

Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC)
February 4, 2011
The Warwick Denver Hotel
Denver, CO
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members

Dan Birch	Melinda Kassen	Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg
Stan Cazier	Eric Kuhn	John Stulp
Jeris Danielson	Mark Pifher	Bill Trampe
Jeff Devere	John Porter	Wayne Vanderschuere
T. Wright Dickinson	Sen. Gail Schwartz	Eric Wilkinson
Steve Harris	Mike Shimmin	Jay Winner
Taylor Hawes	Travis Smith	

Staff

Heather Bergman – Peak Facilitation	Alex Davis – DNR	Greg Johnson – CWCB
Geoff Blakeslee – CWCB Board Member	Todd Doherty - CWCB	Mike King – DNR
Jacob Bornstein – CWCB	Jennifer Gimbel - CWCB	Sue Morea – CDM
Viola Bralish – CWCB	Mikaela Gregg – Peak Facilitation	Nicole Rowan – CDM
	Eric Hecox – CWCB	Dori Vigil - CWCB
		Dick Wolfe – DNR

Members of the public also attended.

Introduction

Newly-appointed IBCC Director John Stulp provided a brief introduction expressing his enthusiasm for working with the IBCC as it moves forward to address important and complex water issues. Both Director Stulp and Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources Mike King expressed his gratitude and thanks for the dedicated service Alex Davis provided during her tenure as the previous IBCC Director.

Introductory Comments: IBCC Director, John Stulp

Governor Hickenlooper has confidence in the IBCC, the basin roundtables, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board and their ability to come together to talk about the future of Colorado water needs. He has recognized the work thus far and asked that it be taken to the next level. We are looking to these groups for ideas. The civility shown in this group while addressing such a difficult topic is commendable and will help as we move forward, especially when faced with serious budget cuts. Addressing the State's budget challenges is going to cut very deep and there is no group that will not be considered for cuts. That does not mean that good ideas cannot continue to flourish. I am confident that the Colorado economy will improve and Colorado will flourish, which is why it is even more meaningful that we keep moving forward and be ready. Many of these projects will not depend on State resources, but the State will be involved at some level. There is more need for discussion now than ever before. I have been charged by the Governor to visit with water stakeholders and listen as much as possible to all the conversations across the State. Governor Hickenlooper believes in and supports ground-up efforts leading change. We all have a serious responsibility and a challenge from the Governor to work together in a non-partisan manner. Cooperation, collaboration, and leadership from the IBCC are essential. The Statewide Roundtable Summit on March 3rd is a great opportunity for IBCC members to show leadership;

please encourage people to come and participate. We know that we have a very precious and valuable resource that we have to work together to save.

Gathering Feedback on the IBCC Framework

Facilitator Heather Bergman provided an overview of the purpose and process for gathering feedback from basin roundtables and public outreach meetings. The purpose for gathering feedback is to help the IBCC determine where to direct their efforts/next steps in 2011. The process for gathering feedback includes a series of basin roundtable and public outreach meetings to: 1) survey participants' general opinions regarding the framework, and 2) gather specific feedback as participants discuss aspects of the IBCC framework they like, have concerns about, and suggestions for improvement. Feedback opportunities include:

- Nine basin roundtable meetings scheduled between January and February
- Two public outreach meetings:
 - February 4, 2011 – Denver, CO
 - February 25, 2011 – Glenwood Springs, CO
- Online survey and email collection

Staff and the facilitator will prepare a summary of feedback from these discussions for the March 3rd Statewide Summit. Additional feedback that emerges at the Summit will be added to a final summary of feedback that will be provided to the IBCC in advance of the April IBCC meeting.

IBCC members shared their feedback and the feedback they have heard from their respective roundtables and colleagues around the State about the IBCC framework, process, and suggested next steps. These comments, and those received prior to the meeting from the public and basin roundtables, included the following:

Supporting Comments

- While there is uncertainty about how big each piece of the framework should be, there is agreement that all the pieces are essential.
- Many believe the IBCC is moving in the right direction; a key reason for this is that the primary piece of the framework seeks to minimize agricultural dry-up.
- The framework was received well, which generally seems to be the feeling around the state.
- The IBCC has made great progress in building relationships between IBCC members and within and between basins, which has greatly helped the conversation advance. This needs to continue and expand.

Next Steps

- Now is the time to more clearly define projects, attach milestones, clarify the roles of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and IBCC, and address identified projects and processes (IPPs) more specifically.
- The IBCC should address concerns about timing, identify what the long-term and short-term goals are for the IBCC and the framework, and specify what pieces can and will be moved forward.
- The IBCC needs to look at how to advance projects in an accelerated manner.
- The IBCC should look at how best to move the framework forward regarding implementation and next steps.

- People are waiting to see what will come next and wanting the IBCC to address the hard issues and move forward with more urgency and substance, and not just create a set of recommendations that will sit on a shelf.
- The IBCC needs to look at situations that could occur farther out than 2050.
- Some people are interested in hearing what the alternative agricultural transfer framework means to ranchers and would like the IBCC to invite the agricultural community to have a conversation.
- Junior-junior water rights and conservation are central issues that will have to be addressed in more depth.
- New supply and IPPs are the central areas of concern for basins. Does this mean that these are the areas the IBCC should tackle head-on, or that the IBCC should focus on the areas with more agreement and less contention?
- It would be beneficial to resurvey the basin roundtables after there has been time and opportunity for people to dig deeper and gain a better understanding of the framework.
- To what degree does the framework need more specificity? Is not the role of the IBCC to address the broad issues in order to help lead basins in more specific conversations?

Process

- How much direction should be from the top down and how much from the grassroots level?
- Advancing water conservation should be a grassroots effort.
- Utilizing the roundtables will make this a more powerful process and improve the outcome.
- All pieces have to be moved forward simultaneously or it will all fall apart.

