

SPBRT Roundtable Meeting Summary

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

HYBRID: LIVE & VIRTUAL

Roundtable Voting Members in Attendance: Bruce Gerck, Daylan Figgs, Deb Daniel, Don Baggus, Garrett Varra, Jim Yahn, Jim Hall, Joe Frank, John Kolanz, Julia Gallucci, Kevin Ross, Kent Swedlund, Kirk Vincent, Larry Rogstad, Lisa Leben, Lynda James, Patrick Wells, Richard Elsner, Scott Griebing, Sean Chambers, Stephen Larson,

Roundtable Non-voting Members in Attendance: Joel Schneekloth, Sean Cronin, Don Baggus, Casey Davenhill

Guests: Emma Eckley, Josh Kuhn, Keely Murphy, Noelle Fillo, Jody Shaddock-McNally, Phyllis Thomas

CWCB: Jeff Rodriguez, Jackie Daoust, Diane Kielty

1. Welcome/Introductions (Sean Chambers - 5 min.)

Meeting began at 4:08 pm and a quorum was established.

SPBRT welcomed new members Commissioner Adam Gates as the Yuma County roundtable appointment and Julia Gallucci with Colorado Springs Utilities as the El Paso County Municipality representative.

2. Approval of Agenda: (Sean Chambers - 5 min.)

It was moved by to approve the agenda by acclimation.

3. Approval of [SPBRT Meeting Summary February 14, 2023](#) (Sean Chambers - 2 min.)

It was moved to approve the February 14, 2023, SPBRT Meeting Summary by Kevin Ross and seconded by Jim Yahn. Approved by acclimation.

4. Public Comment (3 min.)

Update was provided on the Aerial Snow Observation (ASO) grant which is up for CWCB approval. The first flight is scheduled in April with a second flight in May. There was discussion on funding the project. The SPBRT is eager to see results from the ASO pilot work. There was strong appreciation and support for the ASO funding in the 2023 projects bill. https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/casm_presentation.pdf.

5. WSRF (Garrett Varra - 5 min.)

1. WSRF Update and SPBRT Funds Status - \$489,000 / [CWCB Basin Account Funds](#)

Tomorrow is the cut-off date for summary submissions. The Committee will make a first review to consider projects for advancement to the full grant submission.

6. Committee Updates (30 min.) [Roundtable Meeting Records — The South Platte Basin](#)

[Link to Announce a Meeting Form — Add a meeting — The South Platte Basin](#)

1. PEPO Committee (Casey Davenhill – 5 min.) (*No Meeting Summary*) The PEPO logo was shared on screen. This logo is a revision of the Arkansas PEPO logo. It is being used for PEPO marketing and booth materials. There was a recommendation to remove workgroup from the title and add the SPB website address to the education page. Please bring the logo to the Statewide PEPO meeting scheduled for Friday. It would be important to connect PEPO to the IBCC. It would be good for all RTs to use the same logo. Accounts of recent presentations and booth presentations were provided. Colorado WaterWise is hosting a workshop on their BMPs. PEPO will be supporting this event.

2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (Larry Rogstad – 5 min.)

The Healthy Headwaters Working Group provided a presentation that was followed by a discussion. The meeting summary link and presentation links are provided below.

[2.22.2023 Joint Subcommittee Meeting Summary](#)
[South Platte&MetroBRTs-Corday&Burk-Feb2023](#)
[2023-2-21 Watershed Center South Platte BRT](#)

3. M&I Committee (Jim Hall – 5 min.) (*No Meeting Summary*)

The Committee met on March 7th. The main topic was the RT initiated landscape project and moving toward climate resilient landscapes. The Committee is putting together recommendations. They are refining the scope then plan to send out an RFP. It would be good to communicate this effort to the Urban Landscape Conservation Task Force appointed by CWCB and initiated by the Governor, <https://dnr.colorado.gov/press-release/colorado-establishes-urban-landscape-water-conservation-task-force>. The project may be a good fit for the PEPO statewide funding with a June 15th grant deadline.

4. Colorado River/Demand Management (Sean Chambers & Kyle Whitaker – 10 min.)

This is an important issue to the South Platte Basin. The RT will continue to actively track and discuss. for questions on Colorado River Issues contact Amy Ostdiek, amy.ostdiek@state.co.us.

