

South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
4:00-7:00 p.m. (MST)

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### **South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. GoToMeeting Orientation, Questions, and Comments (G. Varra – 10 min)**

The meeting started at 4:05 p.m. Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending the SPBRT's tenth virtual meeting. He reminded attendees of virtual meeting etiquette (e.g., mute yourself when not speaking, enter questions or comments into the chat box, be concise and follow agenda).

#### **2. Welcome/Introductions (G. Varra – 10 min)**

In attendance: Lynn Baca\*, Gene Manuello\*, Loretta Daniel\*, Randy Ray\*, Jim Yahn\*, Garrett Varra\*, Kirk Vincent\*, Matt Jones\*, Ken Huson\*, Lisa Leben\*, Kevin Lusk\*, Kelsea Holloway\*, Daylan Figgs\*, John Kolanz\*, Shane Miller\*, Joe Frank\*, Allyn Wind\*, Jim Hall\*, Dick Elsner\*, Larry Rogstad\*, Bruce Gerke\*, Jason Roudebush\*, Lynda James\*, Lori Saine\*, Sean Chambers\*, Sean Cronin, Casey Davenport, Joel Schneekloth, Christy Wiseman, Sam Stein, Rebecca Mitchell, Kat Weismiller, Russ Sands, Andrew Primo, Bill Szafranski, Carmen Farmer, Chip Paulson, Christi Bode, Corey DeAngelis, David Bonga, Diane Kielty, Donnie Dustin, Ed Millard, Erik Jorgensen, Hope Bartlett, Ken Curtis, Mary Gearhart, Matt Cook, Melissa Mosier, Nora Flynn, Kayla Ranney, Ray Douglas, Robert Sakata, Thomas Parker, and multiple members of the public. 25 voting SPBRT members were present (\* denotes a voting member).

Robert Sakata was introduced as the new South Platte Basin Representative on the CWCB Board, replacing Jim Yahn. Robert Sakata is a member of the Metro Roundtable. Robert Sakata made a few introductory comments and noted he was looking forward to serving in his new role. Multiple SPBRT members welcomed Robert Sakata as well as thanked Jim Yahn for his service on the CWCB Board.

#### **3. Approval of January 2021 SPBRT Meeting Minutes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)**

Shane Miller made a motion to approve the January 2021 meeting minutes and Bruce Gerk seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

**4. February 2021 Agenda Additions or Changes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)**

Casey Davenhill noted that she has a conflict between 4:30-5:30 p.m. Therefore, Diane Kielty may provide the PEPO update. Videographer Christi Bode will give an update on the video project during the PEPO update.

Lynda James made a motion to accept the February 2021 meeting agenda and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

**5. CWCB Update Presentation (Rebecca Mitchell – 15 min)**

CWCB Director Rebecca Mitchell gave a CWCB update. Mitchell covered several topics and did not use a slideshow presentation. Mitchell's CWCB updates included: thanking Jim Yahn for serving on the CWCB Board; welcoming Robert Sakata to the CWCB Board; thanking the SPBRT for their work on the BIP update; commenting on how COVID has affected CWCB's ability to gather input on the Water Plan update and how CWCB plans to use [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org); summarizing the Riverside Chat event about the Water Plan update on January 27; giving a timeline of the Water Plan update process; discussing broader Colorado River issues; talking about the phase 2 plan for exploring Demand Management; discussing the importance of civility and respectable communications when having difficult conversations (e.g., creating a code of conduct for Roundtable meetings); and talking about the importance of equity and inclusivity in water discussions.

After Mitchell's talk, several SPBRT members commented and had follow-up questions. Garrett Varra noted how the nature of virtual meetings has changed the dynamic of meeting as a Roundtable; however, virtual meetings allow more people to participate who would otherwise have to travel hours to get to an in-person SPBRT meeting. SPBRT members and Rebecca Mitchell also discussed wildfire recovery resources as well as funding (e.g., revenues from sports betting).

**6. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update (G. Varra and Matt Cook – 60 min)**

Matt Cook and Kayla Ranney presented on the BIP update. They went over a project tiering update, basin challenges, and the project schedule. In response to questions, Russ Sands elaborated on the purpose of the tiering process (e.g., clarifying "ready" vs "pursued" projects) and how it will be used. A draft of the updated BIP is due to CWCB staff by June 30.

**7. SPBRT Committee Updates**

**a. South Platte Basin and Statewide Account Balances / Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (S. Stein and J. Roudebush – 10 min)**

Sam Stein reported that there have not been any changes to the South Platte Basin WSRF account. The balance remains at \$626,865.

