

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting**

Holiday Inn Express

Montrose, Colorado

January 5, 2009

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Bud Burgess	Grand Mesa WCD
Keith Catlin	CWCB Member (liaison)
Marc Catlin	At-Large Member
Greg Clifton	Ouray Municipalities
Carey Denison	Ouray County
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Rachel Kullman	Montrose Municipalities
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Olen Lund	Delta County
Tyler Martineau	Gunnison Municipalities
John McClow	Chairs of the House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Dennis Steckel	Gunnison County
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District

Voting Members Absent:

Steve Glazer	Environmental
Ralph Grover	Hinsdale County
Jim Hokit	Montrose County
Hank Hotze	Recreational
Tom Kenyon	Mesa County
Flynn Mangum	Saguache County
Dick Margetts	Local Domestic Water Supplier

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Dennis Murphy (BLM liaison), Gary Shellhorn (Forest Service liaison), Curtis Swift (CSU Extension Agent liaison).

Public: Randy See (Senator Salazar's Office), Bob Hurford (DNR), Dennis Reich (CSU), Austin M. Keiser (Pres. Grand Mesa CD).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Michelle Pierce.

Roll Call

Following roll call, it was declared that the meeting was short of a quorum; however, eventually enough members arrived to constitute a quorum.

Approve Agenda

Michelle Pierce announced that Randy See, and Bud Burgess wanted some time at the end of the Agenda.

Frank Kugel made a motion to accept the Agenda with the two additional items. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approve December 1, 2008 Minutes

Greg Clifton made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting. George Sibley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Bill Trampe spoke regarding the last IBCC meeting, which was on December 12, 2008. The morning session was spent on the vision process, and strategies to meet the goals and vision. There was discussion regarding drying up of agricultural land and water supplied to the energy industries. Bill felt that a lot of decisions would depend on the results of the Colorado River study.

Bill Trampe requested some feedback from the Roundtable on his and Marc's performance as IBCC representatives and the messages they are taking to the IBCC, and that feedback be reflected in the minutes of the meetings.

John McClow made a motion that the Roundtable resolve to thoroughly support the work that the IBCC representatives are doing and the contributions they have made on the visioning process. Hugh Sanburg seconded, and the motion carried with unanimous approval.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley attended the Education Meeting, and brought back a survey that was designed by the members of the Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup of the IBCC. George stated that the PEPO group would attend a future GBRT meeting.

1. **Basin Roundtable Education Survey** – George Sibley explained and administered a survey developed by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education to assess the educational needs of Roundtable members. The survey was filled out at the meeting.
2. **Selenium Reduction** – Marc Catlin stated that Reclamation has written a draft EIS for Aspinall Unit re-operation to benefit endangered species in the Gunnison River. The USFWS is concerned with lower water levels creating a higher concentration of selenium in the river. He has heard nothing back with regard to how they will deal with selenium issues. Stakeholders are frustrated that the USFWS has never formalized the selenium reduction goals in the Uncompahgre River.

Irrigation ditch piping projects continue to increase the reduction of selenium in the Uncompahgre River. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) can put in 7 to 10 miles of pipe in per year which will take 35 years. The USFWS feels this is too slow. The Uncompahgre Project is the only Federal project in the Basin and therefore has become the only target for the selenium issue for the USFWS. Private lands contribute significant amounts of selenium to the Gunnison River. The UVWUA continue to look for ways and means to address the issue and be proactive in the solution.

Bill Trampe added that the entire basin could have repercussions from the selenium issues. Ultimately it could result in a Section 7 consultation, which would mean a long drawn out and intensive process of proving all diversions.

It was decided that this topic would remain on the Agenda and a monthly update would be supplied to the GBRT.

3. **Roundtable Membership** - Mike Berry asked whether it was necessary to continue to call attendance for the non-voting and liaison members. The group decided that this was no longer necessary. Minutes will reflect only those who attend from now on.

Michelle Pierce discussed how absenteeism within the voting members of the group was causing a problem. In fact, one appointed member has not attended any meetings in the previous 12 months. Five appointed members have not fulfilled the requirements of attendance, and would have the opportunity at the next meeting to explain their absences.

Discussion continued regarding attendance requirements and possibly reducing the amount of meetings. It was decided that this topic would be put on the next month's meeting for a vote. Hugh Sanburg suggested that a committee be created consisting of the Executive Committee and the Bylaws Committee, as well as Ralph Grover, to come up with a proposal regarding membership attendance and reducing the volume of meetings and the timing of those meetings to take into account any funding issues. It was decided that this committee would consist of John McClow, Olen Lund, Hugh Sanburg, Michelle Pierce, Mike Berry and Ralph Grover.

- 4. Roundtable Presentations** – Michelle Pierce stated that the Communications committee has completed the educational presentations to all of the other eight roundtables established by HB177. The committee members discussed the results of the meetings with the Roundtable members. It was generally felt that these meetings were of great value to the Gunnison Basin, and that there was a positive response from the other roundtables.

5. Additional Agenda Items –

Randy See discussed the new US Senate appointee Mike Bennett. Mr. Bennett was recommended by Governor Ritter to replace Senator Ken Salazar, who has been chosen by the incoming president to head the Department of the Interior. Randy stated that Mr. Bennett is not well educated on water issues, and he felt that the GBRT should make an effort to bring Mr. Bennett up to speed and should extend an invitation to him to learn more about the Gunnison Basin.

Randy announced that he has asked Senator Salazar to try to find a position for him within the Office of Water and Science in Washington D.C. This Office is responsible for the USGS and the BOR. Randy asked for support from the Roundtable for his bid for this position.

Marc Catlin made a motion for the Roundtable to prepare a letter of support for Randy See, who is seeking a position with the Office of Water and Science, Department of the Interior. Greg Clifton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Michelle Pierce stated she would write the letter.

Bud Burgess announced that he was resigning his appointment by the Grand Mesa WCD on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable for personal reasons. Austin Keiser will be taking over his seat on the Roundtable. Roundtable members expressed their gratitude for the service that Bud has given to the Roundtable.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be February 2, 2009.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items (January 5, 2009 meeting)

John McClow, Olen Lund, Hugh Sanburg, Michelle Pierce, Mike Berry and Ralph Grover will prepare a proposal regarding membership attendance and meeting schedule.

Michelle Pierce will prepare a letter of support and recommendation for Randy See.