

**IBCC Colorado River Basin
Minutes of Meeting on January 31, 2011
Main topics: IBCC Vision Statement, Public Comments, All Basin Roundtable Meeting**

1. **Next Meeting: Monday, March 28, 2010.** Glenwood Springs Com. Rec Center.
2. **Reporter: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, kenransford@comcast.net.**
3. **Approve November 2010 meeting minutes.** The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Upcoming meetings:** February 25: Discuss IBCC Report to Governor Hickenlooper
March 3, Meeting of all Roundtables in Denver
3-day Colorado River Basin Tour June 13-15
5. **Energy Water Study.** Greg Trainor reported that \$299,000 of the grant has been spent and that AMEC is finished with its report. Greg will report on the technical findings at the March CBRT meeting. The main conclusions:
 - a. **Water needed to develop oil shale is very uncertain.** Whether oil shale is developed in situ or above ground makes a big difference.
 - b. **Oil shale will be developed incrementally, if at all.** Oil shale will only be developed after easier alternate oil sources are already exhausted.
 - c. **Junior direct flow rights in Piceance Creek are adequate to supply sufficient water** to develop oil shale in the Piceance Basin.
6. **NCNA report:** Lane Wyatt reported on the Flow Evaluation Tool (FET) that is being developed as required in HB 1177; this is funded with a \$315,000 grant from the CBRT Water Supply Reserve Account that was approved in January 2009. It is too early for the CBRT to approve the FET, but the NCNA committee hopes it will be finalized by June and ready for approval by the CBRT. The consultants are now comparing the FET to more traditional site specific studies. See additional discussion of the FET from the March 3 all-roundtable meeting in paragraph 1 on page 6 below.
 - a. **The Riparian Metric is finished.** This is the minimum water necessary to keep the riparian ecology intact. It differs from CWCB In-Stream Flow which is defined as the minimum water needed to protect the environment to a reasonable degree. Riparian flows also consider the minimum water needed to maintain the riparian habitat, which includes periodic floods to continuously propagate cottonwood forests, for instance.
 - b. **Bill Miller's study of the Upper Colorado River from Kremmling to Dotsero is complete.** He estimates the flows needed to support the riparian ecology at current levels are:
 1. **Minimum flows: 500 cfs or higher** to maintain habitat during fall, winter, and early spring.
 2. **Annual peak Flows:** 2,000 cfs above State Bridge, and 4,000 cfs above Dotsero.
 3. **Flooding Flows:** 4,000 cfs above State Bridge, and 8,000 cfs above Dotsero, 1-2 times every 10 years.

- c. **No site specific work has been done below Grand County**, and that's what the CBRT paid for when it paid for the River 2D Hydrology Study through a Water Supply Reserve Account Grant several years ago.
 - d. **There are 3 ongoing studies** in Eagle County, the Wild and Scenic River analysis on the Upper Colorado River, and the NCNA analysis that is supported with the CBRT grant.
 - e. **The Recreation Metric still needs to be finalized.**
7. **Headwaters Magazine.** Journalists have been selected, a draft copy will be presented to the CBRT, and the committee agreed to add more pages than have traditionally been printed. It costs \$1 per copy to print the magazine.
8. **CWCB Report.** John Stulp, the new IBCC chair, attended the meeting. He said that the IBCC will be pushing the CBRT to adopt the vision framework, and that Governor Hickenlooper wants a statewide water plan to be adopted within 5 years. He noted that two-thirds of Colorado water leaves its borders to fulfill compact obligations. A Colorado Basin Report is due by June from the roundtable; **a handout was provided that lists what is required for the report.**
9. Heather Bergman, heather@peakfacilitation.com, surveyed the CBRT members about the IBCC Vision Statement. Jacob Bernstein commented that all Roundtables feel that they are giving up more than they are receiving in the process. Member comments made after the survey are highlighted below.
- a. **1041 powers are crucial** to protecting West Slope water needs according to Lurline Curran. Eagle County used its 1041 powers to limit the expansion of Homestake Reservoir in the 1980s, and Front Range water developers have requested that these be curtailed. Lurline Curran said that several Colorado state agencies are coordinating efforts to obtain state approval of proposed projects, and this puts West Slope communities at a disadvantage. Grand County fears that collaboration by state agencies to do "what's good for the state" will lead to the demise of 1041 powers. The IBCC Vision Statement suggests examining "the role of the 1041 permitting process" on pages 18, item 3.v, and page 34, item 2.
 - b. **1041 approval power would be curtailed in a transmission siting bill currently pending in the Colorado legislature**, according to Stan Cazier.
 - c. **Biological requirements to protect riparian species cannot be ignored.** A streamlined 1041 process could conflict with riparian stewardship responsibilities according to David Graf.
 - d. **The IBCC Vision Statement emphasizes new supply development, IPPs (Identified Projects and Processes, which are proposed water projects that were listed in a SWSI survey), conservation, and agriculture**, and estimated the additional acre feet needed to support future Colorado population growth. But, **the Vision Statement does not estimate the amount of water needed to protect non-consumptive needs.**
 - e. **Agriculture transfers to cities.** The state estimates that if more than 15-20% of water now used for agriculture irrigation is transferred to cities, this could cause Colorado's agriculture industry to crash. **Agriculture dryups are the easiest way to satisfy the gap** since they just require a contract between the farmer and the city. The legal transaction costs for

interruptible supply agreements are expensive because all water users that could be affected by a temporary agriculture transfer feels compelled to enter an appearance in water court to protect their rights, no matter how remote. At the February 25 meeting to discuss the IBCC Vision Statement, Jacob Bornstein said a solution to this was to permit longer term interruptible supply agreements.

- f. **New supply development should not include agricultural transfers, since this is not a new supply** according to Mark Fuller. Also, what will become of irrigated lands after they are dried up – will they become new population centers, or will they be permanently fallowed?
- g. **Conservation water savings should be maximized now** rather than waiting until the future. Chips Barry stated that water used for lawn- and shrub-watering in Denver would be the last water available to fund the Front Range’s continued growth, so the Front Range has incentives to delay adopting aggressive conservation practices. Ken Neubecker suggested that conservation should be aggressively pursued now, before new supplies are developed and permanent agriculture dry-ups occur.
- h. **The Front Range need for 600,000 acre feet** (IBCC Vision Statement, page 8) can be met without new supply development according to Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition. Their recent publication *Filling the Gap* suggests that **574,000 acre feet is available from the following sources:**

Source	Water Available
Reuse current West Slope diversions to the East Slope to extinction	199,000
New water supplied from active water conservation	153,000
Temporary agricultural water transfers	120,000
Acceptable planned projects – i.e., IPPs that Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition believe are acceptable if done with appropriate environmental safeguards	102,000
Total	574,000

- i. **Do not develop all available Colorado River supplies in the next 40 years by 2050** since the Western Slope could take 200 years to develop; new supply development should consider longer planning horizons according to Rachel Richards.
- j. **The Foothills Settlement that requires reuse to extinction isn’t being honored.**
- k. **Land use planners should be pushing the need for new water supplies rather than water providers** according to Lane Wyatt. Denver Water, the Northern Water Conservancy District, and the Front Range Water Council are driving the push for new supplies. The

IBCC Vision process is being driven by projected population growth, 80% of which is expected to occur on the Front Range. There needs to be more input from land planners according to Louis Meyer. He recommends a more robust discussion regarding land use, and he questioned whether Colorado can sustainably support 10 million people.

