



SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Brent Schantz, Bruce Gerk, Daylan Figgs, Deb Daniel, Donnie Dustin, Garrett Varra, Gary Barber, Jim Hall, Jim Yahn, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kirk Vincent, Scott Griebeling, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Casey Davenhill, Esther Malers, Mathew Schultz, Sean Cronin

Guests: Alana Helin, Alex Brown, Brian Stephens-Hotopp, Brian Von Seggern, Carmen Farmer, Corey DeAngelis, Dan Gallen, Jenny McCarty, Jody Shadduck-McNally, Justin Hollis, Kerry Major, Kathi LaPoint, Krystle Morey, Lottia Villalba, Marin Oschmann, Matt Redmond, Matthew C. Redmond, Michael Welsh, Noelle Fillo, Patrick Wells, Rachel Hood, Robert Sakata, Sarah Gerenday, Shawn Martini, Therese Deline, Travis Gilbertson, Tom Cech

CWCB: Jackie Carano, Jeff Rodriguez

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

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Sean Chambers at 4:08pm.
2. SPBRT thanked Northern Water for hosting a tour of Chimney Hollow and the monthly meeting.
 - Tour participants were able to view:
 - The Colorado Big-Thompson Project infrastructure (to be utilized to fill Chimney Hollow).
 - The 350-foot tall, hydraulic asphaltic concrete (HAC) dam, complete with a staff gauge for water surface elevation.
 - The quarry where materials were harvested for the dam. Naturally occurring uranium was discovered in the granite rocks of the quarry which may delay the process to fill Chimney Hollow since water quality monitoring and treatment will be necessary.
 - Recreation features: Northern is building a road for public access on the west side of the project where Larimer County will manage an open space with trails and a boat ramp (no-wake restriction on the reservoir).
 - Twelve Northeastern Colorado water providers collaborated on the project with the intent to enhance the reliability of the Windy Gap Project.
3. Approval of a Boulder County Municipal Representative is pending. Anyone interested in joining the SPBRT can reach out to Jeff Rodriguez (jeff.rodriguez@state.co.us) for more information about openings and next steps.

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

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

3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary September 9, 2025](#) (Sean Chambers – 2 min.)

1. Scott Griebeling moved to approve SPBRT Meeting Summary September 9, 2025. It was seconded by Kirk Vincent and the motion carried.

4. Public Comment (3 min.)

1. No public comment.

5. WSRF (Garrett Varra – 5 min.)

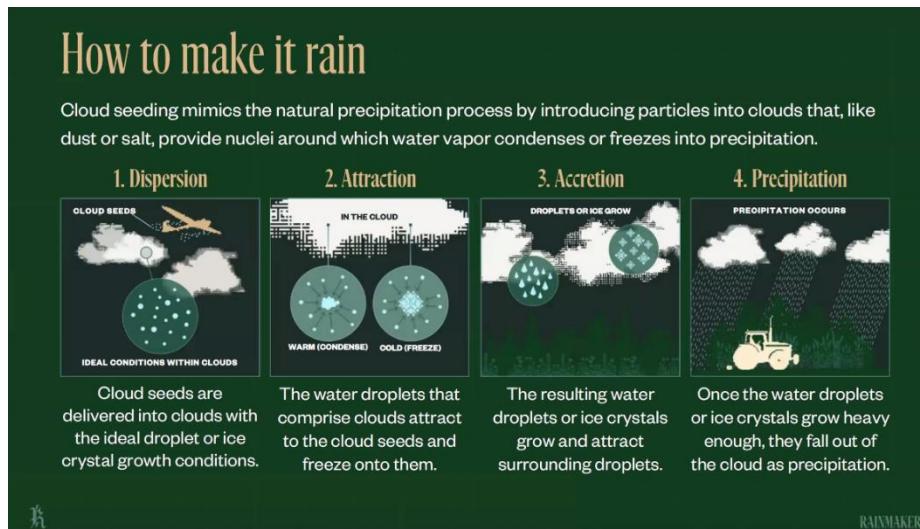
1. WSRF Update and SPBRT CWCB Basin Account Fund Status: Initially, it was believed that the Basin account held \$338,000, but CWCB staff liaison to SPBRT, Jeff Rodriguez reported \$422,000 for Cycle 2 of 2025 and Cycle 1 of 2026. Regardless, Cycle 2 applicants have been informed that the basin account funds are insufficient to fully fund every project.
2. [Cycle 2 Application](#) Update:
 - The eight applicants asked for a total of \$772,000, but the total has been reduced to \$720,000 to fulfill WSRF match requirements. Most of the projects are construction, study, or measurement centered, and one is engagement focused.
 - The WSRF/Needs committee will meet October 31st, 2025, to develop a recommendation for how to equitably distribute the available funds between supported projects. The SPBRT confirmed that the Needs Committee should not “reserve” funds for Cycle 1 of 2026 while there are worthy projects in Cycle 2 of 2025.
 - The committee may reach out to CWCB to further discuss the “use it or lose it” mechanism which incentivizes spending and penalizes reserving funds.
 - Jackie Carano, CWCB’s Regional Water Plan Grant Manager for Metro, South Platte, and the North Platte, can help current and future WSRF/WPG applicants explore funding avenues.
Email: Jackie.carano@state.co.us | Phone: (720) 846-1571

