

**Public Education, Participation and Outreach Workgroup
Interbasin Compact Committee**

August 30, 2010

**John Q. Hammons Board Room
Loveland Embassy Suites**

MEETING MINUTES

I. Convene & introductions

In attendance:

Kristin Maharg, CFWE; Christine Honnen, Governor's Energy Office; Debbie Alpe, North Platte Basin Roundtable; Judy Lopez, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable; George Sibley, Gunnison Basin Roundtable; Dennis Reich, Colorado Water Institute; Jeff Devere, IBCC; Jacob Bornstein, CWCB; Jeris Danielson, IBCC; Ken Neubecker, Colorado Basin Roundtable; Caroline Bradford, Colorado Basin Roundtable; Nicole Seltzer, CFWE; Bert Weaver, South Platte Basin Roundtable; Tom Acre, Metro Roundtable; Margaret Herzog, Colorado State University; Perry Cabot, Arkansas Basin Roundtable; Reagan Waskom, Colorado Water Institute

II. Approve minutes from 06/16/2010 PEPO meeting

There were no comments on the minutes from June 16, 2010

III. Updates

Kristin asked each of the Basin Roundtable representatives & Education Liaisons for an update on their educational activities.

Judy Lopez reported on the planned activities of the Rio Grande roundtable. It will be approved at their next meeting. They are going to focus mainly on education of their membership. Public education will be accomplished primarily through regular newspaper columns by roundtable members. In addition, there will be K-12 activities such as involving students in the roundtable process.

Caroline was wondering if some students sponsored by the Colorado River District in their K-12 program with the Keystone Science School might be Rio Grande basin students. Judy should talk with Jim Pokrandt about this.

Bert Weaver said that he added the Education Action Plan to the 2010 goals of the South Platte roundtable. Kristin has scheduled a meeting with the roundtable members for their September meeting.

George Sibley reported on the Gunnison roundtable activities. They have been doing member education on a regular basis either from within their ranks or from CWCB. They want to do more public education and have been working with the River District to do a State of the River meeting in their area. They want to also do more focused and frequent activities, especially work around water quality regulations and hosting a Water Quality 101 for area citizens. They are also discussing doing a joint meeting with the Arkansas Basin Roundtable where they would focus on educating people about joint problems. George would also like to do a meeting on the needs assessments. George will put the Education Action Plan on an upcoming roundtable meeting agenda to make sure they are all on board.

Debbie reported on the North Platte roundtable activities. They have been proactive on member education activities because they see it as important. They are doing a good job on the “internal education” but they want to package the North Platte story in a nice way to circulate both inside and outside the basin. The roundtable has asked CFWE to submit a grant request to the basin roundtable to do this. They would then distribute this outside of the roundtable and ask roundtable members to do community presentations. They would also like to have a public forum on basin issues. There are a lot of opportunities for youth to be brought into their education objectives. They are also discussing doing some interpretive signage around the reservoirs with CDOW. The roundtable will vote to approve the plan at their next meeting.

Jacob reminded the group to not be limited by ideas that can be funded with the \$1,800 currently available from the state to support education activities, because all can apply for a WSRA grant.

Jeff gave an update on activities of the Yampa/White/Green. The roundtable gave the Community Agriculture Alliance a grant to do public outreach. Both events thus far have been very successful and have had good attendance. There are two more before the end of the year.

Jeris gave an update from the Arkansas basin. The Pueblo Chieftain covers water very frequently and sends a reporter to all of the meetings. They are very fortunate to have this. In addition, the roundtable held two public meetings: Colorado Springs, Canon City and an upcoming one in La Junta. They have been very well received thus far. The roundtable, during last year’s survey, found they needed more education on water quality topics. They are setting up a workshop on this in the near future which could be a joint program with the Gunnison. The Ark Roundtable also published their Projects & Methods Report that compiled their needs and which strategies and projects they preferred, leading to the Flaming Gorge Vision Task Force. Tom asked if the meetings were more for education to the public or to get input from the public. Getting information out to the public was more the point.

