

South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

4:00-7:00 p.m. (MST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91408892105?pwd=OGlyYnQzWjdtT3FuVlJmeUdJcU1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 914 0889 2105

Passcode: 025541

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/addaFMjnph>

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

1. Zoom Orientation, Questions, and Comments (G. Varra – 10 min)

The meeting started at 4:04 p.m. Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending the SPBRT's twelfth 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*, Loretta Daniel*, Randy Ray*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Kirk Vincent*, Matt Jones*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, Jim Ford*, Daylan Figgs*, Donnie Dustin*, John Kolanz*, Shane Miller*, Joe Frank*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Larry Rogstad*, Scott Griebing*, Lynda James*, Lori Saine*, Sean Chambers*, Sean Cronin, Casey Davenhill, Christy Wiseman, Robert Sakata, Sam Stein, Kat Weismiller, Megan Holcomb, Russ Sands, Amy Mitchell, Brent Nation, Carmen Farmer, Chip Paulson, Corey DeAngelis, David Rausch, David Bonga, Erik Jorgensen, Juan Roberto Madrid, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Melissa Mosier, Peter Barkmann, Ray Douglas, Royal Koepsell, Susi Sewald, Willow Cozzens, and multiple members of the public. Bruce Gerck* was excused from the April meeting. 23 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

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

Kirk Vincent made a motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes and Dick Elsner seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

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

Garrett Varra proposed a few edits to the April 2021 agenda. He added an Environment and Recreation (E&R) Committee update under item 9 (to become new item 9c), clarified that Megan Holcomb's presentation in item 7 is actually a drought presentation, and added discussion of CWCB's new code of conduct for Roundtables under item 12.

Dick Elsner made a motion to accept the April 2021 meeting agenda with the aforementioned changes and Lynda James seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

5. Membership Updates (G. Varra – 5 min)

a. St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District Representative

Garrett Varra announced Scott Griebing as the new St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District representative. Scott Griebing introduced himself and provided a brief background on his professional experience.

b. Larimer Municipality Representative

Garrett Varra announced Donnie Dustin as the new Larimer Municipality representative. Donnie Dustin works at Fort Collins Utilities. Varra noted that Dustin has been attending SPBRT meetings for almost a year at this point. Dustin recently went through the process of reaching out to all the Larimer County municipalities to be chosen for the voting seat.

There was discussion of whether or not the SPBRT needed to formally reappoint Sean Cronin to the nonvoting at-large seat. There was consensus that Cronin does not to be formally reappointed. There was further discussion of vacant and inactive voting seats. Garrett Varra encouraged everyone to send him suggestions for potential candidates to fill vacant voting seats.

6. Public Comment (5 min)

Royal Koepsell announced that the [H2OInfo tool](#) has been updated with a few new Northern Colorado counties. The H2OInfo tool project received a WSRF grant from the SPBRT in 2020. Garrett Varra suggested that Koepsell demonstrate the expanded tool at a future SPBRT meeting.

Sean Chambers brought attention to [SB21-240 Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus](#); the bill is important for wildfire response for communities affected by fires.

Corey DeAngelis shared new orders extending DWR staff to work from home until the end of June. He reminded everyone that DWR field staff is working with social distancing practices in place.

7. Drought Response Presentation (Megan Holcomb – 15 min)

Megan Holcomb, CWCB's Senior Climate Specialist, gave a drought response presentation. She covered 2020 drought conditions, current drought conditions, drought forecasts, the activation timeline of the state Drought Plan, the organizing structure of the state drought response task

forces, recent work of the Ag Impact Task Force and Municipal Impact Task Forces, and the Municipal Drought Management Plan Guidance document (which was recently updated from the prior 2010 version).

After the presentation, various SPBRT members discussed water quality impacts from 2020 wildfires, the importance of water sharing agreements and system interconnections for utility resiliency, and forest management. Kelsea Holloway noted that the Environment and Recreation (E&R) Subcommittee has been discussing these topics; anyone is welcome to join the next E&R meeting. E&R meetings occur the 4th Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. David Rausch commented that Denver Water has a good presentation about forest health; perhaps Denver Water staff could present to the SPBRT at a future meeting.

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

Matt Cook presented on the BIP update. Cook covered a variety of topics, including an update on the BIP's measurable outcomes, updated organization of the goals, strategies, measurable outcomes, challenges, achievements, and opportunities (i.e., line of sight), and recent subcommittee meetings.

9. SPBRT Committee Updates

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

Sam Stein reported \$505,865 for the South Platte Basin balance and \$5,433,185 for the statewide balance.