Application Steps	Cycle 1 Deadlines	Cycle 2 Deadlines
Online summary proposal via www.southplattebasin.com/grants	March 1	September 1
Draft Full Application Submittal on CWCB Portal	3rd Friday in April	3rd Friday in October
RT Award Decision	May RT meeting	November RT meeting
Final Application submittal on CWCB Portal	June 1	December 1
CWCB Approval Meeting	September	March

The Cycle 2 Deadline for the online summary proposal was extended to Sept. 5th, 2025

6. Rainmaker- Cloud Seeding (Shawn Martini – 45 min.)

1. **Purpose:** Rainmaker provides a scalable cloud seeding technology to increase freshwater precipitation and combat increasing drought-conditions within the United States, especially the West.
2. **Method:** Drones release silver iodide which is a catalyst for precipitation when weather conditions are favorable. The hexagonal crystal structure acts as “nuclei” around which water vapor condenses or freezes into precipitation. Unlike ground-based generators, the drones do not rely on convective weather patterns to lift the silver iodide. However, the drones must navigate challenging weather conditions in flight to gain favorable positioning in the sky. The technology is more accurate when deployed to increase snowpack than when releasing convective rainfall. Hail suppression programs can also be utilized to reduce crop damage in critical agricultural areas.



3. **Development:** Cloud seeding was discovered decades ago, but technological advancements in

Rainmaker Presentation Slide (SPBRT 10/14/25)

weather forecasting, deployment devices and sensors, and radar to validate effectiveness are increasing the practice's feasibility.

4. November 7th at 12:00pm, Rainmaker will host a Field Day in Salt Lake City, UT. Request event information from esther.malers@trilynx.systems.
5. Contact: For more questions, email contact@makerrain.com or shawn@makerrain.com

7. **Water Education & Irrigation Research Center (WEIR) (Brent Schantz – 15 min.)**

Summary: WEIR will be a robust educational and training center; a powerhouse for workforce development. Collaboration is welcome and many institutions/organizations already plan to make use of the facility. Construction is scheduled to start in 2026 at an estimated cost of \$2.2 million. The project will pursue funding from the WPG (Dec. 1st, 2025, deadline), private sources, sponsorships, partnerships, and donations. The SPBRT voiced interest in touring the site either before or after construction.

Email brent@thebromleycompanies.com with questions, contacts for collaboration or sponsorship, input on the facility, or to provide equipment for the facility (historical or current).

