

SPBRT WSRF Subcommittee Meeting Summary

February 8, 2023

10:00 am – 11:30 am

In Attendance:

Garrett Varra, Diane Kielty, Scott Griebing, Jim Hall, Scott Griebing, Lynda James, Robert Sakata, Daylan Figgs

10:00 am – Introductions

Two items to be addressed during today's meeting are,

1. Deferred maintenance and how to refer applicants for maintenance requests.
2. How SPBRT addresses its WSRF cap amount related to deferred maintenance projects.

Does SPBRT want to put a caveat on the SPBRT \$50,000 cap? This cap may limit the ability of people in the South Platte basin to use Statewide funds.

The CWCB WSRF Guidelines reads, “The Total WSRF Project Cost is equal to the amount of the WSRF grant request (basin + statewide) and sum of all matching funds to complete a project. For this purpose, a project is defined as the tasks outlined in the Statement of Work associated with a specific grant request. If the grant request is for a phase of a larger project, only include costs associated with the phase being funded at this time in the Total WSRF Project Cost.”

The SPBRT guidelines read, as of Fall of 2020, the SPBRT will begin considering deferred maintenance projects for WSRF funding **if ALL of the following conditions are met:**

- The SPBRT WSRF grant request does not exceed 25% of the total project cost and \$50,000 total.
- The WSRF grant application demonstrates the funds are being utilized to leverage other grant funds (state and federal programs, private foundations, etc.)
- The project furthers the objectives and goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

Aging infrastructure is a big issue for the basin. How does SPBRT simplify this process for the applicants? In the past, deferred maintenance projects have been denied. This approach has changed. The State has funds that did not exist before now.

One idea is to raise the SPBRT \$50,000 cap. CWCB guidelines say RTs must provide 10%. With the 10% basin requirement, for a \$1M project, the basin would have to come up with \$100,000. A suggestion is to see if proponents can break large projects into different parts. This would require the proponent to find additional monies for each project component.

Eliminate “deferred maintenance” in the SPBRT guidelines and use a screening process to determine what is proper, evaluating each proposal as they are submitted. At a minimum, remove the first bullet on the 25% and \$50,000 cap.

If applicants ask for 10% from WSRF, they should explain why they need this 10%. SPBRT is for matching funds. There is a significant need for deferred maintenance, but the WSRF has limitations. SPBRT would be willing to go above 10% on a case-by-case basis.

There was a discussion about the October 2022 draft version of the SPBRT WSRF guidance document change from listing BIP categories within the guidance document to providing links directly to the BIP.

The majority vote language was addressed to identify the quorum in the room for votes on project approval.

Discussion took place on the value of incorporating a summary pre-proposal submission. SPBRT will pilot this approach.