

Metro Roundtable Meeting Summary

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Start Time
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Alex Davis, Andrea Cole, Andy Nye, Breanna Gonzalez, Brian Tracy, Casey Davenport, Courtney Brand, Dave Wissel, David Kamin, Dawn Jewell, Devon Buckels, Greg Johnson, Heather Justus, Jarod Roberts, Jessica Brody, Kim Gortz, Lauren Pulver, Lesley Sebol, Lisa Darling, Rick Marsicek, Sam Caulkins, Sarah Borgers, Sarah Klahn, Shaden Musleh, Susan Nedell

Guests: Katie Garrett, S. Wright, Greg Peterson, Phyllis Thomas, Erik Jorgensen, Jeremiah Baronberg, Katie Garrett, Orna Buch-Leviatan, Rachel Pence, Shane Wright

CWCB: Kelly Romero-Heaney, Russ Sands, Jeff Rodriguez, Jackie Daoust, Kat Weismiller, Diane Kielty

Metro Roundtable Business Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions (1 min.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Darling at 2:01 pm.

2. Approval of [March 14, 2024, Meeting Summary](#) (1 min.)

It was moved to approve the March 14, 2024, MRT Meeting Summary with correction under CWCB update changing "BLM" to "Bureau of Reclamation". Motion approved by acclamation.

3. Agenda: additions or changes (1 min.) The Legislative update was moved to the beginning of the agenda and the Drought Resilience Project Update will be presented in May.

4. Public Comment (5 min.) None.

5. Legislative Update (Kelly Romero-Heaney, DNR Representative) (25 min.)

About 700 bills related to DNR have been introduced. A key priority in respect to water is the mission critical projects bill, HB24-1435 Water Projects Bill, including \$23M in Water Plan Grant funding. Bills that have been signed and are still under review were discussed. Status was provided on two bills introduced to address dredge and fill gaps. There has been more revenue than anticipated through Proposition DD. They are going back to the legislature, due to Tabor restrictions, to address the excess revenues. Legislation has been introduced regarding abandonment protection for coal plant closures. It went before the Senate Ag Committee yesterday and passed unanimously.

6. WSRF Committee (Kim Gortz & Sam Calkins) (5 min.)

1. A review was provided on the status of the applicants preparing to submit WSRF applications into the CWCB portal. Shane Wright with Lincoln Hills Cares was introduced and provided an update on their application with an increase in their MRT WSRF funding request from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The full project costs are \$137,000. \$100,000 has been secured. They are working to get the final \$37,000. \$15,000 from MRT would go toward the funding gap.
2. WSRF Balance Summary - This will be provided at the May meeting.

7. Open MRT Seats (L. Darling) (15 min.) [MRT+Position+Announcement General 3.1.2024.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

1. At-Large Stormwater & Drainage

2. At-Large – Recreation

The MRT Chair and Co-Chair will be reviewing the MRT Member Roster and contacting any members who have not been attending regularly to determine if they intend to continue as representatives. Applicant materials will be provided to the membership for the vote in May. The voting process will be reviewed by CWCB to ensure MRT follows approved procedures.

8. CWCB Update (15 min.)

1. Jeff Rodriguez - 5 min.
 - C9 Summit – October 1-2, 2024.

HB24-1435 Water Projects Bill

- Introduced last week. Appropriation highlights -
 - \$23.3M for Water Plan Grants for next fiscal year
 - A request for flexibility in the ARPA federal technical assistance programs.
 - Originally there was \$2.5M for Local Capacity Grants (direct grants for grantees to hire contractors to apply for federal grants) and \$2.5M for CWCB Technical Assistance (where grantees use the CWCB hired contractor).
 - The proposed action would give CWCB flexibility to respond to market demands and award the remaining 2.3 million in the Technical Assistance bucket to either bucket in the program rather than capping each at 2.5 million.
 - \$2.0M to extend the Turf Program.
- Full appropriations list available on the bills website
 - Link: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1435>

IBCC Meeting

- The next IBCC meeting will be in Durango on Tuesday June 18th.
- They have some work products that came out of the February IBCC meeting that they would like to get the roundtable's input on.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXMJ6SZ>

