

South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
4:00-7:00 p.m. (MST)
Virtual Meeting

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. Welcome and Introductions (Sean Chambers – 10 min)

The meeting started at 4:03 p.m. Sean Chambers welcomed everyone and asked that attendees mute themselves when not actively speaking.

In attendance: Gene Manuello*, Loretta Daniel*, Jim Yahn*, Garrett Varra*, Kirk Vincent*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Lisa Leben*, Patrick Wells*, Kelsea Holloway*, Jim Ford*, Daylan Figgs*, Donnie Dustin*, John Kolanz*, Joe Frank*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Larry Rogstad*, Bruce Gerk*, Scott Griebbling*, Lynda James*, Lori Saine*, Sean Chambers*, Sean Cronin, Casey Davenhill, Christy Wiseman, Robert Sakata, Sam Stein, Kat Weismiller, Nora Flynn, Corey DeAngelis, Ed Perkins, Amy Mitchell, Carmen Farmer, Dan Betts, Erik Jorgensen, Jenny McCarty, Josh Kuhn, Laura Quattrini, Mallory Hiss, Mary Presecan, Matt Cook, Matt Lindburg, Phillip Courtney, Ray Douglas, Sam Lewis, Will Ettema, Zach Thode, and multiple members of the public. 23 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

2. Approval of January 2022 Minutes (Sean Chambers – 5 min action required)

Lynda James made a motion to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes and Dick Elsner seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

3. February 2022 Agenda Additions or Changes (Sean Chambers – 5 min action required)

There were no proposed additions or changes to the February 2022 meeting agenda. Garrett Varra made a motion to accept the February 2022 meeting agenda and Dick Elsner seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

4. Membership Updates (Sean Chambers – 10 min)

a. New El Paso County Representative: Patrick Wells

Patrick Wells introduced himself as the new El Paso County representative on the SPBRT. Wells is the General Manager of Water Resources and Demand Management at Colorado Springs Utilities. He has varied experience serving on multiple Roundtables and the IBCC.

b. SPBRT Committee Members Discussion

i. Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Needs Assessment

Garrett Varra noted that the WSRF Needs Assessment Committee includes himself and Scott Griebing as Co-Chairs, as well as Lynda James, Jim Hall, Joe Frank, Stephen Larson, and Bruce Gerck.

ii. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO)

Casey Davenhill introduced herself as the PEPO Liaison and point of contact for the PEPO Committee. She manages the PEPO contract for the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables and is also the Executive Director of the Colorado Watershed Assembly. The PEPO Committee meets monthly, usually in the afternoon on the fourth Thursday of the month.

iii. Municipal and Industrial

Sean Chambers noted that the Municipal and Industrial Committee has met on an as-needed basis in the past, mainly to work on the BIP update. Jim Hall added that the Municipal and Industrial Committee is a joint effort between the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables. The Municipal and Industrial Committee's next meeting is February 9 and will focus on measurable outcomes from the BIP update.

iv. Environmental and Recreational

Lynda James noted that the Environmental and Recreational Committee has been a joint effort between the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables during the BIP update process. David Nickum, the Metro Roundtable's Environmental Representative, has served as Chair for the joint Committee. Committee meetings have been held the last Wednesday of the month.

It was noted that SPBRT Committee meetings are not posted on the CWCB online public meeting calendar. Committee meetings can be posted on the [South Platte Basin website](#) for open meetings purposes.

SPBRT members discussed adding the Agricultural Committee to the Committee list, as well as the Demand Management Committee.

5. Public Comment (5 min)

Sean Chambers opened the floor for public comment. Laura Quattrini introduced herself as the new Director of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. Quattrini spoke about the background of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition and explained how the group's scope has evolved beyond flood recovery to focus on reducing and controlling erosion and maintaining water quality for downstream users. Larry Rogstad, who is on the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's Board of Directors, said that he is excited for Quattrini's leadership.

Division of Water Resources (DWR) Division 1 Engineer Corey DeAngelis offered his assistance to anyone needing information or reports about DWR Division 1 and provided staff updates for various

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff serving as liaisons to the SPBRT. Pete Conovitz got a new job with CWCB; Ed Perkins is serving as the SPBRT's liaison for now.

6. Fort Collins Conservation District: Request for Letter of Support for Water Plan Grant (Zach Thode – 10 min action required)

The Fort Collins Conservation District recently merged with the Big Thompson Conservation District to create the Larimer Conservation District. Zach Thode, Vice Chair for the new Larimer Conservation District, presented the Conservation District's Water Plan grant application for the Cache La Poudre Nutrient Trading Pilot Project.