Garrett Varra reminded everyone that WSRF applicants will present at the May meeting. Varra will schedule a WSRF Needs Committee meeting soon to review the applications. The SPBRT received four total applications but one applicant withdrew, so there will be three up for discussion at the May meeting.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) (C. Davenhill – 15 min)

Casey Davenhill presented the PEPO report. Davenhill is looking forward to the statewide PEPO meeting in May so PEPO liaisons can get guidance on the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP). Davenhill submitted language about the goals and strategies in the SWEAP; she is trying to emphasize that PEPO work needs to be tied to BIPs.

The PEPO Committee is still working on the South Platte video. It's in the editing stage now; the goal is to keep it less than 10 minutes. The video still needs a title; one suggestion is "Sharing the South Platte." SPBRT members discussed video title ideas.

Please visit the [South Platte Basin website](#) and provide feedback via the email link on the site. The Metro Roundtable is looking to use the website to host WSRF applications and similar materials. The website can be used to comply with open meetings laws.

c. Environment and Recreation (E&R) Committee (K. Holloway – 5 min)

Kelsea Holloway announced that the E&R Committee is identifying goals with respect to watershed health, environment, and recreation values. If anyone is interested in helping this effort, contact Kelsea Holloway.

10. Legislative Update (G. Varra and J. Yahn – 15 min)

Jim Yahn provided a legislative update. He highlighted multiple bills:

- [SB21-240 Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus](#)
- [HB21-1260 General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan](#)
- [HB21-1226 More Robust Check Station Aquatic Nuisance Species](#)
- [HB21-1046 Water Share Right Mutual Ditch Corporation](#)
- [HB21-1233 Conservation Easement Tax Credit Modifications](#)
- [HB21-1242 Create Agricultural Drought And Climate Resilience Office](#)
- [HB21-1268 Study Emerging Technologies For Water Management](#)
- [HB21-1262 Money Support Agricultural Events Organization](#)
- Establish State Dredge & Fill Water Permit Program (hasn't yet become a bill)

Garrett Varra noted that Colorado Water Congress [tracks](#) water-related legislation, as do many other organizations. Casey Davenhill added that the [Healthy Rivers Fund](#) has been reauthorized as an income tax refund option. Multiple SPBRT members discussed the aforementioned bills, as well as commented on state assumption and wildfire impacts.

11. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update (J. Yahn and S. Cronin – 5 min)

There had not been an IBCC meeting since the last SPBRT meeting.

12. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (S. Stein and R. Sakata – 10 min)

Robert Sakata, the South Platte Basin's new CWCB Board representative, gave an update on the last CWCB Board meeting, which was his first meeting as a board member. During their meeting on March 10-11, the CWCB Board discussed: over-appropriation of the Yampa Basin, new board members, instream flow recommendations for Division 1, Demand Management, CO River Compact updates, and loan applications. The next CWCB Board meeting is May 19-20.

After Robert Sakata's update, Sam Stein gave a CWCB update. He thanked everyone who participated in one of the Water Plan update workshops thus far. Recordings of past workshops will be posted soon and more are scheduled for the coming weeks. All workshops are listed on [engagewcb.org](#). CWCB staff is working on the Demand Management framework; there is a public survey about Demand Management on [engagewcb.org](#). Stein also commented on the Water Equity Task Force, clarifying that the Task Force is not about water rights, Demand Management, or the public trust doctrine, but rather about trying to get more diverse stakeholder participation in water planning activities. In other words, CWCB is trying to make more Coloradoans aware of the Water Plan, Basin Roundtables, available grant programs, etc. Stein noted that there will be a water equity workshop in the fall.

Sam Stein brought up CWCB's new code of conduct for Roundtables. Garrett Varra commented on the importance of collaboration and being respectful in water policy discussions. It's good to have passion for the issues but all Roundtable members and meeting participants need to ensure they treat each other with dignity and respect. CWCB has asked each Roundtable to formally adopt the code of conduct. Robert Sakata commented that ensuring respectful communications is even more important in the age of virtual meetings and social media. Garrett Varra made a motion to adopt the code of conduct and Kirk Vincent seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

After the vote, Garrett Varra asked Sam Stein for the latest guidance on in person meetings. Stein noted that CWCB staff has no plans for in person work or travel as of now, though the Governor could issue an executive order giving different guidance. Varra then commented on the nature of virtual meetings and how many SPBRT members are excited to begin meeting in person again. Ideally, future Roundtable meetings will be a hybrid approach where the majority of members can be in person but people will still have the option to join virtually. SPBRT members further discussed remote meetings and technology needs.

Sean Chambers noted the City of Greeley's recently approved aquifer storage and recovery project, Terry Ranch. Garrett Varra announced that the May 11 SPBRT meeting will be held virtually; there are three WSRF grant applications up for review at the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.