- l. Colorado should estimate now how much water is needed for agriculture to feed** the state's current \$5 million population and projected 10 million population according to Ken Ransford.
 - m. Colorado cannot afford schools, road maintenance, higher education, and social services today.** How can the state afford these basic services with a doubled population?
 - n. The Water Availability Study suggests that 0-150,000 af is available for further development. Where will 600,000 af come from?** Jim Pokrandt noted that Aaron Million's proposal to pump 375,000 acre feet from Flaming Gorge Reservoir on the Green River to Denver (enough water to support additional 3 million people) would use up all future Colorado River Water available to Colorado.
 - o. No need for a joint task force.** Greg Trainor mentioned that there is no need for a new Joint Task Force (IBCC Vision Statement, page 26) to review new supply projects. Rather, the IBCC roundtable process is already set up to do this. Project proponents should first get approval from the affected Roundtable, and then undergo 1041 review.
 - p. The Roundtables should be on the joint task force** rather than the Department of Natural Resources in considering new supply development, since the Department of Natural Resources is an executive branch department that by nature is political. House Bill 2005-1177 stated the IBCC process should not be political, and the IBCC Vision Statement is violating this by having the state advocate for water projects (IBCC Vision Statement, page 27, item 6) according to Tom Clark and Summit County in a letter sent to John Stulp on February 22, 2011.
 - q. Joint roundtable meetings between the Colorado and South Platte Roundtables should be held** according to Louis Meyer.
 - r. IPPs should undergo the same scrutiny that is being recommended for new supplies.** New water supply development principles set forth on page 15-16 of the IBCC Vision Statement require that all new supply developments consider (1) both East and West Slope needs, as well as consumptive and non-consumptive needs; (2) risks and triggers to address other dry cycle sources to fill the gap when new supply water is unavailable; and (3) what happens in the event of a Colorado River Compact call. These same principles should be applied to all proposed IPPs according to Rachel Richards.
- 10. IBCC Vision Statement meeting held February 25 in Glenwood Springs.** John Stulp and Heather Bergman returned to Glenwood on February 25 for a public vetting of the IBCC Vision Statement; below are public comments made at the meeting:
- a. The Colorado River Basin population is expected to triple by 2050.**

- b. **We need to approve IPPs now, since the Animas La Plata project took 60 years to develop.**
 - c. **How do you protect non-consumptive riparian needs** since Colorado water law permits water owners to do whatever they please with their water rights?
 - d. **We need a system to take water in wet water years and not in dry water years.**
 - e. **We need a water transfer fee associated with both agricultural dryups** and new supply development, or else there will be a perverse incentive to dry up agriculture first.
 - f. **We need to determine the value of agriculture per acre feet, or of recreation flows per acre feet.** The Front Range believes that urban water is worth more than agricultural water, but this must be proven, and we can't do that until we know what an acre foot is worth for recreation or agriculture.
 - g. **We've been working on protecting and valuing consumptive M&I water uses for nearly 135 years,** while we've only been valuing non-consumptive needs since the 1960s. Thus, we know more as a state about the former.
 - h. **Interruptible Supply Agreements permit water to be diverted from farms in 3 of 10 years.** To decrease transaction costs, the term of the permissible lease should be increased.
 - i. **There's no state oversight over cities that buy up agricultural water rights** – it's done on an ad-hoc basis without any statewide coordination.
 - j. **The IBCC did not endorse the conservation recommendations because land use planning is controversial, and because point of sale legislation** that would require home buyers to upgrade to water saving appliances would allegedly make it too expensive to sell homes. California and Las Vegas have adopted similar point of sale measures, and they are some of the states that have been hardest hit by foreclosures.
 - k. Mesa County Commissioner Steve Aquafresca recommends **making county land use master plans more compelling rather than advisory.** Land use rules should be created now to accommodate future growth without damaging rivers.
 - l. **There's no recommendation in the IBCC Vision Statement to give priority to in-basin water uses** over transbasin diversions. But, House Bill 2005-1177 contemplated that basin transfers should be approved by the host basin that is transferring the water.
11. **IBCC All-Roundtable meeting held in Denver on March 3.** Below are public comments made at this first meeting of all Roundtable participants.
- a. **Mark Pifher stated that new supplies should be developed at the same time that conservation, IPPs, and reuse measures are adopted.** For every new acre foot that is developed, a water transfer should be paid to the basin of origin.
 - b. **Eric Kuhn stated that the notion that there is additional Colorado River water available for development is a political statement.** Only time will tell if it is true.
 - c. Wayne Vanderscheure, Water Resources Manager for Colorado Springs Utilities, stated there is **no consensus for the following conservation measures:**

1. Change state statutes to **require smaller municipalities to enforce conservation.**
 2. **Real estate point of sale legislation** requiring appliance upgrades when houses sell.
 3. **Allow water saved by conservation measures to be used by the party** that implemented the water saving measures.
- d. Travis Smith of the Rio Grande Basin said that **leadership, courage and political will are needed to complete IPPs**, and that this is the key to solving Colorado's future water problems.
 - e. **T. Wright Dickinson stated that agriculture contributes \$1.3 billion to Colorado's economy, and Colorado needs to decide if it is worth saving.** Farming is a wholesale business in which costs cannot be passed on to consumers (due to the middlemen who buy agricultural commodities from suppliers throughout the US and resell them). The status quo is unacceptable, because it could lead to the loss of 700,000 irrigated acres in Colorado.
 - f. Taylor Hawes of the Nature Conservancy said that **tourism contributes \$21.5 billion to Colorado's economy.** We know how to quantify M&I and agricultural consumption, but we are still learning how to quantify non-consumptive needs. Every river is different, and they raise site-specific concerns. We need to identify gaps and gather more information before making further diversions.
 - g. Heather Bergman reported on the survey results. **60% of Colorado Basin Roundtable survey participants said that the IPPs will hinder their basin efforts**, 43% of public survey participants agreed. In all other basin roundtables, very few participants believed that IPPs will hinder their basin efforts.
 - h. **A majority of the CBRT and a plurality of the South Platte Roundtable agree that new supply development will hinder their basin efforts.** Reasons given include:
 1. **More aggressive conservation is needed first.**
 2. **1041 authority should not be undercut.**
 3. **Money does not replace wet water lost to the Front Range.**
 4. **Do not tinker with Colorado's priority appropriation water law.**
 - i. The Colorado, North Platte, South Platte, and Yampa-White-Green Roundtables all believe that they will give up more than they gain. The remaining four roundtables do not think the framework is sufficiently defined to answer this question.
 - j. Rachel Richards commented that the **IBCC Vision Statement recommends that the State should support new water supply projects, but it does not recommend that water conservation mandates be imposed on municipalities.**
 - k. Frank Jaeger of Parker Water said that **we need to do a better job of explaining to the public that it will be expensive to develop new water supplies** and at the same time preserve riparian ecology. He commented that only 20% of new supply project costs are borne by ratepayers, while 64% of municipal water projects are borne by ratepayers.
 - l. **Steve Harris of the Southwest Basin Roundtable chaired a meeting at Table 24 which discussed the Flow Evaluation Tool (FET)** being developed with a grant from the CBRT. Elaine Lai of the EPA in Denver said that it is important to have all the players at the table from the beginning, and that a FET would help frame the discussion. She commented that the NEPA process is not a very collaborative process. **Table 24 concluded that the FET needs to be:**

