

South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
4:00-7:00 p.m. (MST)

South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

South Platte Basin Website: <https://southplattebasin.com/>
CWCB SPBRT Website: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/basin-roundtables/south-platte-basin-roundtable>

1. Zoom 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 thirteenth 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: Gene Manuello*, Loretta Daniel*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Kirk Vincent*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Frank Eckhardt*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, Jim Ford*, Daylan Figgs*, Donnie Dustin*, John Kolanz*, Joe Frank*, Allyn Wind*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Larry Rogstad*, Deb Daniel*, Scott Griebing*, Lynda James*, Sean Chambers*, Joel Schneekloth, Casey Davenport, Christy Wiseman, Robert Sakata, Amy Ostdiek, Kat Weismiller, Russ Sands, Audrey Butler, Carmen Farmer, Chip Paulson, Chris Douglass, Corey DeAngelis, Courtney Black, David Rausch, Emilie Abbott, Emily Zmak, Erik Jorgensen, Greg Peterson, Jon Erickson, Jordana Barrack, Josh Kuhn, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Matt Lindberg, Melissa Mosier, Neil Deeds, Peter Barkmann, Phyllis Thomas, Ray Douglas, Scot Mefford, Shaden Musleh, Willow Cozzens, and multiple members of the public. 24 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

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

Dick Elsner made a motion to approve the April 2021 meeting minutes and Sean Chambers seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

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

There were no proposed additions or changes to the May 2021 meeting agenda. Dick Elsner made a motion to accept the May 2021 meeting agenda and Sean Chambers seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

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

Garrett Varra did not have any membership updates.

6. Presentation on Demand Management Framework (Amy Ostdiek – 20 min)

Amy Ostdiek and Emily Zmak presented about CWCB's Demand Management Feasibility Investigation. The framework was developed to better understand how a Demand Management

program would work as a tool for Colorado. CWCB is now building an iterative framework informed by workgroup input, CWCB Board feedback, subject matter experts, and Colorado's diverse water stakeholders. CWCB invites Roundtable members to engage with the process via an [online survey](#) and/or by attending a workshop in June. CWCB has answered [frequently asked questions](#) about Demand Management feasibility on their [website](#).

Responding to a question about expanding public engagement beyond the traditional water sector, CWCB Board member Robert Sakata commented on how Roundtable members' input will be valuable to the CWCB Board as they make decisions about Demand Management. Casey Davenhill then asked about timing to engage with other groups (e.g., CCI and CML) and how to involve PEPO committees. Amy Ostdiek encouraged people to send her ideas for other groups to engage with. Multiple members discussed the fact that the SPBRT should have a deeper discussion about Demand Management in the future, perhaps at the June meeting. Amy Ostdiek noted that the next CWCB Board meeting will include an in-depth Colorado River update and a Demand Management update.

7. Public Comment (5 min)

Garrett Varra invited members of the public to comment by speaking, using the chat, or raising their hand in Zoom throughout the meeting.

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

Matt Cook, Chip Paulson, and Mary Presecan presented the latest BIP update. Among other updates, they discussed a detailed project timeline for both BIP Volumes 1 and 2 into early 2022.

After the presentation, Garrett Varra suggested inviting Alex Funk to the next Agricultural Subcommittee meeting. Russ Sands then discussed the transition of the BIP updates into the overall Water Plan update, which will go throughout 2022. Casey Davenhill asked if CWCB plans to leverage fall conferences (e.g., the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference) to gather additional input on BIPs and the Water Plan update. Russ Sands and Matt Lindberg answered that they anticipate bolstering efforts to collect public comment around October, so the timing might be good.

9. SPBRT Committee Updates

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

i. WSRF Applications (10 min for each presentation, 5 min for questions after each presentation action required)

Three WSRF grant applications were presented during the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the SPBRT WSRF Needs Committee prepared a memo outlining their recommendations for the three applications. The memo was included in the May meeting materials folder.

1. East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District (ECCV)

Chris Douglass, Scot Mefford, Neil Deeds, and Courtney Black presented ECCV's WSRF grant application to conduct an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) Modeling Assessment.

After the presentation, Joel Schneekloth asked what the recovery rate for the injected water will be. Scot Mefford responded that the focus of the study is to understand recovery rates on a long term basis. Jim Yahn asked if the injected water will require treatment. The project team responded that the injected water will come from Northern Water's treatment plant; it will be treated up to drinking water quality standards before going back into the ground. Jim Yahn then asked if the overall intent of this project is to reduce the need to purchase additional irrigated agricultural land along the South Platte River in order to meet ECCV's supply needs. The project team agreed; the more efficient ECCV can be, the less water they have to go searching for along the South Platte. EVVC wants to eliminate evaporative losses and make the most of their junior water rights through ASR.

Jim Hall commented that ASR is an important tool for meeting the gap and that this study's outcomes will be helpful for others. Jim Hall made a motion to approve the grant application and Jim Yahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Garrett Varra noted he will follow up with the applicants to craft a letter for the CWCB Board.

2. Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA)

Greg Peterson presented CAWA's WSRF grant application to provide educational activities and grant application assistance to agricultural producers. Peterson noted that even with COVID-19, CAWA has seen increasing demand for education within the agricultural community.

Garrett Varra clarified the application's financial request. He noted that the WSRF Needs Committee thought it was a reasonable request and has a good focus on agricultural activities; the committee recommended approval of this application.

Lynda James asked if CAWA has members from the headwaters counties or if it is mostly geared towards the Eastern Slope. Greg Peterson replied that the Colorado Cattlemen's Association is a member of CAWA. CAWA has done some work on the Western Slope but a majority of their members are from the Eastern Slope.

Kirk Vincent made a motion to approve the grant application and John Kolanz seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Garrett Varra noted

he will follow up with Greg Peterson to craft a letter for the CWCB Board.

3. Dave Miller Ditch

Garrett Varra noted that the SPBRT heard about the Dave Miller Ditch Water Plan Grant application at the September 2020 meeting. Jeff Crane presented the Dave Miller Ditch's WSRF grant application to pipe and re-align approximately 5,000 feet of the ditch.

Garrett Varra clarified the application's financial request. He noted that this request meets the SPBRT's new guidelines for deferred maintenance projects.

Lynda James made a motion to approve the grant application and Dick Elsner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. After the vote, Lynda James commented that this project will help the South Platte Basin meet gaps by reducing evaporative losses. Garrett Varra noted he will follow up with Jeff Crane to craft a letter for the CWCB Board.

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

Casey Davenhill presented the PEPO report. A [written report](#) was included in the May 2021 meeting materials folder.

c. Environment and Recreation (K. Holloway – 5 min)

Kelsea Holloway did not have any updates aside from what was presented during the BIP update agenda item.

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

Jim Yahn provided a legislative update. He noted multiple bills, including:

- [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](#)
- [HB21-1268 Study Emerging Technologies For Water Management](#)
- [SB21-006 Human Remains Natural Reduction Soil](#)
- Establish State Dredge & Fill Water Permit Program (hasn't yet become a bill)

Garrett Varra added that conversations about CDPHE's Dredge & Fill Water Permit Program are still ongoing, though a bill hasn't been introduced yet. It is unclear which exact day the legislative session will conclude.

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

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

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

Kat Weismiller provided a CWCB update. She announced that the first joint meeting of the Water Equity Task Force is on May 18. The next CWCB Board meeting is on May 19-20; Roundtable members are welcome to join in. CWCB has been hosting a series of scoping workshops for the Water Plan update; those workshops will wrap up on June 8 with the Riverside Chat II virtual event.

Robert Sakata noted that the next CWCB Board meeting will include instream flow filings, review of multiple loan applications, reports on CWCB's effort to make their grant programs more efficient, dam safety rules, BIP updates, and lots of discussion of Colorado River issues. Sakata encouraged Roundtable members to let him know if they would like him to report on anything at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.