1. The WEIR Center is an initiative of United Water, Platte River Water Development, and other partners to support water control and measurement systems, as well as education and training at the existing SIEP (Subsurface Irrigation Efficiency Project) farm, east of Kersey, CO.
2. The facility will offer the opportunity to:
 - Support applied education in flow measurement and control techniques applicable to Colorado water use.
 - Provide controlled testing of new measurement technologies to evaluate proposed equipment, systems, or solutions.
 - Provide a facility for the demonstration of various flow measurement and control techniques, systems, and equipment by industry experts.
 - Provide a facility where flow measurement equipment can be tested for accuracy and calibrated.
 - Support the testing and demonstration of water quality monitoring and sampling equipment.
 - Provide a facility where the students, state agencies, conservancy districts, irrigation districts, ditch companies, municipalities, and other water users can receive training and hands-on experience with well-established and emerging technologies from industry experts.
 - Provide a facility for educational presentations on a myriad of topics related to water resources in Colorado for water resources professionals and the interested public.
 - Provide a hands-on lab experience for a potential new certificate in Water Resources at Front Range Community College, and Electronics Field Technician in Water Resources at AIMS Community College, and Project WET, among other educational and workforce development activities.
 - The site will feature a recirculating water conveyance system, where both closed conduit and open channel infrastructure will be available for evaluating flow measurement technologies.

8. **SMP Update- SVLH (Jenny McCarty – 20 min.)**

SMP- Stream Management Plan

SVLH- St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District

1. Context: SVLH serves a large watershed with a variety of stakeholders who are involved and/or impacted by the creeks in the area. In the aftermath of the 2013 flood, collaboration flourished and a shared vision for resource management was cultivated. SVLH secured funding from the SPBRT's WSRF, as well as the CWCB, the District itself, City of Longmont, Boulder County, CO Trout Unlimited, JLB Engineering, and American Whitewater to develop a SMP.
2. Timeline of Progress:
 - 2018-2020: SMP Phase I
 - District-led stakeholder meetings were held to understand values, analyze existing science, and identify goals and strategies for implementation.
 - 2020: SMP Summary Report
 - Presented to the SPBRT.
 - 2024: SMP Update
 - SVLH met with partners, discussed progress and resource needs, compiled information, and identified gaps. Four themes emerged:

Theme 1: Flow Management
 Theme 2: Habitat Restoration & Protection
 Theme 3: Water Quality Improvements
 Theme 4: Water Use & Management (Infrastructure)

- Efforts to address gaps within each theme include the development of a “Water Database Application” in partnership with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the Haldi Passage Project in partnership with the Watershed Center & District, a myriad of projects in collaboration with the local ditch companies.

3. Key Takeaways:

- Significant progress has been made on most near-term initiatives and some long-term initiatives.
- Barriers for implementation included: financial, staff, and knowledge resources. The CWCB can be a great resource when facing these issues.
- Priorities have changed between the SMP I and SMP Update, so it is necessary to revisit priorities and share progress with stakeholders periodically.
 - SVLH is developing a SMP Story Map.
 - SVLH will provide an annual update to stakeholders.
 - And, SVLH will update priority initiatives every 5 years.

4. Examples of Resource Development:

- SVLH organized a Stakeholder Meeting in the Spring of 2025 which informed the “Implementation Priority Initiatives Report.” Appendix A, “List of Priority Projects” identifies the SMP theme, the project name, the project lead, and potential funding sources.
- SVLH developed the [“Passage Playbook: Guidance for Working with Ditch Companies on Multi-Benefit Projects that Incorporate Ditch Diversions and Fish Passage in the St. Vrain Watershed.”](#)

9. Agriburbia & Calibre (Matthew Redmond, Brian Stephens-Hotopp – 15 min.)

1. Agriburbia & Calibre created a team to address CWP objectives. In advance of any Letter of Support requests, Matthew Redmond and Brian Stephens-Hotopp introduced themselves to the RT and shared what their collaboration has to offer:
 - Agriburbia works at the nexus of food, energy, and water to integrate agriculture into urban, suburban, and rural environments.
 - Calibre provides civil and structural engineering services, specializing in areas like water, utilities, and whitewater parks.