1. **Predictable.**
 2. **Supported by the players such as the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA.**
 3. **Help move a project through the approval process.**
 4. **It's the State's job to sell the tool to the EPA, US Forest Service, and state agencies.**
 5. **The tool must be flexible enough to permit measurable attributes to differ.**
- m. Another comment at Table 24 was **that if a river was not on call, water could be diverted from it for any purpose**; that needs to be subject to review since there is no protection for non-consumptive needs in that situation. There are multiple federal requirements for permanent diversions, but not for temporary diversions.
- n. At an **agricultural panel hosted by Louis Meyer**, Harold Evans (Weld County Utilities), Jay Winner and Travis Smith, the following comments were noteworthy.
1. **Cities need a permanent water supply according to Harold Evans.** They have grown into and now out of irrigated lands surrounding cities, and now are moving into dry land. Cities have excess water in all but drought years. For Weld County, which produced 25% of Colorado's agricultural output in 2007, construction of new storage reservoirs is imperative.
 2. Louis Meyer mentioned that there are 111 water basins in Colorado, and each is different. Site specific analyses are needed in each basin, since what impacts one basin may not impact another. **Salt Lake City customers pay a fifty-cent per user surcharge each month to protect their watershed.** Colorado could adopt this practice to help upstream farmers remain in agriculture. Transaction costs are too high – municipalities are afraid to go into Water Court for fear that they'll be unable to prove up their water rights and hence lose them.
 3. Steve Harris discussed the Colorado River Compact Water Bank, and questioned whether allowing land to lay fallow for 2-3 years was practical. When land comes back into production, it typically uses less fertilizer. Also, farmers can go from high water-consumptive crops to low consumptive crops.
 4. **The South Platte water regime is built on return flows.** Water in the South Platte is used 5-6 times before it reaches Nebraska. Their cooperation does not injure return flows. The South Platte diverts 2 million acre feet per year for agriculture, while the Colorado and Gunnison Basins together divert 6 million af per year for agriculture.

Appendix: Summary of Prior Meetings

December 12, 2005

The Bylaws of the Colorado River Basin Roundtable (CBRT) were approved.

Elect IBCC Round Table representatives Stan Cazier and Carlyle Currier.

January 23, 2006

1. Lyn Kathlene presented results from a survey of stakeholders on water issues in Colorado.
2. Eric Kuhn discussed Colorado Big Thompson project, the Blue River decree, and other water projects.
3. Louis Meyer made a motion that was seconded and approved that the CBRT break into subgroups at future meetings.

February 27, 2006

1. Small groups determined issues to address in future meetings.
2. Lane Wyatt presented the Upper Colorado Study.
3. Richard Proctor discussed the Grand Valley Water User's Association.
4. A motion was made by Mark Fuller, and seconded by Louis Meyer, and unanimously passed that all future projects that affect the Colorado River Basin, including those that have already initiated the permitting and DEIS process such as the Moffatt Tunnel and Windy Gap, be open for review and discussion by the Roundtable.

March 27, 2006

1. Discussion of short term and long term goals of the CBRT.

April 24, 2006

1. Karla Brown, outgoing Executive Director of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education, made a presentation regarding the Director's Notebook.
2. Subgroups presented goals. The four subgroups were:
 - Consumptive use
 - Non-consumptive use
 - Water availability
 - Education
3. Louis Meyer made a motion that was seconded and approved to discuss the topic of determining the baseline data for minimum stream flow needs in the Colorado River basin, for discussion at the May, 2006 meeting.

May 22, 2006

1. The Colorado Basin Roundtable decided that a quarterly meeting with other Roundtables is a good idea.
2. Presentation by Gary Severson, Executive Director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, on demographic trends in the Upper Colorado Basin.
3. Colorado Department of Natural Resources Handbook, *Water Supply and Needs Report for Colorado Basin*, was handed out.

June 26, 2006

1. Russell George, Director of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, presented a discussion on the \$10 million/year IBCC grant requests (\$40 million total).
2. Don Carlson of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern), discussed Northern's plan to take over the Bureau of Reclamation's operations and maintenance of the Colorado Big Thompson project, except for operations at the Green Mountain Reservoir.
3. Jim Pearce of the Colorado River Water Conservation District made a presentation on the Green Mountain Reservoir pump back.
4. A motion was made to request the Colorado congressional delegation to ensure that the Grand Junction office of the Bureau of Reclamation maintain oversight of the Green Mountain Reservoir operations and maintenance.

July 24, 2006

1. Bill Bates, Denver Water Board, discussed the 2006 Shoshone power plant agreement between the City of Denver and Public Service Company (Xcel) in which Denver secured a call reduction of up to 550 cfs at the Shoshone power plant between March 20 and May 20 each year in years that Denver Water's projected reservoir storage capacity is less than 80%. The actual water saved will vary from year to year, due to the complex relationship between Xcel's Shoshone call, downstream priorities, water availability at diversion points and actual native flow available in the stream. Dave Merritt estimates that the agreement may generate 6,000 to 10,000 maximum additional acre feet for Denver in any year that Denver Water's projected reservoir storage capacity is less than 80%.
2. Bob Smith, news anchor for KKCT television station in Grand Junction, made a presentation to promote Grand Valley Lake, a proposed 195,000 acre foot reservoir on Orchard Mesa.
3. The roundtable discussed recommendations to the CWCB for how to allocate the SB 179 \$10 million grants.
4. The roundtable unanimously agreed to revise the June 2006 resolution to recommend that the Grand Junction Bureau of Reclamation office manage Green Mountain Reservoir. The revised resolution recommends that the reservoir be managed by an unprejudiced agency in a fair and impartial manner.

August 26, 2006

1. Presentation by Connie Woodhouse, Tree Rings and Past Flows on the Colorado River.
2. IBCC Report: New IBCC subcommittees were created: (1) Needs Assessment Work Group to study

instream flows and water quality; (2) Education and Outreach: How to get public input back to the IBCC, so that special interest groups do not dominate; and (3) Water Supply Reserve Account Guidelines to determine how to allocate SB-179 grant money.