Additional information on the IBCC can be found here -

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/about-us/interbasin-compact-committee>

Topics being considered by the IBCC membership can be found on the YouTube recording from the February 27 meeting -

https://youtu.be/ODPRsnq_2Lo?si=F328hqvIHAXxIXgV (Start at 4:52:20 – end at 5:21:27)

The survey references a couple of documents; links are provided in the survey but can also be found here -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nc9hb0eF00iW775HNByOAPf9O06fX5IU/view>
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KixVRj7T2Rc5cRYkonjCfS0oPGFazNAg/view>

CWCB Guide

- CWCB staff are still making their way around to the roundtables highlighting some of the topics in the guide and ensuring the guide is addressing questions the roundtables have. The CWCB Guide will serve as an onboarding and reference document for the CWCB Board, Roundtables and IBCC. They expect to have a draft out in May to share at the May board meeting. Please let Jeff know if you have questions or ideas highlighted in the guide.

TLC Challenge

- Governor Polis and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) [announced](#) the second year of the [Transformative Landscape Change \(TLC\) Challenge](#) program. This is a partnership with Resource Central who is running the program. If your water utility or municipality is interested visit [Resource Central's website](#) to submit an application - due by June 1, 2024. The challenge is for local communities to reimagine their public spaces and embrace waterwise landscaping and convert water-intensive landscapes into climate-appropriate, low-water-use, and attractive spaces. 15 applications will be selected to get up to 2,000 sq ft of turf and receive low-water xeriscape plants to plant.

Water Conditions Monitoring Committee

- For those who follow snowpack, reservoir storage, and precip indicators - check out the Water Conditions Monitoring Committee's monthly meeting on April 23. ([Please find the meeting agenda here](#)). Going into the runoff season, across the state we are seeing fairly close to median reservoir storage and slightly above median snowpack.

Reminders

1051

- Deadline June 30th - a grace period will be extended to those who need some additional time to comply with new reporting requirements. Please coordinate with Sam Stein for any questions on this.

WSRF

- WSRF deadline June 1

WPG

- WPG deadline July 1

Federal Technical Assistance & Local Capacity Funding – (ARPA funds)

- Technical Assistance funding is now available (CWCB Contractor is under contract). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through the CWCB Grants Portal. The funds must be awarded by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026. Michael Regan is the contact for this program, and he is willing to present more information on this program at BRT Meetings if there is interest.

Wildfire Ready Watersheds

- Accepting applications
 - Applications by Mid-September
 - Contact Chris Sturm's team

2. Jessica Brody – 5 min.
CWCB hasn't met since the last MRT meeting.

9. IBCC Update (L. Darling/R. Marsicek) (20 min.)

Please take the opportunity to fill out the IBCC survey. If you have comments or questions about the documents related to the survey, reach out to Lisa Darling or Rick Marsicek.

10. 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 (C. Davenport) (5 min.) - Casey attended the Upper South Platte Watershed Association (14 Conservation Districts) meeting last month. They are working to operate more from a watershed perspective. This is a quarterly meeting. PEPO is working with the conservation districts and will be at the South Weld meeting tonight. PEPO will participate in a Conifer Historical Society event in May and a BizWest event in August. PEPO was invited to participate at the Confluence event on August 1st in Boulder County. Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners is working with the Army Corp. on a "Be Dam Aware" event. PEPO received a good quantity of materials from WEco on where water comes from in both English and Spanish. If you have distribution outlets, please contact Casey Davenport.
2. Environmental/Recreation Committee (D. Nickum) (5 min.) No report.

3. M&I Committee (*A. Cole*) (15 min.) – The next committee meeting is April 26th at 9:00 am. It is posted on the SPBRT website.
4. Colorado River Committee (*S. Musleh*) (5. Min.) – Robert Sakata presented at the last meeting. The next meeting is being rescheduled based on the guest speaker’s availability. Once confirmed, Alex will send out the invite and get it posted online. If you are interested in learning more about the CO River please reach out to Alex Davis or Rick Marsicek. There is interest in receiving an overview of key proposals in the CO River basin, both upper and lower basin proposals. This may be a presentation for the wider MRT membership.

12. Round Table Member Comments (5 min.) None

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