Together, they hope to support WPG goals:

Our Companies

POWER OUR
WATER

AGRIBURBIA + Calibre

**Vibrant
Communities**

Municipal water conservation and expansion
 Agricultural water conservation, sustainability, production
 Policy and regulatory change monitoring
 Healthy river restoration and protection
 Water infrastructure modernization
 Stream and watershed restoration
 Public education and outreach
 Collaborative water sharing
 Multi-purpose storage
 Land use planning

**Robust
Agriculture**

Hazard planning
 Integrated planning
 Data collection and sharing
 Climate change adaptation
 One water and water wise
 Water efficiency planning
 Water risk mitigation
 Water quality improvement
 Water compliance
 Watershed planning

**Thriving
Watersheds**

Innovation
 Water reuse
 Collaboration
 Water recreation
 Strategic funding
 Funding assistance
 Equitable water distribution
 Holistic planning
 Environmental services
 Conveyance infrastructure

**Resilient
Planning**

Agriburbia + Calibre Presentation (SPBRT 10/14/25)

10. Committee Updates (35 min.) [Roundtable Meeting Records — The South Platte Basin](#)

Link to Announce a Meeting Form - [Add a meeting — The South Platte Basin](#)

1. PEPO Committee Update (Casey Davenport – 10 min.)
PEPO- Public Education and Public Outreach
 - [09/25/25 meeting summary](#)
 - Michaela Vondy used the information from the “What is a Roundtable” document to develop a pamphlet. Feedback is welcome and an updated draft will be ready for the C9 Summit.
 - Another thanks to the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District for the tour in September.
 - *The October PEPO meeting will take place at the C9 Summit, and the next in early Nov. (TBD).*
2. ER&W Committee (~~Larry Rogstad~~ Kirk Vincent – 10 min.)
ER&W- Environment, Recreation, and Watershed Health
 - [09/24/25 meeting summary](#)
 - ER&W continued to discuss irrigation canals in riparian and urban areas.
 - *The October meeting is **cancelled** due to the C9 Summit.*
 - In November, ER&W plans to discuss cumulative conversion of riparian, terrestrial habitat on the SP [...] and potential impacts to wildlife.
3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 15 min.)
M&I- Municipal and Industrial
 - No 09/26/25 meeting summary
 - Metro and SPBRT members posed questions to the CWCB and discussed what role the committee may have in progressing WP and BIP priorities, utilizing WSRF and WPG funds.
 - CWCB and M&I attendees commented that it was a great discussion, but each team will need to reflect more to gather key takeaways. Exemplified by this competitive WSRF Cycle, questions around funding sources and collaboration are prudent to maximize the value of WSRF.
 - IBCC Governor’s Appointee, Patrick Wells, commented that joint meetings between the SP and Metro RTs and the committees could be a valuable way to 1) utilize funding to the fullest and 2) inform the “No and Low Regrets” discussion. The SP and M RTs share a BIP, and SPBRT offers valuable ag perspective.
 - Next meeting: 10/24/25 at 9:30am.

11. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin – 5 min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#))

1. [C9 Summit](#) Registration Open (October 28th & 29th, 2025).
2. “No & Low Regrets” (NLR) IBCC Subcommittee Update (*referred to as SC below*):
 - The SC developed materials which will be distributed at the C9 Summit, intended to help guide each of the nine RTs through the process of developing their NLR priorities in a consistent way across the state.
 - The guidance describes the purpose of the NLR discussions (RT → IBCC → CWCB → Water Plan, BIPs, etc.) and the process at the RT level (how do they collect, discuss, and report to the IBCC).
 - IBCC Governor’s Appointee, Pat Wells commented that SC discussions and the resulting materials seek to define the roles of the RTs, IBCC, and CWCB to encourage efficiency.
 - Sean Cronin mentioned that recent additions to the RT may lack the history, context, or memory of times when active involvement in the RT was necessary to tackle challenging tasks. Following the C9 Summit, members can expect “homework,” whether that is dedicated agenda time, periodic workshops, etc..