3. Changes to the SB 179 Grant Guidelines were discussed and agreed upon to forward to the IBCC and CWCB.

September 25, 2006

1. CBRT Bylaws were approved, and the officer slate was re-elected, with no change from the prior year to either the bylaws or the officer slate.
2. Subcommittees met to determine potential Water Supply Reserve Account grant applications.
4. Stan Cazier recommended that a representative from XCEL energy come to the November CBRT meeting to discuss Shoshone power plant operations, and that the CBRT discuss drafting the letter and meeting with Denver after that discussion. Ken Neubecker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

October 23, 2006

1. The CBRT report to the legislature for 2005-06 was edited, with changes stressing that the CBRT believes SWSI inadequately addressed consumptive and nonconsumptive needs assessment and, in particular, failed to address energy development's impact on water supply and availability.
2. CDM (Camp Dresser McKee) was introduced as the engineering firm charged with performing the needs assessment.
3. Group broke out into consumptive and nonconsumptive groups to discuss SB 179 and HB 1400 grant requests, and decided to prioritize these at the November 2006 meeting.
4. No motions were voted upon. However, the CBRT members discussed and stated its strong belief that a basin wide needs assessment is needed.

November 27, 2006

1. The CBRT approved unanimously a motion by Lane Wyatt that CDM prepare a non-consumptive needs assessment of the Colorado River basin.
2. The CBRT approved unanimously a motion by Lurline Curran that the CBRT join the Arkansas, Denver Metro, and South Platte roundtables in requesting that SB 179 funds be used for a 10825 Water nonconsumptive needs assessment.
3. Tom Pitts, P.E., water user's representative for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, discussed minimum stream flow requirements to protect endangered fish in the Colorado River through Garfield and Mesa Counties.
4. Tim Sarno, Town Manager of Palisade, and Pete Atkinson of WATER, requested \$100,000 from SB 179 to fund the Palisade whitewater park at the Price Stubbs roller dam just upstream of Palisade on the Colorado River. Decision on the grant request was postponed until the December CBRT meeting.

December 18, 2006

1. The CBRT voted on the following grant requests; 18 votes needed to forward to the CWCB for consideration:

CBRT Approval to Spend CBRT \$	CBRT Approval to Spend CWCB \$	Applicant and Grant Purpose	CBRT Vote to spend CBRT Funds	CBRT Vote to spend CWCB Funds
\$40,000		Ruedi Power Authority – Roaring Fork Watershed Plan	27	7
30,000		Grand County – Stream Management Plan methodology	27	6
	250,000	Eagle County – Increase Eagle Park Reservoir by 155 acre feet		24
	1,500,000	Grand County – Purchase share in Vail Ditch		26
	300,000	CBRT – Join with Yampa Roundtable for Energy Development Water Needs Assessment		25
	200,000	CBRT – Join with Metro Denver and South Platte Roundtables for analysis of 10825 Water and Endangered Fish Recovery Program		25
		Bull Creek Reservoir Co. – Enlarge reservoir. \$150,000 request, did not pass	13	16
		Palisade – Price Stubbs Roller Dam Whitewater Park - \$100,000 did not pass	5	10

2. A non-consumptive needs assessment working group was established to develop the parameters of a grant request for a non-consumptive needs assessment. Ken Neubecker, Rose Ann Sullivan, Louis Meyer, Bruce Hutchins, Phil Overeynder, Ken Ransford, Tom Hilleke, and Lane Wyatt volunteered to join this committee
3. Tom Clark, Greg Trainor, Mark Fuller and Mike Wajack formed an energy- needs assessment committee to study energy extraction impacts on Western Slope water.
4. The CBRT approved changes to Amendment 18 that was being discussed by the CWCB. Amendment 18 would permit the CWCB to set aside 20% of severance tax Revenue allocated to the Department of Natural Resources for new water projects. The CBRT voted to limit the scope that the severance tax revenues could be used for to the following types of water projects: “addressing compact calls, drought mitigation, endangered species, instream flows, river restoration, and recreation.”

January 22, 2007

1. The CBRT voted unanimously to send a letter to Governor Bill Ritter commending Russell George’s leadership in the roundtable process.
2. Ken Neubecker reported that a subcommittee met to discuss the non consumptive needs assessment required by HB 1177, and listed 8 areas the non-consumptive needs assessment should cover.
3. The 2006 Shoshone Reduction Agreement between Denver and Xcel energy was discussed, with presentations by Bill Bates, Randy Rhodes, Bill Sappington, Ken Neubecker, and David Graf.

February 26, 2007

1. Chips Barry, head of Denver Water, held a question and answer session with Eric Kuhn and other parties regarding the current mediation between Denver Water and several Western Slope water entities to address the Moffat firming project, and the Blue River Decree.
2. Kirby Wynn, USGS, and Cathy Kay, Western Colorado Congress, discussed water requirements for oil shale and mineral development on the Western Slope
3. Rick Brown, CWCB, discussed and suggested improvements to recent SB 179 grant applications.

March 26, 2007

1. James Pritchett, CSU agricultural economist, discussed the impact to local tax revenues if irrigated agricultural land is taken out of production when agricultural water uses are redirected for municipal and industrial uses.
2. Eric Kuhn, Colorado River Water Conservation District, discussed the potential impact of global warming on Colorado water resources, and the need for Colorado to determine how it will respond to a call on the river by lower basin states.
3. Ken Neubecker, Trout Unlimited, explained the components of a non-consumptive needs assessment.

April 23, 2007

1. Lynn Kathleen, PhD., conducted a network analysis survey funded by the IBCC Outreach and Education Subcommittee to determine spheres of influence among water stakeholders.
2. Rick Brown, CWCB, led a discussion of the grants requested by Grand County and the Roaring Fork Watershed Group, and whether the results of the studies funded by these grants could interfere with existing water rights.
3. John Sikora discussed the energy subcommittee's progress in determining energy development's water needs, and attempts to discover water rights owned by energy companies on the Colorado and White rivers.

May 21, 2007

1. Art Bowles presented a request for \$25,000 from the Basin Reserve Account for well monitoring equipment and a study in Missouri Heights, in Carbondale.
2. Irvin Johnson presented a request for \$120,000 from the Statewide Reserve Account to maintain and improve Bull Creek Reservoir No. 4.
3. Irvin Johnson presented a request for \$50,000 from the Basin Reserve Account to pay for engineering studies of Bull Creek Reservoir No. 5.
4. David Merritt of the Colorado River Water Conservation District and CBRT chair, discussed salinity and selenium in the Colorado River.

June 25, 2007

1. The Missouri Heights well monitoring grant request for \$25,000 from the Basin Reserve Account was approved with 22 votes in favor and 0 opposed.
2. The grant request to improve Bull Creek Reservoir No. 4 for \$120,000 from the Statewide Funding Account was approved with 22 votes in favor and 0 opposed.
3. The grant request to study the spillway at Bull Creek Reservoir No. 5 for \$50,000 from the Basin Funding Account was approved with 20 votes in favor and 1 opposed. Phil Overeynder opposed the grant request because he did not feel that Bull Creek Reservoir Company adequately explained how it would pay for the spillway improvements once the engineering studies were complete.
4. Jeff Baessler and Linda Basin made a presentation on Colorado's In Stream Flow program administered by the CWCB.
5. Eric Hecox of the CWCB made a presentation regarding progress on the Non Consumptive Needs Analysis (NCNA) study of water in Colorado.