Concerns

- The IBCC should make sure water needs for the West Slope are not underestimated and that Front Range problems are not solved only to the detriment of West Slope needs.
- There is concern regarding what the role of the State will be.
- There is concern that some will lose even though the purpose of the process is to create win-win solutions.
- It is not clear how the framework and the work of the CWCB will reconcile/integrate. There is some concern about duplication of efforts, ideas, and recommendations, which may dilute the value and effort behind the work.
- The role of the CWCB and IBCC will naturally mesh; the IBCC and CWCB do not need to invest a lot of attention or work in creating/forcing a set relationship.
- Some do not believe a meaningful conversation about new supply can occur without a higher level of specificity.
- Advancing passive conservation as demand reduction is overly; it will not reduce the gap directly.
- Does it matter who leads a new supply project?
 - The issue of who leads a project is an issue about compensation and mitigation options.
 - The conversation is different depending on who leads the project—the State, a public entity, or a private entity. Each entity will require a different conversation and process.
 - This is a potential topic for the subcommittee to address.

Discussion: Public Outreach Process

IBCC members discussed the best approach for acquiring public and stakeholder feedback regarding the framework and how to approach public information sharing and discussions in the future. Concerns and suggestions included the following:

Inclusion

- The IBCC should look into how to get different people and groups to IBCC and basin roundtable meetings to broaden the scope of public understanding and involvement.
- Other state agencies should help more broadly articulate the IBCC purpose and framework statewide.
- Some groups have expressed that they do not feel engaged in the process through basin roundtable representatives. It might be worth having some constituency group meetings in addition to basin roundtable and public outreach meetings.
- The IBCC needs to address and gain legislative support.
- There needs to be more concrete conversation focused on the grassroots level.

IBCC/CWCB Roles

- The IBCC is here to complement the CWCB, not usurp its power; the goal is to help advance the dialogue.
- There cannot be too many leaders. The concern should be whether we have enough leaders to get the job done.
- There was no conflict between the IBCC report to the Governor and the recommendations in the Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010. This means both are on the right track.
- The IBCC's role is evolving and may become something different in the future than what it is now.

Education

- The IBCC needs to create a strong and clear message – contextualize each piece of the framework – to ensure all the Basin Roundtables have a solid understanding and platform from which to educate the public.
- It is important to share with the public the lessons the IBCC has learned through this process, so they can better understand the mindset and conversations from which the framework was developed.
- The IBCC has used the last several years to track and better understand the complexity of this issue. The IBCC needs to be mindful that others have not had this same opportunity. It is therefore important to make outreach an information-giving and information-gathering process.
- The public needs time to receive the information, digest it, provide feedback, and have a dialogue to address concerns.
- IBCC members need to take charge of getting their roundtables up to speed on the framework so that the dialogue at the March 3rd Statewide Roundtable Summit is as effective and productive as possible.

Outreach

- Public outreach should be a regular part of the IBCC work plan. The IBCC should provide small pieces of new information and progress rather than overwhelming people with large products all at once.
- The IBCC basin education liaisons are a great resource to help with greater public outreach.
- IBCC members should play a role in public outreach, communication, and progress; this is a burden we all share and everyone should take an active role in advancing a solution.

- Two public outreach meetings to gather feedback on the framework are not enough. There needs to be statewide engagement in meaningful conversations to get buy-in and ownership in the final product. All stakeholders need to have an opportunity to engage.
- The IBCC needs to rely on the Basin Roundtables for community outreach in each basin; the basins have a broad level of representation that should be utilized.
- It will be difficult to get broad public engagement when there is no imminent emergency.

Presentation: March 3, 2011 Statewide Roundtable Summit

Kristen Maharg, Colorado Foundation for Water Education, gave an overview of the planned outreach efforts to spread awareness and increase participation in the March 3rd meeting. IBCC members offered suggestions for modifications to the current meeting agenda. In particular, IBCC members suggested that many of the discussion topics proposed for the Summit will be of general interest, so the event should have more plenary discussion and fewer competing, smaller sessions. IBCC members who will be attending the Summit also indicated a willingness to moderate small group discussions on the framework and show leadership at the event.

Presentation: SWSI 2010

Eric Hecox presented a high-level overview of the data and information outlined in the “SWSI 2010 Key Findings Report”, January 26, 2011. SWSI 2010 is available at <http://cwcw.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/SWSI2010.aspx>.

Questions and Answers: SWSI 2010

IBCC members asked questions regarding the SWSI 2010 report in relation to the IBCC framework. Questions and comments included the following:

- How will the CWCW and IBCC use/advance the SWSI report and information without overlapping/in a productive manner? What is the role of CWCW and IBCC in using SWSI?
- It is significant that both groups are using and supporting the same SWSI data and information. While there may be different opinions as to how that data will be used, the big picture is that there will be a water shortage and both the CWCW and IBCC must take a leadership position and address this issue in the same direction.
- CWCW needs to provide more information as to why the State has decided to minimize agricultural dry-up.

Next Steps for Outreach on the IBCC Framework

- Staff will supply IBCC members with a summary of feedback (gathered December through March) by April 15th, as well as a recommendation for what the next round of public outreach should look like.
- Staff will work with the subcommittee chairs to schedule teleconferences or meetings to review the information and generate specific recommendations for next steps to share at the April 29th IBCC meeting.
- IBCC members should identify and inform staff of stakeholders—if any—who may not have adequate representation on the basin roundtables and need separate opportunities to engage.

Upcoming IBCC and Other Meetings

March 3, 2011– Statewide Roundtable Summit in Westminster

April 29, 2011 – IBCC Meeting in Denver

June 23, 2011 – IBCC Meeting in Glenwood Springs