Jason Roudebush reminded everyone that the next deadline for WSRF grant applications is in April. The SPBRT's WSRF application deadline was moved up in order to align with new CWCB Board deadlines.

**b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) (C. Davenport – 5 min)**

Diane Kielty presented the PEPO report. A written report was included in the February 2021 meeting materials folder.

The PEPO Committee is working on an updated Education Action Plan that coordinates with the BIP update. The PEPO Committee is collecting agricultural water cycle graphics for incorporation into the Live Like You Love It (LLYLI) campaign. In addition, the committee is developing a newsletter article.

PEPO Committee members are working with Yoichiro Kanno and the CSU team on their recently-awarded WSRF project.

The PEPO Committee has completed reviewing a narrative provided by Evoque Communications as part of their agreement with the Live Like You Love It (LLYLI) campaign. Thanks to the PEPO Committee members for their thoughtful review of a message which seeks to clarify the statistic that 86% of South Platte water is used in agriculture and positively showcase agriculture's role in the community and watershed. The PEPO Committee is asking for an updated "life cycle of water" graphic that illustrates agricultural water use, return flows and the value of agriculture. The audiences for this effort are Colorado residents, educators, interested citizen groups, taxpayers, and voters. Roundtable members are encouraged to share any graphics or resources that depict the concept of return flows and explain the math for how 1.4 million acre feet of native supply and 0.5 million acre feet of trans-basin diversions equal 4 million acre feet of water supply diversions.

The PEPO Committee has been doing targeted outreach to various groups, including the Upper South Platte Basin Watershed Association (which includes districts from Douglas and Jefferson Counties on to SE Weld CD) and Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Water Committee. Outreach to Left Hand Watershed Center, Poudre Learning Center, and other watershed groups is planned for March.

The application for 2021 PEPO budget supplement has been submitted along with letters of support from the Metro and South Platte Roundtables. Please visit the South Platte Basin [website](#) and provide feedback via the email link on the site.

After the report, Christi Bode talked about the ongoing South Platte Basin video project. The video is currently in post-production; Bode is editing about four hours of interview audio down into an approximately ten-minute video. The video is coming together well. Bode also noted that she has been contacted by the Colorado Film Commission to create a video on

the topic of agricultural “buy and dry” with support from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

**c. SPBRT By-Laws Update (G. Varra – 15 min)**

Garrett Varra requested that the SPBRT create a bylaws review committee. The current bylaws were created in 2013. Recently, ideas to alter the bylaws have come up (e.g., formalizing an IBCC alternate). Sean Cronin, Ken Huson, Bruce Gerck, and Lynda James volunteered for the committee. Lynda James asked what the timeline for the bylaws update should be. Varra responded that it would be good to offer revisions by the March or April meeting.

**8. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update (J. Yahn and S. Cronin – 10 min)**

Jim Yahn noted that the next IBCC meeting is on February 23.

**9. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (S. Stein and J. Yahn – 10 min)**

Sam Stein shared several CWCB updates. Stein announced that the recording of CWCB’s Riverside Chat event is available online. He encouraged everyone to go to [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org) and fill out the Water Plan update survey. There are lots of upcoming workshops on the Water Plan update; some are space-limited. Sign up on [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org). Stein noted that the Agricultural and Municipal Water Impact Task Forces have been activated due to the drought. The next Water Availability Task Force (WATF) meeting is on February 16. The next statewide PEPO meeting is on February 22. The next IBCC meeting is on February 23. The next CWCB Board meeting is on March 11-12.

Garrett Varra commented that it would be good to add a list of the aforementioned CWCB meetings to the agenda.

Jim Yahn provided a summary of the CWCB Board meeting on January 25-26. The Board heard one loan request from North Sterling Irrigation District and approved a new conservation easement (CE) policy. There was lots of discussion about instream flows, both on specific applications as well as on rulemakings to implement HB20-1157. Finally, Yahn thanked Robert Sakata for stepping up to serve on the CWCB Board and represent agricultural interests.

**10. Public Comment (5 min)**

Garrett Varra noted the CWCB calendar and upcoming meetings.

Casey Davenport followed up on the “buy and dry” video concept that was mentioned in the PEPO update. There is no formal action requested at this time from the Roundtable but it’s worth talking about in case the PEPO Committee wants to make a financial contribution to the project. If and when that time comes, the SPBRT will vote on whether to support the project.

Corey DeAngelis gave a brief water supply conditions update. He offered to give a full report at a future meeting if the Roundtable is interested.

Kirk Vincent shared an interested in learning more about the BIP update by sitting in on a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting. Matt Cook offered to send Vincent the JSC meeting details.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.