

# Joint SPBRT / MRT Environmental & Recreation Subcommittees

## Meeting Summary

### December 7, 2023

### 10:00 am – 11:00 am

#### In Attendance:

David Nickum, Kirk Vincent, Ashley Giles, Kelsea Holloway, Diane Kielty, Breanna Gonzalez

#### 10:05 am

1. Informational Items:
  - a. December 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm EST (12:30 MTN?) - [Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee Hearing to Receive Testimony on P... \(senate.gov\)](#)
  - b. Director Robert Sakata has accepted a new position as Agriculture Water Policy Advisor.
2. Discussion took place on the nexus of agriculture with environment and recreation and avoiding dry & buy in the basin. There is concern of losing water to cities and not properly planning for this.
  - i. Linking water to land projects and the environmental/recreational benefits in irrigated agriculture and conservation easements. Emphasize the importance of wetlands and agriculture.
    1. Colorado Water and Land Use Planning Alliance - 21st Century Comprehensive Planning: Opportunities for Colorado.
  - ii. SPROWG – What is the status of this effort? Reach out to Lisa Darling for update.
  - iii. A WSRF flood efficiency project being advanced by Sungate Systems, Automated Gated Pipe Control System Field Trial, may inform this topic. See SPBRT WSRF 2023 Cycle 2 approved projects.
  - iv. NRCS has been reaching out to farmers and reevaluating their Conservation Metrix. Working with landowners on how to best manage conservation easements. Laura Trimboli is the NRCS lead in conservation easements.
  - v. Kelsea Holloway is working with the South Platte Wetland Focus Committee biologists who are doing wetland reviews throughout the area looking at landforms to create landscape scale plans. Suggested contacting Sarah Marshall regarding Wetlands AI Machine Learning Tool - [sarah.marshall@colostate.edu](mailto:sarah.marshall@colostate.edu)
3. The issue of Mag Chloride on roadways as a “wicked problem” was discussed. An advisory group of national experts is being pulled together by Ashley Giles to advance a collaborative effort. A recent TU National Workshop video was released and suggested for viewing. Ashley will send the video to David Nickum who will share it with the group. Tanner Banks has been advising on Clear Creek. He may be a person to present to the group. Dr. Timothy Gates is head of a Salinity Study and could be invited to inform the Committee on the topic.
  1. 10:10:10 group addressing WICKED problems in water in Colorado. On July 9, 2020, MRT approved \$45,000 to 10:10:10 funding. It is not clear if this applicant received final approval from CWCB.
  2. [Wicked-Problem Solvers \(hbr.org\)](#)
4. Breanna Gonzalez informed the Committee on a recreation map under development to better quantify recreation use attributes and what is impacting these waters. [Colorado Water Based Recreation Locations](#)

[arcgis.com](https://arcgis.com)). This could be a multi benefit project. Developing projects in the RTs that fund water in multi-use areas and attributing a ranking system. All Recreation Representatives in all the RTs are working on this.

- i. American Whitewater is spearheading the effort in collaboration with Wilson Water Group in creating the tools.
  - ii. This may be an opportunity for a working session with the Committee and RT members once the attributes are further developed.
5. The Committee discussed interest in bringing information forward on the State legislation on dredge and fill and what this means to Colorado. Suggested inviting CDPHE to inform the RTs on how this may impact our environment and clean waters.
- i. Conservation Colorado cohosting a seminar featuring AG Weiser next week 12/13 at noon.  
**Educational Winter Series Events: Restoring Water Quality in Colorado - [Webinar Registration - Zoom-](#)**
6. Confirmed standing Committee meeting time for 2024 on the last Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

#### **Future E&R Committee Topics of Interest**

- David Nickum will reach out to Lisa Darling for SPROWG update.
  - NRCS presentation to the Committee. Ashley Giles will reach out to Laura Trimboli.
  - Determine if Mag Chloride is an issue to advance with the Committee. Consider inviting Dr. Timothy Gates and the Salinity Study group for input.
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- Follow up on SB-270 Stream Legislation and agency level guidance for projects.
  - Healthy Rivers Report Card Tool
  - Recreation topic – Blue Trails water-based recreation and travel

**11:08 am - Adjourn.**