Caroline reported on the Colorado Basin Roundtable. They have met as a committee to discuss their EAP. At the same time, the roundtable supported a grant from CFWE to do a Headwaters magazine on their basin. They are going to use this publication as a central part of their education efforts. The conversation around this engaged people to get involved in the education committee. As opposed to the Arkansas roundtable, the Colorado roundtable’s

focus has not been engaging the local media but they wish to do so. The committee will take its time to craft an EAP that meets many goals. It will likely be several months before it is complete.

Tom reported on Metro roundtable activities. They are targeting elected officials in the metro region through a workshop to be held after the November 2010 elections. The tentative title is "Is there enough water?" They will put together a brief PowerPoint and are working out details. Another idea is to put together a "road show" PowerPoint that can be used for public presentations. They have been consistently meeting before each roundtable meeting. They will use a lot of information that comes from recent and upcoming state reports. Tom asked what people's opinions are on this. Ken noted that there have been concerns with SWSI numbers, but recent reports have been well-received. Caroline noted that there is still a great deal of worry that there is a "bull's eye" on the Colorado River. She would like to see this message conveyed within other basins' roundtable.

Jacob encouraged the group to think about education that focuses on helping to meet the solutions that roundtables have identified to meet their needs. The education should ideally work towards increasing knowledge about things that will move solutions forward.

IV. Statewide Summit

There is not yet a date set, but we would like to have it in Feb/March and may need to wait until after the elections to set a date.

CWCB wants to make sure that the new Governor and/or DNR Director to be involved. CWCB has already been asked to create a transition paper and this item was included in that set of documents.

Kristin went over the notes from a 7/29 brainstorming session between CFWE and CWCB.

Caroline asked whether this would take the place of an IBCC meeting. Yes, the idea is to have this take the place of an IBCC meeting, but that all roundtable members would be invited to attend and participate. Caroline thought that the four areas we discussed at the IBCC meeting today (IPP, conservation, new supply, ag transfers) should be part of the breakouts.

We could break the group up into discussion around the solution areas as above, or we could do it around the level of implementation (legislative, regulatory, etc). Judy asked about whether we should repeat each track 3 or 4 times so each person can attend each track.

Judy would like the impact of this summit to be everyone coming together and agreeing upon our position. She wants us to make sure the facts are heard loud and clear. There are others out there who are spinning our water future as ag vs. urban. We need to be clear that our job, as roundtables, is to protect Colorado's water and Colorado's lifestyle.

Jacob sees Judy's idea as being a "water awareness campaign" which is different than this summit that we are discussing. The IBCC already had their visioning process, and the consensus was that the status quo is not what we want to see. Should the summit revisit this and remind everyone (including the new administration) that we are not happy with the path we are on as a state.

Nicole asked the group whether this conference is for the water community or the general public. Her understanding was that it was for the roundtable and IBCC members. What comes out of it might be consensus on public education initiatives, but that is not its primary purpose.

Judy lamented the poor state of water knowledge in Colorado. Jacob agreed and said that this underscores why the work of PEPO will become increasingly important.

Kristin brought the group back to the purpose of the summit. Its purpose is to have a common learning experience where we endeavor to find ways to overcome the barriers to implementation of strategies. The goal is to "drill down" into the strategies with each breakout session getting more involved. Judy is concerned that this format would fail because people will hop around between sessions and you will lose any progress. Caroline likes the idea of reoccurring sessions that repeat themselves.

Judy agrees that if the goal is to connect the Roundtables to the work of the IBCC, then you should have each person attend all sessions. The upside to this is that we can have the different roundtables mix within the sessions and have color-coded name tags for each roundtable. Kristin reminded the group that we're intending to host a pre-summit orientation workshop for new members.

Jacob reminded the group that the goal of this is to identify the barriers to solutions. Because of this, perhaps the breakout topics should be type of solution or type of barrier. For example, there could be an education barrier with each of the four solution areas and you would spend one session on this.