July 23, 2007

1. Dave Merritt presented an overview of the Water Availability Study, designed to determine water available for current and future development in Colorado.
2. A handout described Aaron Million's Green River Pumpback proposal. A memo by Eric Kuhn encouraging the CRWCD Board to oppose the project until the consumptive, non-consumptive, and energy needs assessments are completed, and a response by Million's attorneys to allow the proposal to go forward and be evaluated under the NEPA process were also included.

September 24, 2007

1. Eric Hecox led a discussion of the Water Availability Study scope of work. Tyler Martineau and Ken Spann, Gunnison Roundtable members, attended and commented.

Handouts included the Bylaws for the CBRT, a 15-page Colorado River Water Availability Study Scope, September 12, 2007 draft, and a magazine by the Colorado Water Education Foundation regarding groundwater in the Denver Basin was distributed.

October 22, 2007

1. The CBRT held a joint meeting with the IBCC. Dave Merritt presented the major issues affecting the Colorado River Basin to the IBCC.
2. The minutes summarize water issues that concern counties represented in the Colorado Basin Roundtable. Tables in the minutes describe current transbasin diversions to the East Slope that total nearly 500,000 AF, and a list of Colorado River Basin reservoirs that total over 1,340,000 AF storage.
3. Dan Birch, a Yampa Roundtable member and engineer with the CRWCD, described the Yampa pumpback proposed by the NCWCD.
4. The proposed Green Mountain pumpback to pump water upstream to Dillon was discussed.

Handouts included an updated Colorado River Water Availability Study Scope, October 19, 2007 draft, a press release by the Colorado River District urging the State Engineer to delay adopting rules to administer a Compact Call until the Water Availability Study is completed, Dave Merritt's summary of Colorado Basin issues, and a summary of comments on the Water Availability Study that were sent to the CWCB.

November 26, 2007

1. John Redifer of the CWCB explained CWCB's proposed Policy 18, which would permit the CWCB to set aside 20% of its Severance Tax revenues to invest in water projects in return for water rights that the CWCB could sell or lease. The CWCB presently only holds water rights for Instream Flow (discussed at the June 2007 CBRT meeting).
2. Grant proposals were presented requesting \$327,900 from the CBRT Basin Account. To date, \$115,000 has been allocated from this account, and \$1 million is available over 6 years.

December 17, 2007

1. The CBRT Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment committee held a meeting that discussed the timetable of the Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment data would be collected (18 months), and a discussion of the data collection techniques to quantify minimum flows required to maintain healthy river ecosystems.
2. The CBRT approved grants totaling \$300,000 from the CBRT Basin Account and \$127,900 from the Statewide Account. To date, \$415,000 has been allocated from the CBRT Basin Account out of \$1 million total available over 6 years. The grants approved include:

Proposal	CBRT \$	CWCB \$
Grand County Phase 2 Stream Flow Mgmt Plan	100,000	
Roaring Fork Watershed Study Phase 2	40,000	
Old Dillon Reservoir Enlargement	100,000	
Fraser River Berthoud Pass sand collection facility	60,000	127,900
Total	\$300,000	\$127,900

3. Jim Broderick, Executive Director of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pitkin County Commissioner Rachel Richards, and Aspen City Engineer Phil Overeynder discussed the PSOP, or Preferred Storage Option Plan, for increased storage alternatives in the Fryngpan-Arkansas basin. The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District recommends increasing dam heights to store 75,000 additional acre feet in Pueblo Reservoir and 14,000 additional acre feet in Turquoise Lake.

January 28, 2008

1. Scott Balcomb, Glenwood Springs attorney, discussed the Upper Colorado River Commission the Shortage Criteria recently adopted by the 7 states that are participants in the Colorado River Compact, and Colorado's need to develop a response to a forthcoming Compact Call.
2. The settlement between Denver and the Eagle Water and Sanitation District was discussed in which Eagle settled its lawsuit against Denver for failure to exercise due diligence in perfecting its conditional water rights. Denver relinquished conditional water rights it held in the Eagle River upstream of Minturn and in

the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area, but retained the right to develop the Wolcott Reservoir and fill it with withdrawals from the Eagle River and Piney River.

3. John Bickerman discussed the Global Settlement negotiations.

February 25, 2008

1. Stan Cazier and Carlyle Currier led a discussion of what the CBRT would like the Colorado River to look like in 50 years with respect to water supplies. Roundtable members recommended that sources of water be addressed in local land planning decisions; that agriculture should not be dried up to permit bluegrass lawns and ornamental shrubs on the Front Range; that agriculture should be preserved in Colorado; the Front Range conserve more water; and that the water availability, consumptive and non-consumptive needs analyses be completed before additional east slope diversions occur.
2. Mark Levorson of URS described the impact that natural gas drilling in Garfield County is having on water supplies. Drilling activities can permit saline water from deep water aquifers to migrate up through vertical fractures into potable water supplies, and permit saline plumes to migrate to the Colorado River.
3. A preliminary report on the energy demand water needs assessment was presented.

March 24, 2008

1. The CBRT discussed the CWCB's denial of the Roaring Fork Watershed and Grand County Stream flow Management Plan grant applications on the grounds that they constitute unacceptable challenges to Colorado water law.
2. Lane Wyatt reported on the Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment committee progress. The NCNA committee selected the Roaring Fork River and the Colorado River between Kremmling and Dotsero in order to do model NCNAs.
3. Rod Sharp discussed educational town meetings, and suggested that each CBRT Roundtable member schedule a town meeting in their area promoting the CBRT process.

April 28, 2008

1. Eric Kuhn discussed his draft "Vision for a West Slope Water Future."
2. The Grand County Stream Flow Management Plan, Phase II, was discussed by consultants Peggy Bailey and Thomas Wesche.

May 19, 2008

1. Carlyle Currier discussed efforts to conserve water consumed in agricultural operations.
2. Harris Sherman asked the Roundtable to address what the State should look like in 50 years and to comment on the IBCC/Roundtable process.
3. Rick Brown discussed SWSI Phase II.

4. Water Reserve Account grant requests were discussed.

Proposal	CBRT \$	CWCB \$
West Divide Water Conservancy District proposal for feasibility study of 3 Thompson Creek reservoirs.	\$40,000	
Battlement Reservoir #3 reconstruction to provide habitat for Colorado native Cutthroat Trout	80,000	
Membrane treatment study to result in zero level discharge and reduce wastewater byproducts to solids that can be stored in landfills.	200,000	600,000
Total	\$320,000	\$600,000

September 22, 2008

1. Jewlya Lynn and Lyn Kathleen discussed how a board without legal authority such as the CBRT can make a difference. The CBRT discussed past issues that have been voted upon, and policies that could be decided upon in the future by the CBRT.
2. Eric Hecox gave an update on the IBCC vision statement.
3. The CBRT unanimously voted to oppose Amendment 52, which is designed to cap severance tax revenues to 1.7% of oil produced (this is the tax currently being levied) and to divert severance tax revenues from the Department of Natural Resources to funding improvements on Interstate 70.