After Thode's presentation, SPBRT members asked follow up questions, including questions about level of interest from agricultural producers in the project area, project partner involvement, and additional funding sources. Garrett Varra made a motion for the South Platte Basin Roundtable to provide the requested letter of support and Donnie Dustin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After the vote, Lynda James encouraged Thode and his team to connect with partners that SPBRT members suggested (e.g., 208 Water Quality Committee) to avoid duplication of effort. Garrett Varra noted that the SPBRT funded a similar nutrient mitigation project through WSRF a few years ago. Varra suggested that Thode reach out to Ben Wade at CWCB to see results from that project. Varra also noted that typically the applicant will draft a letter of support and then the Chair of the SPBRT can make edits as necessary and sign the letter. Varra recommends using the grant application's executive summary as a starting point for the letter. Sean Chambers agreed that it would be good for the project team to research similar projects funded in the past; Chambers will coordinate with Thode on the letter.

7. CSU WSRF Project Update: Sustaining Plains Aquatic Ecosystems (Sam Lewis – 10 mins)

Sam Lewis presented an update on CSU's "Sustaining plains aquatic ecosystems using an integrated ecological and social approach" project, which was funded through a WSRF grant. After his presentation, Lewis and SPBRT members discussed fuzzy cognitive mapping and mental models, as well as specific salinity levels and flow conditions used for the project's fish experiments.

8. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update (Matt Cook and Matt Lindburg – 10 min)

Sean Chambers reminded everyone that the SPBRT adopted the updated BIP at the January 11 meeting (on condition of incorporation of final public comment subject to approval of the Joint Steering Committee).

Matt Cook announced that the final versions of both Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the South Platte/Metro BIP can be accessed on engagewcb.org. The final documents reflect and incorporate public comment received since November 2021. Matt Lindburg added that the Joint Steering Committee and subcommittees had good discussion about the comments; they talked through each one and developed responses. In some cases, comments generated additional goals and objectives. The consultant team created a spreadsheet to track comments that will be shared as a PDF.

Comments came from multiple sources, including engagewcb.org, Water Education Colorado, and survey results.

Matt Cook noted that CWCB staff and consultants are busy incorporating each basin's updated BIP into the draft Water Plan in time for public review starting in early July. CWCB plans to have a 3-month public comment period for the Water Plan update. Cook thanked everyone involved in the BIP update process.

Joe Frank asked if there is a plan to put together a ~4-page summary for the updated BIP similar to what was created for the last BIP. Cook responded that there is a 2-page "BIP at a glance" in Volume 2 that may serve that purpose. Frank suggested that the SPBRT work with PEPO to develop additional materials for public distribution.

9. **SPBRT Committees**

a. **Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (Garrett Varra, Scott Griebing, and Sam Stein – 10 min)**

i. **Water Plan Grant Review/Timing with WSRF Cycles**

Garrett Varra reported that the South Platte Basin's WSRF account balance has not changed since the January meeting. The next WSRF grant application deadline is April 1. WSRF Needs Committee Co-Chairs Garrett Varra and Scott Griebing will attempt to facilitate a Zoom meeting for potential applicants before the deadline.

At the December 2021 SPBRT meeting, Russ Sands presented various WSRF program changes. CWCB needed to make changes to the WSRF program due to declining severance tax projections. Stein reiterated these changes; for example, the CWCB Board moved the statewide WSRF account from serving as a matching account to a savings account. Therefore, Water Plan grants will take the place of the statewide WSRF account going forward. The CWCB Board also increased the amount of funding available to PEPO liaisons.

After Stein's report, Josh Kuhn asked for an update on the idea of adding a voting seat focused on watershed/forest health (which was discussed at the January meeting). Stein reported that the Attorney General's Office determined that voting seats cannot be added to Roundtables without a change to the legislation that created the Roundtables (HB05-1177). SPBRT members had a lengthy discussion about how CWCB will reconcile voting seats that have been added to other Roundtables, as well as ways the SPBRT can move forward with this idea. Sean Cronin noted that Roundtables have the ability to create subcommittees and non-voting members can participate on those subcommittees in order to represent important perspectives. Lynda James suggested that the Roundtables can pursue a coordinated legislative approach. She also commented that the SPBRT bylaws do not allow for voting seats to have alternates; this has been handled inconsistently in the past. Patrick Wells explained the history of adding seats on the Arkansas

Roundtable and suggested all the Roundtable Chairs talk to Dan Gibbs about this issue. Josh Kuhn commented that this is a timely issue given available federal funding and suggested that the SPBRT approach the IBCC. There was more discussion about SPBRT committees and whether watershed health should be explored more formally on a new committee, or explored within the existing Environmental and Recreational Committee.

