andrea Bonato Gach, Britta Chou, Lottia Villalba, Audrey Seery, Britta Strother

CWCB: Jeff Rodriguez, Kat Weismiller, Amy Ostdiek, Greg Johnson, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (1 min.)

2. Approval of [July 10, 2025, Meeting Summary](#) (1 min.)

The July 10, 2025, MRT Meeting Summary was approved by affirmation.

3. Agenda: additions or changes (1 min.)

The Interstate Matters presentation will be truncated due to filings by Nebraska in Federal Supreme Court.

4. Public Comment (5 min.)

The WEco Presidents Reception is coming up. Robert Sakata will be one of the award recipients.

5. Streams of Change: Masters of the Environment Capstone (Caleb Cullen, Gisela Merino-Soler, Chelsea Perts, Josh Boissevain) (10 min.)

Urban Flows: Understanding how people relate to urban waterways. This capstone team is conducting a survey on urban flows to understand the relationships of Colorado's communities to their urban waterway uses, needs, on-ground actions, future plans, and project barriers. They are asking MRT to help by taking the survey and sharing with other organizations to circulate to a larger audience. The survey is focused primarily on water professionals. It will be open through September 2025.

6. Interstate Matters (Amy Ostdiek & Jason Ullmann, DNR) (25 min.)

There were recent filings by Nebraska in Federal Supreme Court to launch a formal complaint. Colorado is now focused on addressing this motion to protect the State's interests.

The Drought Response Operations Plan was discussed. Recent 24-month studies show Powell potentially dropping below 3525 in Spring 2026. The first line of defense is to reduce releases from Glen Canyon Dam to keep Powell above 3525. This will be monitored closely working with the Bureau of Reclamation. The post-2026 operations of Lakes Powell and Mead were reviewed. By November 11, 2025, DOI needs to know whether there will be 7-state consensus. In 2026 the 2007 Interim Guidelines expire. By February 14, 2026, DOI needs the details of a deal. Colorado will not be considering mandatory curtailment in the upper basin.

7. WSRF Committee (Sam Calkins & Heather Justus) (5 min.)

1. WSRF Balance Summary ([WSRF Budget Summary 4/25/2025](#))

2. The application period is open for Cycle 2. The deadline for summary proposals was extended to September 5th.

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

The C-9 Summit will be held October 28-29 at the Sheriden Denver West in Lakewood. It will inform the IBCC/RT process.

9. CWCB Update (10 min.)

1. Jeff Rodriguez - 5 min.

A draft agenda for the C-9 Summit is close to complete. Tickets should become available soon. There is some funding to support mileage and lodging for those coming a long distance. The 28th will be a long agenda day. The 29th will primarily be workshops.

The water conditions monitoring meeting is August 26th from 9:30 am – 12 noon. The U.S. drought monitoring has shown drought doubling to almost 20%. CWCB is monitoring this closely.

The Fluvial Hazards mapping team is hosting a webinar series.

The next CO Water Plan Cycle is December. The last round was very competitive.

The Ag Water Protection Water Rights Stakeholder meetings are underway. The next one is August 20th in Steamboat at the library at 5:30 pm.

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

Fluvial Futures Webinars: https://www.casfm.org/2025/06/05/fluvial-futures-webinar-series/cwcb-fluvial-futures-webinar-series_20250522/

C9 Summit: <https://engagecwcb.org>

DWR Ag Protection Water Rights Meetings:

<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=4462805&dbid=0>

- ### 2. Director Greg Johnson - 5 min. – The CWCB Board Meeting is September 16th - 18th. It will be starting with the Finance Committee. The full board meeting is the second day. In the afternoon of the second day, they will transition into the Shoshone Water Rights hearing. The Director has recused himself from this hearing due to his affiliation with Denver Water. Director Brad Wind with Northern Water has also recused himself. Aurora disagrees with the idea that the South Platte Basin has no representation in this process. Aurora plans to present their interpretation of the law to the State AG office. This is a significant allocation that could have a negative impact on the basin with no representation from the basin.

10. 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. Davenhill) (5 min.) ([PEPO Report 7.31.2025](#))

The last meeting included an inventory of urban front range events and festivals. There is a wealth of opportunities in the basin for PEPO to participate. PEPO is looking at a document that is part of the SP BIP on the beneficial effects of irrigated AG on recreation and the environment. The legacy of farmers' ditches and small reservoir infrastructure that impacts the communities may provide opportunities to look at as a source for other beneficial uses. The ditch seepage and losses from a provider perspective is baked into their decrees. The incentive is not there to restore ditches. Conservation improvements of ditches has not had a focus. This will be researched in more detail. An inventory may be a starting point for an evaluation. A recent WEco publication focused on groundwater. PEPO has been sharing this. PEPO is looking for a shorter handout on the groundwater topic. DOLA is taking the lead on developing methodologies for local water plans related to housing and housing availability along with other regional planning efforts. This may be an opportunity to gather and compare community water master plans. The Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference is coming up October 7-9. There is a track on agriculture and Ag efficiencies.

- ### 2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (D. Nickum) (5 min.) ([Env Rec Watershed 7.30.2025 Report](#))

3. M&I Committee (A. Cole) (5 min.) (No Report) – The Committee is working to hold a meeting with CWCB staff.

11. Round Table Member Comments (5 min.)

The Shoshone Water Rights hearing SPB entities involved in the process are all open to changing the rights to instream water rights. SPB entities are asking the historic water rights not be altered. The Colorado River District proposal expands the water rights to the detriment of the South Platte basin water rights. The hearings will have 6 entities from the front range participating in the hearing. There are over 40 entities on the west slope testifying. There has been a large outreach effort on the west slope. The entities in the South Platte are asking other entities to provide letters or comment on the process if they believe they will be negatively impacted. Aurora Water is happy to provide a letter template to be distributed to the MRT members. These letters would need to come from the individual entities. The deadline for comments is the September CWCB Board Meeting.

Shoshone Webpage: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/2025-shoshone-isf-acquisition>

DWR Ag Protection Water Rights Meetings:

<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=4462805&dbid=0>

12. Upcoming Public Meetings Schedule – See CWCB's [Online Calendar](#) and [EngageCWCB.org](https://engagecwcb.org)

1. South Platte Basin Tour, September 9, 2025 - [SPBRT Tour Outline](#)