October 20, 2008

1. Sherri Thompson, BLM Program Manager for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), discussed the PEIS. It is being forwarded to the governors of Utah, Wyoming and Colorado for their comments.
2. Greg Trainor reported the Phase 1 Final Draft of the Energy Water Needs Assessment commissioned by the Water and Energy Subcommittee. Estimates of water needed for energy development in the Colorado and Yampa-White River basins range from 30,000 to 410,000 acre feet, with oil shale accounting for 380,000 af. The Roundtable unanimously voted to approve the draft and forward it to the IBCC, the CWCB, and the Governor for consideration prior to his approving the PEIS.
3. Jewlya Lynn and Lyn Kathleen presented a model that the CBRT can use to adopt policies and to promote the policies to interested stakeholders. The CBRT used the model in approving the Phase 1 Energy Water Needs Assessment.

November 24, 2008

1. Lane Wyatt reported that the CWCB has declined to fund the Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment as required by House Bill 1177.
2. Eric Kuhn reported on the Colorado River Compact Curtailment Commission, which has been created to develop a statewide plan to respond to a Compact Call.

3. Jim Pokrandt reported on the 4 basin roundtable meeting in Gunnison on November 14, and discussed the CWCB's prediction that meeting the Gap will result in a 35-70% reduction in irrigated acreage in Colorado.

January 26, 2009

1. Eric Hecox and Jacob Bornstein reviewed the Vision Statement that is being presented to the CWCB and the IBCC.
2. The CBRT approved \$315,000 from the Basin Reserve Account to pay for a nonconsumptive needs analysis. The CWCB had earlier agreed to fund this, but failed to do the analysis, so the CBRT agreed to fund it. The goal is to develop a flow monitoring tool and to test it at 3 locations on the Colorado River between Pumphouse and Dotsero. If successful, the flow monitoring tool will be an inexpensive alternative to site specific analyses, which cost up to \$50,000 per site to determine river flows necessary to maintain riparian health. The grant proposal will be discussed by the CWCB at its March board meeting.

February 23, 2009

1. Eric Hecox and Jacob Bornstein discussed agricultural water issues statewide and as they pertain to the Colorado River basin.
2. Blaine Dwyer updated the CBRT on the progress of the Water Availability Study and requested input into the model and the assumptions that are being made in it.

April 27, 2009

1. Eric Hecox discussed Identified Projects and Processes including Aaron Million's Green River Pumpback, the Yampa Pumpback, and the Green Mountain Pumpback, as well as conservation efforts, and requested Colorado Basin Roundtable members to comment on them.
2. Denver Water and Northern discussed environmental mitigation efforts they are offering to preserve stream flows in the Upper Colorado River.
3. Eric Barber of the Arkansas Roundtable visited and requested that the CBRT spend \$15,000 to study whether Fry-Ark water can be stored in underground aquifers in the Arkansas Basin.
4. Ray Tenney, engineer with the CRWCD, described town meetings that have been held regarding Aaron Million's Green River Pumpback from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Denver.

August 24, 2009

1. Chris Treese commented on progress in the global settlement negotiations, and on the IBCC meetings.
2. Ken Neubecker reported on progress of the water flow evaluation tool (WFET) and Front Range concerns about the use of the tool.
3. Kristen Maharg reported on the member survey results of the survey conducted by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education
4. The Roundtable voted unanimously to hold a workshop to explain the WFET to skeptical Front Range interests.

November 23, 2009

1. Chris Treese commented on progress in reaching an agreement for 10825 water.
2. The CBRT Voted unanimously to continue the non-consumptive needs analysis.
3. Bill Bates of Denver Water described Denver Water's proposed Moffatt Tunnel firming project. The CBRT Voted unanimously to draft a response to the EIS created for the Moffatt Tunnel firming project.
4. Clark Anderson of the Sonoran Institute discussed linking water supplies to future land development proposals.
5. Mark Nieslanik on behalf of the Tybar Ranch owned by Betsy Considine requested \$100,000 from CBRT Basin Reserve Account to construct a spillway and repair broken pipe at the outlet of Dinkle Lake, southeast of Carbondale on the north flank of Mr. Sopris. The CBRT voted this down.
6. Tim Beck on behalf of Spring Valley Holding LLC, which owns and plans to develop 6,000 acres into a residential PUD, requested funds to improve Hopkins Reservoir 6 miles east of Glenwood Springs. The CBRT voted this down.

January 25, 2010

1. A CBRT response prepared by Karn Stieglemeier, Summit County Commissioner, to the Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Impact Statement for Denver Water's 18,000 acre foot proposed diversion from the Upper Fraser River into the Moffatt Tunnel collection system was discussed.
2. Louis Meyer described the threat of emerging contaminants in the river.
3. The CBRT voted unanimously to request the Army Corps of Engineers to extend the comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement beyond March 1, 2010.

February 22, 2010

1. CBRT members discussed the response to the 18,000 AF Moffatt diversion EIS.
2. The CBRT voted unanimously to send a brief comment to the Army Corps regarding the Draft EIS for the Moffatt diversion, and more extensive comments to remaining roundtables.

March 22, 2010

1. Rachel Richards made a motion to send a letter to not permit mercury waste to be stored in Mesa County due to its potential interference with Colorado water supplies, and Karn Stiegelmeier seconded it. It passed unanimously.
2. Eric Kuhn and Lurline Curran updated the CBRT on the settlement negotiations.
3. Jacob Bornstein updated the CBRT on anticipated Western Slope population growth and water needs.

May 24, 2010

1. The meeting of the 4 western slope roundtables on May 10 and the Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS) Phase I report were discussed.

2. Water supply Reserve Account applications were introduced to be voted on at the June meeting.
3. Jacob Bornstein updated the CBRT on the CRWAS.

June 28, 2010

1. Drew Beckwith and Bart Miller of Western Resource Advocates discussed municipal water savings from conservation.
2. Kathleen Curry and Alex Davis led a discussion of potential legislative changes to water law.
3. Water supply Reserve Account applications were introduced to be voted on at the June meeting.
4. Jacob Bornstein updated the CBRT on the CRWAS.

July 26, 2010

1. Ben Harding and Shaden Musleh of AMEC summarized Phase 1 of the Energy Water study, which suggests that up to 150,000 acre feet will be needed for a high production oil shale scenario. Greg Trainor made a motion to accept Phase 1 of the Energy Water Study, Caroline Bradford seconded it, and it passed unanimously.
2. Viva deHaza and Kevin Reidy provided an update on the CWCB's estimate of water available from conservation practices over the next 40 years.
3. The CBRT voted 16 to 2 to spend \$25,000 of the CBRT Basin Reserve Account to produce an issue by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education devoted to the Colorado River Basin issues.

