

IBCC Colorado River Basin
Minutes of Meeting on March 24, 2009
Main topics: Agriculture, Climate, Vision

1. **Next Meeting:** Monday, April 27, 2009. **Glenwood Springs Community Recreation Center, 1:00 to 4:00.**
2. **Approve February 2009 meeting minutes.** The minutes were approved by acclamation.
3. **Reporter:** These minutes were prepared by Ken Neubecker, 970-963-3051, eagleriver@sopris.net.
4. **Upcoming meetings:**
 - a. **April 27, 2009:** The Colorado Basin Vision Committee will meet at the Glenwood Springs Community Center at 10:00 AM
5. **Report from the Legislature** – A resolution was passed stating that the Colorado River Compact of 1922 should never be re-opened.
6. **CWCB Report:**
 - a. Money, money, money..... more scarce than water these days. The CWCB has lost about \$30 million in the attempt to balance the budget. Not sure how much will be available from Severance Tax funds. The idea has been floated to sell loans that the CWCB already holds. John Redifer stated that such a sale would result in the loss of a permanent funding source to the CWCB and that it is not advisable. (This idea was later defeated in the legislature). John R. was rather shocked at the lack of concern in the general water community. We must remain vigilant and be able to act strongly and quickly when CWCB funding sources are threatened like this.
 - b. **Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment Grant Approval:** Jacob Bornstein – The grant application was approved unanimously, with some conditions. An update was provided on the Roaring Fork pilot project. A contract had been finalized with CDM to move forward and the pilot project work on the Roaring Fork River and Fountain Creek should be finished by the end of June. Nicole Rowan provided a schedule and time line. Work to date on the Flow Evaluation Tool as follows:
 - Hydrologic modeling on the Roaring Fork and Fountain Creek is finished.
 - The CSU folks have been spending time developing flow ecology relationships.
 - A meeting of the NCNA team with the NCNA Sub-committee will be held on May 8, place to be determined.
 - Comparisons are to be made between the pilots and existing studies
 - Field work needed on the upper Colorado should be starting on time (consultant Bill Miller and DOW) and continue in conjunction with work for the Wild and Scenic study.
 - Nicole will work with the sub-committee for a meeting prior to the May 8th Team/Sub-committee meeting.
 - The Basin Roundtable as a whole will have the option of voting to continue funding this grant in June.

- c. The Agriculture Committees in the Legislature are about to lose two farmer/rancher chairs due to term limits.
7. **IBCC Report:** Stan Cazier reported on the last IBCC meeting in Longmont. The IBCC looked at future water supply. Melinda Kassen noted that the numbers did not include water needs for environmental or recreation needs. It was noted that the water supply gap was likely to be made up from conservation and Ag transfer water. Such water transfers are much cheaper than alternatives. Green Mountain pump back doesn't deliver enough water. Aaron Million's project and the idea of a Yampa pump-back were considered. Ag transfer water is still cheaper. No medium size projects were discussed or seem to be on the table. Chuck Ogilby asked about Shell Oil's filing for water on the Yampa. There was no real discussion of this by the IBCC. These demands were discussed in the Phase 1 Energy Water Needs report. Chuck feels that there needs to be such a discussion, or it seems all our remaining Compact water will be left up to the Water Courts and future filings. Stan responded that at this point there really is nothing that can be done otherwise. These filings are being made in accordance with existing Colorado water law.
 8. **Energy Sub-Committee:** Greg Trainor reported that the Energy Sub-Committee had met at Schmueser|Gordon|Meyer to review three proposals that have been submitted for the Phase 2 Energy Water Needs study. There will be a couple more meetings needed before bringing a recommendation to the full Basin Roundtable.
 9. **Visioning Sub-Committee:** Jim Pokrant reported. The Committee is looking to develop a sound and honest vision. A hard look is being made at all realistic and practical possibilities. The Sub-Committee is looking for policy direction from the Roundtable – is it heading in the right direction or are there other things that need to be considered? John Redifer warned of the dangers of “wanting everything” as Bill Trampe (from the Gunnison Roundtable) had warned in the IBCC visioning process. We keep saying we want it all, but there will have to be sacrifices and some losses down the road. This needs to be recognized. We will need more water from somewhere and for some to gain others will lose, at least as things stand today. And what about the situation beyond 2050? Are we just compromising in order to delay the inevitable? We need to include big picture solutions, such as water from the Mississippi. Greg Trainor stated that the Vision is simply trying to articulate a desired end. John R. again asked how this was to be done without damaging one or more interests, particularly Agriculture? Other comments and considerations suggested – How do we address conflicts with existing water law? How can we “share the pain” in administration of a Compact Call? The vision needs to address growth squarely and not dance around it. The separation between Land Use Planning and Water planning must be resolved and eliminated, otherwise all water planning will be a reactionary effort. Future water planning may need to re-think our economic foundation of water and land use – growth. The Big Projects (the “crazy ones”) are more likely to happen than stopping growth. We need a “Hoover Dam” vision rather than just looking at skinning someone else's cat.
 10. **Agriculture Facts and Figures Presentation** – Denis Reich and Rod Sharpe presented on the facts and figures of West Slope agriculture. (Power Point was distributed. Lewis Meyer asked how the “slow food” trend, with more local food sources might impact Colorado Ag. The

response was that the market will most likely control how this pans out. Carlyle Currier noted that food production in Colorado doesn't occur in the same place as the population centers.

11. **Colorado Climate Presentation:** Nolan Doeskin, State Climatologist. Nolan presented on the basics of Colorado climate and looked at some of the future implications from climate change. These implications should not be ignored.(PowerPoint was distributed)

12. **Future topics:** None were recommended.