Kirk Vincent made a motion to investigate creating a committee for forest health, whether as its own committee or under the Environmental and Recreational Committee. Garrett Varra commented that the group needs to think about who will chair the committee and who has the relevant expertise. Joe Frank added that the Chair of the committee does not need to be a formal SPBRT member. Lynda James said that she supports the Environmental and Recreational Committee looking at this further and deciding whether or not they feel a separate committee is warranted. James agreed that it would be good to hear the IBCC's feedback on adding a watershed health seat. James made a motion that the matter be referred to the Environmental and Recreational Committee to give their recommendation on whether a brand new committee is needed or whether watershed health can be incorporated into the Environmental and Recreational Committee; and to have the SPBRT IBCC representatives [Sean Cronin and Jim Yahn] bring this up at the next IBCC meeting if all the Roundtables want to address membership issues and ask them to discuss process steps. Kirk Vincent seconded James' motion. Vincent volunteered to serve on the Environmental and Recreational Committee. Larry Rogstad added that the group needs to think about how a new committee would report back to the entire Roundtable and how this idea is supported by the updated BIP. Lynda James' motion passed unanimously. After the vote, James clarified that the Environmental and Recreational Committee has been chaired by David Nickum, a voting member of the Metro Roundtable. Kelsea Holloway, Larry Rogstad, and Lynda James discussed logistics for connecting at the next Environmental and Recreational Committee meeting.

After the watershed health seat discussion, Lynda James brought up timing between the WSRF and Water Plan grant cycles. Garrett Varra provided background on each process and explained the two grant review and voting timelines. The question is if the SPBRT wants to continue accepting requests for letters of support for Water Plan grants at any time (which requires applicants to have their application complete) or if Water Plan grant applications should be batched together and accepted at certain times of the year. At the January meeting, Varra and other SPBRT members discussed if the WSRF Needs Committee should lead review of Water Plan grant applications and prepare a recommendation memo like they do for WSRF grant applications. Varra clarified timing cycles for both programs and noted that both types of applications go to the CWCB Board for final approval. After more discussion, it was decided to continue the existing process of reviewing Water

Plan grant applications on a rolling basis without prior review by the WSRF Needs Committee.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) (Casey Davenhill – 10 min)

Casey Davenhill will submit a detailed written report for the meeting materials folder. PEPO highlights include attending the Colorado Farm Show, engaging in the Water 22 campaign launch, and finalizing the South Platte Video project. Sean Cronin and Patrick Wells commented on potential tour ideas relating to wildfire risk and wildfire impact on communities. There was more discussion of how to address wildfire in Water 22 activities. Davenhill noted that the PEPO Committee is helping the Metro Roundtable with WSRF grant documentation, utilizing the South Platte Basin website. The SPBRT can also utilize the website to host documents.

10. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update (Jim Yahn and Sean Cronin – 5 min)

Jim Yahn reported that there had not been an IBCC meeting since the January SPBRT meeting. The next IBCC meeting is on February 23. Yahn hopes to bring up the topics addressed earlier, such as the possibility to add a voting seat.

11. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update (Robert Sakata and Sam Stein – 10 min)

Robert Sakata reported a few CWCB Board highlights. He submitted a written report for the meeting materials folder. Sakata congratulated Sam Stein on his recent promotion and welcomed Nora Flynn, CWCB's new Agricultural Water Planning Specialist. Sakata thanked everyone who worked on the BIP update. The next CWCB Board meeting is March 15-16.

Sam Stein thanked everyone who worked on the BIP update and asked that they complete the BIP update survey. The survey will help CWCB plan for the next round of BIP updates in a few years. Stein noted that the last meeting of the Water Equity Task Force was held on February 2. Stein went over the latest guidance for in-person meetings. Lynda James went over the list of upcoming meetings. Multiple SPBRT members discussed whether to schedule hybrid in-person and virtual meetings and what technology is needed. There was agreement to have an in-person option for the April 12 SPBRT meeting.

Garrett Varra made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joe Frank seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.