September 27, 2010

1. The CBRT voted unanimously to oppose Amendments 60, 61, and 101.
2. Jacob Bornstein of the CWCB explained the 2010 SWSI update. Caroline Bradford made a motion to grant more time to comment on the 2010 SWSI update, Rachel seconded it, and the CBRT members unanimously agreed.
3. **The Best Practices Water Efficiency Guide** for municipal water providers that Bart Miller and Drew Beckwith of Western Resource Advocates discussed at the June 2010 CBRT meeting is now available; it can be downloaded at <http://coloradowaterwise.onefireplace.org/>.

October 25, 2010

1. The NCNA flow evaluation tool was discussed by John Sanderson of The Nature Conservancy and Nathan Fey of American Whitewater.
2. Chris Landry described the dust on snow studies he is performing, concluding that additional dust on Colorado's snowpack is accelerating the snowmelt by as much as 30 days and causing additional evapotranspiration losses of 5% of the Colorado River flow past Lee Ferry.
3. Eric Kuhn updated the CBRT on the Global Settlement negotiations and on the IBCC Vision Statement.

November 22, 2010

1. The Headwaters Magazine issue devoted to the Colorado Basin was discussed.
2. The IBCC process was discussed, and whether it was intended to be top-down where the IBCC dictates to the roundtables (which the CWCB staff prefers), or bottom up, where Roundtables direct the IBCC. The answer isn't clear, although it appears to be leaning to the former top-down style.
3. Dennis Reich of CSU Extension discussed a WSRA grant request to hire an intern to audit, sample, and test irrigation practices.

January 25, 2011

1. The NCNA flow evaluation tool was discussed by Lane Wyatt.
2. Heather Bergman gave a survey to CBRT members to poll them about their opinion of the Roundtable process.
3. Member comments were summarized from the IBCC Vision Statement at the January 25 CBRT Roundtable meeting, the February 25 public comment meeting, and at the March 3 all-Roundtable meeting in Denver.

Glossary

10825 water. The Bureau of Reclamation designated 10,825 acre feet in Ruedi Reservoir as being available to support the Endangered Fish Recovery Program (EFRP). This was discussed at the November 2006 CBRT meeting. In an agreement scheduled to expire 12/31/09, Denver Water has voluntarily released ½ of that amount, or 5,412.5 cfs, from Williams Reservoir, and the Colorado River Water conservation District has released the remaining 5,412.5 cfs from Wolford Reservoir. If the agreement is not extended beyond 2009, prior water project approvals which permitted water appropriations from the Colorado River may not comply with the Endangered Species Act, and may be called into question. See www.grandriver.us/10825 for a history of the 10825 program

20% Gap. The CBRT created the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) to study long term water needs in Colorado. SWSI Phase 1 determined that by 2030, there would be 20% greater demand than supplies existing in 2005; this is known as the 20% Gap.

Aspinall Unit. The Aspinall Unit includes three reservoirs on the Gunnison River: (1) Blue Mesa Reservoir, designed for water storage; (2) Morrow Point Reservoir, a dam with a lot of head in a narrow canyon designed to generate hydroelectric power; and (3) Crystal Reservoir, which collects Morrow Point Reservoir releases and moderates further releases into the Gunnison River at more constant flow levels.

Blue Mesa Pump Back. A proposal to drill a tunnel below the Collegiate Range to transport water from Blue Mesa Reservoir on the Gunnison River to the Eastern Slope.

Blue River Decree. A conditional water right granted to Denver Water to withdraw water from Dillon Reservoir through the Roberts Tunnel into the North Fork of the South Platte River.

CBRT: Colorado Basin Roundtable

CDM: Camp, Dresser, McKee, the engineering firm selected by CWCB to assist the Roundtables in perform the needs assessment called for in Section 35 75-104(2)(c), CRS (as created in HB 1177) .

CDSS: The Colorado Decision Support System, a computer modeling program developed by the CWCB that predicts river flows in Colorado. The CDSS is accessed at:
<http://water.state.co.us/pubs/datasearch.asp>.

CRWCD – The Colorado River Water Conservation District. This State Agency was founded in 1937 in response to plans by Denver Water and the NCWCD to divert Colorado River water to the Eastern Slope through the Adams and Moffatt Tunnels. The CRWCD was chartered to be "the appropriate agency for the conservation, use and development of the water resources of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries in Colorado." The CRWCD's office is in Glenwood Springs.

CWCB - Colorado Water Conservation Board: This is an agency of the State with a board appointed by the governor. It was created in 1937 for the purpose of aiding in the protection and development of the waters of the state. The agency is responsible for water project planning and

finance, stream and lake protection, flood hazard identification and mitigation, weather modification, river restoration, water conservation, drought planning, water information and water supply protection. It is the sole entity which can receive grants of conservation easements of water flows. It also administers grants from the Water Supply Reserve Account called for by SB 179.

Compact call. A call by Lower Basin States (California, Arizona and Nevada) that would require Upper Basin States (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico) to limit diversions from the Colorado River and its tributaries. No Compact Call has ever been made.

Colorado River Compact - the 1922 agreement among the Colorado Basin States, and ratified by Congress in 1929. It was based upon an assumption that the average annual flow in the Colorado River at Lee Ferry is at least 15 million acre feet (maf), and that the Upper and Lower Basins would each receive 7.5 maf, to be divided among the Basins as they agreed. The 1922 agreement was predicated upon a concern that development in California was outpacing development in every other Western state, and that California would appropriate most Colorado River water unless changes were implemented to recognize the rights of each state to develop a certain amount of water in their own time frame.

Conditional water rights. Water rights that are not yet developed, but represent an intent to develop for a specific purpose in the future. They establish a priority date over later granted water rights.

Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Four fish, the Colorado pikeminnow, Razorback sucker, Humpback chub, and Bonytail, are listed as endangered species; they reside in the Colorado, Yampa-White, and Green Rivers.

Energy Development Water Needs Assessment. A study that estimates the water required for energy development in the Colorado and Yampa-White basins. The study was commissioned by the Colorado and Yampa-White Basin Roundtables and paid for by a \$300,000 Water Supply Reserve Account grant. Phase 1, released in October 2008, estimated that 30,000 af to 410,000 af is needed for energy development, with potential oil shale production accounting for about 380,000 acre feet of this. Phase 2 addresses where the water is likely to come from; it will consider the impact of redirecting the extensive conditional and absolute water rights already owned by energy industry to energy development.

Firming project. The process of transforming a conditional water right to an absolute water right. It includes legal adjudications in water court and also the construction of storage facilities or diversion points to actually put the water to beneficial use.

Green Mountain Pumpback. 300 cfs would be pumped from Green Mountain Reservoir to Dillon Reservoir with a yield of 53,000 AF. This would permit Denver Water to divert more Dillon Reservoir water through the Roberts Tunnel to the North Fork of the South Platte. A new reservoir is sited at Wolcott to hold 25,000 to 85,000 AF to replace releases that will no longer be made from Green Mountain Reservoir down the Blue River. A pumping plant on the Eagle River with 250 cfs pumping capacity would fill the proposed Wolcott Reservoir.

Green River Pumpback. A proposal by Aaron Million to divert water from the Flaming Gorge Reservoir on the Green River and pump it east along Interstate 80 and then south along Interstate 25 to the Front Range.