12. “No and Low Regrets” (NLR)/ Drought Resilience Action Plan (DRAP) Discussion (Sean Cronin – 15 min.)

Context: The “No and Low Regrets” (NLR) concept refers to widely supported, high-priority areas of focus to cultivate robust and resilient watersheds. The vision is that the RTs, IBCC, and CWCB will collaborate to develop a process to best *identify, document, and fund* both local and statewide priorities utilizing existing mechanisms/resources.

Why is this process being developed now?: The concept of LNRs was discussed by the IBCC in 2013 ([memo](#)), but predated funding mechanisms (making actionable progress difficult). At the C9 Summit in 2024, the idea was revisited under the name “Drought Resilience Action Plan.” This sparked energetic discussions for the

SPBRT, IBCC, and CWCB demonstrating local and statewide desire for efficient use of the following funding mechanisms and resources which have been developed in Colorado:

- 1937- CWCB is founded.
- 2005- Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (RTs and IBCC are formed).
- 2006- WSRF created.
- 2013- IBCC conceptualizes “No & Low Regrets.”
- 2015- The Water Plan, and some BIPs.
- 2017- WPG Program created.
- 2019- Technical Update.
- 2022- BIPs completed.
- 2023- Water Plan Update.
- 2024- C9 Summit reintroduces NLR.
- 2025- C9 Summit: *“How do we develop a process to use these mechanisms/resources to the maximum benefit?”*

The 2025 C9 Summit has allotted significant agenda time for NLR discussion. The goal is to build a shared understanding between the RTs, IBCC, and CWCB on the task, purpose, and process of what NLR collaboration may look like. Discussions at the RT level are expected to begin after the Summit.

13. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez – 10 min.)
 - [C9 Summit](#): Register or join waitlist.
 - 10/28 will be conference styled and 10/29 will be the PEPO meeting and “Now & Low Regrets” workshop.
 - Travel and accommodation reimbursements are available for BRTs (email Sean Chambers and Jeff Rodriguez).
 - See awarded and available funds in each of the WPG categories the [CO WPG page](#). Reach out to Jackie Carano for more information and assistance (see contact info agenda item 5.2).
 - WP Agency Action Item Progress Report:
 - Item 4.10: CWCB has formed a water secure partnership with the Sonoran Institute for collaborative regional planning. This involves supporting local and regional leaders in identifying water security issues and strategies. Contact CWCB’s water and climate specialist for more information on Water Secure Communities (emily.adrid@state.co.us).
 - 11/18/2025- [Water Conditions Monitoring Webinar](#).
 - 11/19 & 11/20 [Board Meeting](#) in Denver/Metro area.
 - 12/01/25- WPG and WSRF Deadline
 - [Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Sharing Program](#)
 - [Shoshone Webpage](#)
 - [Colorado River](#)
- ~~2. Director Wind Update (10 min.) not in attendance.~~

14. Member Updates (10 min.)

1. [The Future of Severance Taxes and Water Funding Task Force](#) met for the first time. The group will meet monthly.
2. Legislation is being formed for revegetation standards in the Lower Arkansas. Another related to stream access may be of interest to the SPBRT once developed further.
3. Brent Schantz welcomes input on the WEIR project.
4. There was a screening of the film *Mirasol: Looking at the Sun* and an engaging panel discussion on October 13th at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins. Another screening and panel discussion will take place at Northern Water, Berthoud, CO on November 3rd, 2025. SPBRT attendees are welcome.

15. 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 at the Southwest Weld County Building on the **third Tuesday of November, 11/18/25**.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm