

## South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting Summary

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

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

Hybrid Meeting (In Person and Virtual Option)

**Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance:** Bruce Gerk, Deb Daniel, Dick Elsner, Garrett Varra, Jim Yahn, Jim Hall, Joe Frank, John Kolanz, Kent Swedlund, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Loretta Daniel, Lori Saine, Lynda James, Patricia Wells, Scot Griebing, Sean Chambers

**Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance:** Casey Davenhill, Sean Cronin

**Guests:** Corey DeAngelis, Juan Madrid, Dan Betts, Diane KIELTY, Steve Malers, Josh Kuhn, Joe Prinster, Dan Galon, Will ttema, Phyllis Thomas,

**CWCB:** Robert Sakata, Sam Stein, Jeff Rodriguez

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1. Welcome and Introductions (Sean Chambers – 5 min)
  2. Approval of August 2022 Minutes (Sean Chambers – 2.5 min **action required**)  
Add Larry Rogstad to list of attendees at August meeting. Approved by acclimation.
  3. August 2022 Agenda Additions or Changes (Sean Chambers – 2.5 min **action required**)  
Presentation added for an update on the Colorado Airborne Snow Network by Taylor Winchell under the WSRF project update item 6.
  4. Membership Updates (Sean Chambers - 10 min **action required**) (attachment - 4/22 Member List)  
Look at membership list and consider vacancies in your area to encourage people to apply. Garrett Varra is reaching out to counties and municipalities who are not currently represented to encourage representation. Please share your recommendations with Garrett.
    - a. Extend current deadline to October 1<sup>st</sup>  
There was a request to extend the deadline from September 15th to October 1<sup>st</sup>. There was agreement to extend the applicant deadline.  
  
**Action:** SPB send eblast about submittal period deadline extension. Change deadline on website.  
  
Discussion to establish a schedule for reviewing applications for voting seats. SPB will consider a process to have a recurring cycle to accept applications. A quarterly basis open period was discussed. Some didn't think the SPBRT should wait that long to fill a seat. Table for a future agenda.  
  
**Action:** Review the bylaws and revisit the member application process.
  5. Public Comment (5 min)  
Steve Malers with Open Water Foundation asked how to submit a WSRF application. He is putting a proposal together looking at Big Thompson and Clear Creek to expand his data base. He was asked to reach out to Ben Wade about the WSRF submittal process.

Corey Deangelis with Division of Water Resources posted a link in chat on a new 3-minute video introduction to the Division of Water Resources. [Division of Water Resources - Who we are - YouTube](#)

There was a request to provide “*Water in the West*” information.

6. WSRF Project Update (N/A)

Colorado Airborne Snow Network presentation. Working to ensure improved snowpack measurements and water supply forecasts for better management decisions. CASM is co-led by CWCB staff, with local stakeholders. Displayed a suggested organization structure for CASM and ideal buildout of the program. They are working toward a statewide program. They were awarded a CWP grant in March 2022 for \$1.9M. Right now, they have a funding gap. Presentation available by request.

1. [executive summary can be found here](#)
2. [full report can be found here](#)

The SPBRT has funds to support this effort. They would like to know what other matches are coming in between now and October 1<sup>st</sup> to inform a decision. The New Statewide Account criteria guidelines haven’t been approved yet. It’s not clear how that money can be used but infrastructure and drought resilience were mentioned as general categories.

7. SPBRT Committees

- a. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) (Casey Davenhill - 10 min)  
They have been working with the WSRF committee to support the process with planning tools and website tools. They focused on promoting the South Platte video. There is a lot going on right now with videos. The first Water in the West video is being shown tonight presented by Poudre River Alliance.

- UNC Film Series - Watering the West (Part 1) 9/13 [9/13](#)
- Watering the West (Part 2) [9/20](#)
- Watering the West (Part 3) [9/27](#)

They are going to look at opportunities to get the SP video to a larger audience. There is interest in a statewide effort to create a video for the RTs like the one produced for SPB. [PEPO Committee Meeting Summary 9/1/2022](#)

- b. WSRF Committee (Garrett Varra - 10 min)  
Approximately \$600,083 in account. SPBRT will be using the new CWCB grant portal for proposals.
- c. Environmental and Recreational (TBD - 5 min)  
[E&R Committee Meeting Summary 8/31/2022](#)
- d. Colorado River Committee Update (Sean Chambers and Kyle Whitaker - 20 min)  
Kyle Whitaker will be at the next meeting to provide an update. They are running a symposium this weekend on the Western slope.

<https://watercenter.colostate.edu/colorado-river-compact-symposium/>

e. M&I Committee (Jim Hall - 10 min)

The M&I Subcommittee plans to bring projects for discussion and approvals at the October Roundtable meetings. Scoping and issuing RFPs will follow with the hope that projects can be formally proposed to the Roundtables March 2023 spring WSRF cycle.

1. Study of landscape vegetation that would be sustainable in future with warmer climate.
2. Study environmental and socio-economic benefits of urban landscapes.
3. Region-specific water use/efficiency analysis and recommendations for targets for the SPB.

Lynda James said the E&R committee had voted to support the M&I committee's studies and members will active in the development of the studies.

8. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update (Jim Yahn and Sean Cronin - 5 min)

The IBCC members have been asked to bring projects forward. The joint M&I Committee has already begun to develop this and are prepared to bring the proposed project ideas forward. It was suggested looking for a scalable pilot project that could benefit the entire basin.

9. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (Robert Sakata and Jeff Rodriguez – 15 min)

CWCB Board Meeting: 9/21-22 (Durango)

**Regional Water Plan Grant Program Managers-** The four positions, which are still being hired, will focus on Water Plan Grant assistance throughout the application process (e.g., guidance on developing scopes of work, budgets, outcomes, and deliverables). The application period is closed. The Regional Program Managers will work closely with Water Supply Planning staff and Basin Roundtables to manage Water Plan Grant needs.

**WSRF-** The CWCB board approved a one-time transfer of \$17M into the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) in July. The program's criteria and guidelines are being updated for the board to review next week - this includes a plan to bring roundtables up to a \$1M balance, keeping some money in reserve as well as putting \$11.6M into statewide WSRF grants.

**Recorder/Chair Meeting with CWCB Staff-** As a number of recorder positions have changed recently, it's a good time to review the recorder responsibilities and provide some updates including increasing recorder funds from \$5,000 to \$6,500/year. A Doodle Poll will be sent to find time to discuss with chairs and recorders.

**Hybrid Meeting Audio/Visual Support-** CWCB has purchased [Meeting Owls](#) for each roundtable (if desired) to help enhance the online audio and visual experience for hybrid meetings. Please reach out to Jeff Rodriguez ([jeff.rodriquez@state.co.us](mailto:jeff.rodriquez@state.co.us)) for details.

**Water Plan Public Comment Period-** The public comment period for the 2023 Water Plan Draft ends September 30th. Please visit the [engagecwcb.org website](https://engagecwcb.org) to submit comments, share your water story, and commit to action.

**HB22-1379-** CWCB is working on criteria for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funded Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act technical assistance grants and the Watershed Restoration Grants. This included \$5 million for Federal Technical Assistance (\$2.5 million for Local Capacity Grants, and \$2.5 million for CWCB technical assistance). For any questions contact Anna Mauss ([anna.mauss@state.co.us](mailto:anna.mauss@state.co.us)).

**SB 22-215-** The Governor's Office recently posted information online outlining the process to apply for matching funds that were made available to help obtain federal funds. They've shared information on the matching process and application on the [Colorado Forward website](#). If you have any questions about SB22-215, please reach out to Nate Pearson ([nate.pearson@state.co.us](mailto:nate.pearson@state.co.us)).

**Colorado Landscape Summit** takes place at Denver Botanic Gardens/Chatfield Farms on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. Information link will be sent out to the RTs to share with members. Please sign up if you are planning to attend.

**CWCB report to the South Platte Basin RT** presented by Robert Sakata. Topics covered include the San Luis Valley Research Center Field Day activities, the Soil & Water Conservation Association Annual meeting, and the CO Dept. of Ag's first regional STAR Soil Health conference. Presentation is available by request.

10. Upcoming Public Meetings Schedule – See CWCB's [Online Calendar](#) and [EngageCWCB.org](#)

Metro Roundtable: 9/8

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable: 9/13

South Platte Basin Roundtable: 9/13

Arkansas Basin Roundtable: 9/14

Southwest Basin Roundtable: 9/28

Gunnison Basin Roundtable: 9/19

Colorado Basin Roundtable: TBD

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable: 9/14

North Platte Basin Roundtable: 9/20

**Adjourn at 6:28 pm**