7. State Legislative Update (Sean Chambers – 10 min.)

1. [Colorado Water Congress State Affairs Committee 2023 Tracking Sheet](#)

The tracking sheet is intended to facilitate conversation on legislation of interest to the members. There is notable stream restoration legislation. Stream restoration and water rights concerns is included in this current legislation. There was discussion on projects that effect the timing of water to downstream users. There is concern that there has not been enough research on the water timing of these projects, making it difficult for water rights users to accept. This is being addressed on a project by project basis. The stream restoration bill is in a work group and has not come out yet. The work group is considering how to manage the risks and take into account the many perspectives. The RT does not wish to take a position on any legislation. It does want to encourage dialogue on proposed legislation. There was consensus in the group for the Chair to bring this discussion to the Director Sakata. Two points of importance to convey to the Director are protection of water rights and mountain community water and wildfire concerns.

- a. The proposed stream restoration bill concept highlights a natural tension between the important protection of vested water rights and an honest desire to support efforts to undertake stream restoration and watershed health activities.
- b. The SPBRT membership recognize that stream restoration is important work, but generally desire additional stakeholder engagement discussions and opportunities to advise DNR on necessary controls or limitations that would protect the vested water rights and support SEO administration. Ideas included -
 1. Requirements for applicants to analyze, calculate, and report any increases to exposed surface water through the restoration project.
 2. Limitations to the number of projects in any given five-mile reach of a stream or some metric that could prevent a proliferation of projects that would impact water rights.
 3. Post project restoration reporting.

There is an oil and gas bill that asks to limit the use of fresh water to the oil and gas industry that may be of interest to members, HB23-1242.

8. IBCC Update (Jim Yahn & Sean Cronin - 15 Min.) ([Link to IBCC Webpage](#)) The link to the IBCC webpage will take you to the most recent meeting minutes and YouTube of the meeting. It was a short meeting. They are still working on the IBCC objectives. Many IBCC members are reporting that their RTs participating numbers are at pre-covid levels. Dan Gibbs challenged RTs to identify a significant project to be implemented. The other RTs are reporting progress on this effort.

9. CWCB Update (20 min.)

1. CWCB Staff Report (Jeff Rodriguez – 10 min.)

Save the date for the Drought Summit scheduled on May 31st – June 1st at History Colorado and the C-

9 Summit tentative date November 14th.

Turf Program details: <https://engagecwcb.org/>

PEPO Statewide Initiatives:

https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/220224/PEPOGrants_%20StatewideInitiativesFundPriorities_Feb2023.pdf?searchid=9d46baaf-5360-4405-90e9-288ec56d9c78

C-9 Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9DXHTV>

There was the suggestion to have an early Thanksgiving SPBRT WSRF application review this year. It would move the regularly scheduled SPBRT meeting from November 14th to Tuesday, November 21st with an abbreviated RT agenda. WSRF review would be the agenda focus.

There may be an opportunity to have the SPBRT WSRF review process as a workshop at the upcoming RT summit tentatively scheduled for November 14th before the CWCB board meeting. This workshop would be to increase cross-basin collaboration and explore RT BMPs. A SPBRT WSRF process presentation may be the workshop approach for the Summit.

Action: Change meeting space reservation date.

MARCH CWCB UPDATES

Drought Summit

- Save the Date
 - May 31, June 1
 - History Colorado

Reminders

- WSRF
 - April 1
 - June 1 deadline (FY Cap)
- All-Chairs Meeting
 - April 3
- PEPO Statewide Initiatives
- PEPO Coordinator Meeting
 - March 17



C-9 Roundtable Summit

- Save the Date
 - November 14
 - Denver, TBD
- Take the Survey



Turf Replacement Program

- 2 Application Periods
- Turf Program
 - March 31st Deadline
- TLC Challenge



2. CWCB Director Report (Robert Sakata - 10 min.) The report can be accessed using this link - [Sakata CWCB Report to SPBRT 3-14-2023](#).

10. Round Table Member Comments (5 min) - No member comments.

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

Colorado Water Conservation Board Basin Roundtable Meetings

[Metro roundtable - 3/9/2023](#)

[Arkansas basin roundtable - 3/8/2023](#)

[Colorado basin roundtable - 3/27/2023](#)

[North Platte basin roundtable - TBD](#)

[Southwest basin roundtable - 4/27/2023](#)

[Rio Grande basin roundtable - 3/14/2023](#)

[South Platte basin roundtable -3/14/2023](#)

[Yampa/White basin roundtable - 3/8/2023](#)

[Gunnison basin roundtable - 3/20/2023](#)