Caroline thinks it is important for the IBCC members to be running these sessions and not CWCB staff.

One of the main barriers to implementation of solutions is the "silo" thinking that we have. Perhaps we frame the conversation differently so we do not get caught in the same points. The group liked framing the conversations in terms of the barriers to solutions, such as Economic/Education/Regulatory. The group thinks that the next IBCC meetings need to happen before we can focus in on exactly what the barriers and solutions are that the tracks will be designed around.

Caroline brought up that the main reason people will attend is to network with other roundtables and hear about the work they have done. She does not think there is a "common language" between the roundtables nor agreement on what the top supply options are.

Debbie asked for clarification on what the purpose of the meeting is. She thinks the roundtable members would like to learn from each other. Nicole is not sure that having a meeting of roundtables to get to know each other and learn from each other has as much impact as CWCB would like to see from this summit. Jacob noted that the recent education survey results showed that a major dissatisfaction with the IBCC/BRT process is that there was little focus on solutions. A goal here could be to move people forwards towards solutions.

Judy thinks that while there is a ton of data and information, there are few basin roundtable members who actually understand it and have thought about how to interpret it. She also sees disconnect between the roundtables and that we have to deal with the basics of understanding the data and its implications.

CWCB has been making the rounds to all of the roundtables, but those members who have heard the information at a recent meeting feel like it is “drinking from a fire hose”. They have not had time to digest it all.

Tom thought that if we are going to ask people to get together, we need to do something to allow people to give their perspectives on what their needs are, the solutions they want to pursue, and what their issues are with other ideas. All agreed that the new administration would want to hear the concerns of each basin and what they would be willing to give up to gain something. What are the impacts, both perceived and real, of these solutions?

Nicole brought the point back up of other basins being a barrier to progress. This conversation about concerns, both perceived and real, of basins in response to proposed solutions could be had by having one of the breakout barrier groups be “other basins” in addition to economic, educational and regulatory.

Example Summit Agenda:

Summit tracks as barriers to implementing water supply solutions				
	Regulatory	Economic	Education	Other Basins
Opening Plenary – Introduction to Purpose of Today				
Morning Session				
Lunch – Celebrate Accomplishments				
Afternoon Session				
Closing Plenary – Governor’s Address				

Bert believes there is a lack of consensus around what is needed to meet “the gap”. We make assumptions about what other people know and do not know, but there is no agreement on what people need to be educated about.

Reagan does not think that we are clear as to what the outcome is that we want to achieve. We need to be clearer about this before we can set an agenda that works. The idea of having a 300 person IBCC meeting in one day is too large. Is it to:

- Move solutions forward?
- Roundtable to roundtable exchange of information?
- Pass the torch and get buy-in from the new administration?
- Addressing the communication gap between CWCB, IBCC and BRTs?
- Identifying and addressing barriers to implementing water supply solutions
- Understanding the collaborative procedures that can be successfully used to overcome barriers?

It was time for the group to wrap up. Next step is a phone call between the members to gain agreement on the outcome we want to achieve.

Judy asked if there was a possibility to have more than one meeting. CWCB does not have the resources to host three 300-person meetings. Perhaps the roundtables themselves would be willing to host a meeting after the first one. Each could chip in a small amount to host a continuing meeting.

Perry wants to make sure that we do not throw away the ideas of addressing and acknowledging barriers. This is an important concept.

Reagan thinks that with a one-day meeting, the best we can hope for is to get something in motion that can then be turned over to the roundtables to keep moving. Perhaps we identify the barriers in the meeting, then have the roundtables work towards coming up with solutions.

The next meeting will be a conference call on **September 29 from 10am-12pm** to come to consensus on the outcomes and structure of the statewide summit.

The following meeting will be on **October 14 at 5:00pm in Canon City** (following the IBCC) to discuss the summit agenda in detail and related tasks.

The group adjourned at 7:40pm.