

**Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables
Rio Grande Inter Basin Roundtable**

M I N U T E S

November 10, 2009 @ 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

**Adams State College - Student Center
First Street, Alamosa**

- **Attending:** Jane Devine, J.B. Alexandra, Jim Rhett, Mario Curto, Rodney Smith, Mike Willett, Rio de la Vista, Mike Gibson, Judy Lopez, Michael Blenden, Erin Minks, Dale Pizel, Gene Farish, Jack Gilleland, Stan Moyer, Nathan Combs, Robert Schultz, Ron Beane, Tom Stewart, Ed Nielsen, Ruth Heidi, Cindy Medina, Nancy Butler, Allen Brown, Lawrence Gallegos, Tracy Miller, Jerry Gallegos, Kirk Russell, Paul Robertson, Diana Cortez, Charles Chavez, Conrad Trujillo, Tim Roberman.
- **Introductions:** Chairman Mike Gibson welcomed new members and guests.
- **Minutes October 13, 2009** – _____ moved to approve; _____ seconded; unanimous approval.
- **Division of Water Resources – Division III Engineer's Report, Craig Cotten:** No Report.
- **Funding Request - Trinchera Irrigation District** – Representatives made a presentation covering their request for Basin Funds in the amount of \$54,000.00 to cover the shortfall in WRSA funds as a result of the CWCB not fully funding their prior request in September 2009. The selected contractor to perform the work had given "a not to exceed" bid, good through December 31, 2010 that gave assurance to the Irrigation District that the requested funds would cover the future work. After a brief discussion the Roundtable Members were asked to approve the Irrigation Company's request. _____ made a motion the Roundtable approve the requested \$54,000.00 from Basin Funds. _____ seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- **Future Funding Request – Education Support** – Judy Lopez made a brief presentation that at a future meeting she would be seeking approval for Basin Funds to support her position as Conservation Education Specialist. There was discussion as to the requesting entity - Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative, a 501(c) 3 organization, and the administrative organization - Mosca-Hooper Conservation District.
- **Future Funding Request – San Luis Peoples Ditch** – Diana Cortez spoke on behalf of the Ditch Company, with support from Board Members. Diana stated this was the oldest water right in Colorado, and the ditch conveyance system and associated

facilities were old and needed rehabilitation. The Ditch Company has been working with NRCS to determine what work needs to be completed in a rehabilitation. Because of limitations on funding sources the Ditch Company has broken the rehabilitation into three (3) phases. Phase 1 will address flooding in the community of San Luis because the system in place to divert excess water from the ditch is essentially inoperable. It is expected that the request will be only for Basin Funds.

- **Future Funding Request – Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project –** Mike Gibson spoke on behalf of the Project, stating the Project had received \$250,000.00 in 2009 of Colorado Non-Point Source funds to continue riparian stabilization in Alamosa County. Since this is federal monies a match of 30 % had to be made with non-federal funds. The WRSA funds met this requirement. The future request would be for both Basin & Statewide WRSA funds.
- **Status of WRSA Grant Recipients' Projects –** Mike Gibson said that prior Grant Recipients had been asked to review the status of their projects.
 - Rio Grande Reservoir – Phase 1 & 2 - Multi Use Study - Travis Smith was not available to give a status report.
 - Rio Grande Reservoir Phase 3 - Operations Modeling - Travis Smith was not available to give a status report.
 - Platoro Reservoir - Rehabilitation Work – Mike Gibson spoke on behalf of Bob Robbins – The project is progressing and they have a Contract in place with the State.
 - Santa Maria & Continental Reservoirs - Rehabilitation Study - Mike Gibson spoke on behalf of Ron Peterson – The project is progressing and they have a Contract in place with the State and the Study is scheduled to begin before year-end.
 - Alamosa River - In-Stream Flow & Terrace Reservoir Study – Cindy Medina reported the project was completed on the EPAT for the reservoir in June, and the money spent. In addition, they were working with CWCB regarding the in-stream flow water right, which had been identified for acquisition.
 - Rio Grande Initiative - Conservation Easements – Nancy Butler reported that the WRSA funds had been used on the *Rio Grande Initiative* of RiGHT. She cited the number of acres placed under conservation easements through the *Rio Grande Initiative*.
 - Romero-Guadalupe Channel Rectification – No one was present to give a status report.
 - CREP Application Preparation – Sub-District # 1 – Mike Gibson reminded the group that the Colorado Rio Grande restoration Foundation was acting as the fiscal agent for this project. This Phase had been completed a draft CREP Application completed.
 - CREP Application Phase 2 – Mike Gibson reported that they were waiting for a P.O. or Contract with the State before commencing this Phase
 - El Codo Ditch - Conejos River – Lawrence Gallegos reported that this project was moving forward without any major problems and it was expected it would be completed by month-end. Three (3) reimbursements had been received, and two (2) were with CWCB.
 - Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project – Mike Gibson reported that engineering was complete for the five sites in Alamosa County, and it was hoped some site work could be completed before ground freezing.

- Conejos River - North Fork – Jack Gilleland reported that the project was nearing completion, and no problems had been encountered.
 - Trinchera Irrigation Company – Jane Devine stated that this project was seeking more WRSA funding before proceeding with a Contract with the State.
 - Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project – Mike Gibson reported on behalf of Zeke Ward, that due to the problems with RC&D, who had been their fiscal agent, a Contract had not yet been executed with the State. They were trying to resolve this issue.
- **Senator Gail Schwartz & Representative Ed Vigil** – Mike Gibson introduced the Senator and Representative and thanked them for taking the time to join the Roundtable Meeting. Both Senator Schwartz and Representative Vigil reiterated their appreciation for the support from the San Luis Valley, and their commitment to continuing to represent its interests. There was discussion on recent legislation passed that affected the Valley. There was discussion as to the issues confronting the State, the primary one being the Budget shortfall both currently and projected into the 2010 - 2011 & 2011- 2012 years, and how this would impact basic services provided by the state and state agencies, such as the Division of Water Resources. Senator Schwartz said that Colorado was perhaps in a better position as it came out of the economic downturn than other states, and the prospect of more “clean energy” jobs was good. Both of them reiterated that they wanted to hear from their constituents.
 - **Other Business** – There was no other business.
 - **Next Meeting Topics** - Mike Gibson reminded the Members that at the January 2010 meeting projects would be coming forward for funding, and a quorum would be needed.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2009
Student Center
Adams State College, Alamosa, CO 81101

2:00 – 5:00 PM