House Bill 1177: Passed in 2005 by the Colorado legislature, this sets up nine roundtables around in the following drainages to discuss how to meet the water demands by year 2030:

Western Slope

Colorado
Yampa-White
Gunnison
San Juan

Eastern Slope

Arkansas
Rio Grande
North Platte
South Platte
Denver Metro

HB 05-1177 permits basins to study and implement voluntary transfers between basins in Colorado, while reaffirming existing water rights and the prior appropriation system. It states in relevant part:

37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the State Constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law.

HB 1177 has 5 stated goals:

1. Consumptive needs analysis
2. Non- Consumptive needs analysis
3. Water availability study
4. Solve the 20% gap
5. Public education of water issues facing Colorado

In-stream flow. A flow rate appropriated by the Colorado Water Conservation Board which represents the amount of water deemed necessary to protect the environment to a reasonable degree. This determination takes into consideration the availability of water under water rights administered. An In-Stream Flow right is administered in priority, along with all other water rights on the stream.

Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs). These are water diversion and storage processes that have been identified by the CWCB in each major river basin in Colorado that provide additional water to meet future municipal and industrial (M&I) water needs. The IPPs are in various stages of development, and are projected to provide about 500,000 additional acre feet. Many are expansions of existing water projects. The CWCB estimates that Colorado will need up to 1.75 maf under a high growth scenario in 2050.

Maybell Pump Back: A proposal by the Northern Water Conservancy District to pump water from the Yampa River to the Eastern Slope.

NCNA. Non consumptive needs assessment conducted pursuant to HB 1177 to determine the

amount of water needed to meet environmental and recreational uses.

Northern or NCWCD: The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the agency that contracts for delivery of water from the Colorado Big Thompson Project that diverts water from the Upper Colorado River at collection facilities in Grand County for distribution to the eastern slope.

PHABSIM: Physical habitat simulation. A technique developed in the 1970s by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine optimal and critical river flows necessary to maintain healthy river ecosystems. A river site is first selected that has favorable fish habitat. At each selected site, river volumes are measured at ten transects (a transect is a line across the river that is perpendicular to the river flow), at 3 different times during high, medium and low flows from early spring to late fall. A Habitat Suitability Curve is developed for each site that indicates critical flows below which fish habitat is imperiled.

PBO: A Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Recovery of the Endangered Colorado River fish, which requires a number of measures which function as “reasonable and prudent alternatives” for diversions that would otherwise harm endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River.

Produced Water: This is water that has been produced from human activity, such as water reclaimed through sewage treatment, or water which has been pumped to the surface in the course of coalbed methane drilling activities.

PSOP: The Preferred Storage Option Plan, a series of water storage options to capture additional water from the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork River drainages for delivery to the Eastern Slope, discussed at the November 2007 CBRT meeting. PSOP essentially refers to increasing the height of existing reservoirs in the Arkansas River drainage so that they can capture more water diverted from the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan drainages. Front Range municipalities have long-filed conditional water rights to capture additional water but, without PSOP, they have no means to collect and store the additional diversions.

RICD: Recreation In Channel Diversion. A water right awarded in order to protect recreational boating in the river.

Shoshone Call: Xcel energy has a call on the Colorado River with a priority dating to 1907 permitting it to run 1,250 cfs through the Shoshone power plant turbines. In 2006, Xcel and Denver Water entered into an agreement which permits Denver to reduce the call by 704 cfs at the Shoshone power plant between March 20 and May 20 in years that Denver Water’s projected reservoir storage capacity is less than 80%; discussed at the July 2006 CBRT meeting.

Substitution. The Blue River Decree requires that Denver Water and Colorado Springs Utilities provide water to Green Mountain Reservoir on the Blue River so that there is sufficient water to meet late summer agricultural calls by ranchers whose water rights are superior to the 1937 decreed Colorado-Big Thompson diversions. In dry years that Green Mountain Reservoir may not fill (about one in seven on average), Colorado Springs is required to release water out of Williams Reservoir and the Blue River to meet its obligation to keep Green Mountain Reservoir full. The Bureau of Reclamation initiated an EIS process in 2008 to determine whether Colorado Springs Utilities may meet its Substitution obligation by releasing water from Wolford Mountain Reservoir

north of Kremmling or from Homestake Reservoir west of Vail. For more information about this EIS, see http://www.usbr.gov/gp/ecaofinal_bluervr_newsletter.pdf

SWSI: CWCBC manages the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI), which was created to study long term water needs in Colorado after the Big Straw Initiative failed in 2003.

Upper Colorado River Commission: A commission created in 1948 pursuant to the Upper Colorado River Compact of the four Upper Basin States: Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. It controls the Colorado River upstream of Lees Ferry, and is charged with monitoring that each the Upper Basin state delivers its quota toward the 75 maf required to be delivered to the Lower Basin states every 10 year period.

Water Availability Study: SB 07-122 appropriated \$500,000 to study the extent of Colorado water available for current and future needs. The Water Availability Study is designed to identify whether Colorado still has water available under the 1922 Colorado River Compact for development, and what risks are associated with developing it. Phase 1 of the Water Availability Study is expected to be completed by July 2009.

Water Supply Reserve Account: Senate Bill 179, passed in 2006 by the Colorado legislature, allocates \$10 million per year for four years to be allocated among the 9 roundtables to pay for water projects or studies.

Wolcott Pumpback: A plan to build a reservoir on a tributary to the Eagle River near Wolcott. This would store water that could be exchanged back to Dillon Reservoir to enhance Denver Water's yield from the Blue River (Dillon Reservoir/Roberts Tunnel).

Yampa Pumpback: A proposal to pump 300,000 acre feet from the Yampa River near Maybell to the Front Range, first discussed in detail at the November 2407 CBRT meeting.

Summary Table of Grant Requests and Funding Decisions

CBRT Approval to Spend CBRT \$	CBRT Approval to Spend CWCB \$	Applicant and Grant Purpose	CBRT Votes for/opp'd to spend CBRT Funds	CBRT Votes for/opp'd to spend CWCB Funds	CBRT Vote Date	Date CWCB Approved or Denied	Amount CWCB Approved
\$40,000		Ruedi Power Authority – Prepare Roaring Fork Watershed Plan	27	7	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
		Grand County – Stream Management Plan methodology. \$30,000 approved, but Grand County turned down due to CWCB constraints.	27	6	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
	250,000	Eagle County – Increase Eagle Park Reservoir by 155 acre feet		24	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
	1,500,000	Grand County – Purchase shares in Vail Ditch		26	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
	300,000	CBRT – Join with Yampa Roundtable for Energy Development Water Needs Assessment		25	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
	25,000	CBRT – Join with Arkansas, Metro Denver and South Platte Roundtables for analysis of 10825 Water and Endangered Fish Recovery Program		25	12/18/06	Approved 3/23/07	100%
		Bull Creek Reservoir Co. – Enlarge reservoir. \$150,000 request, did not pass	13	16	12/18/06		
		Palisade – Price Stubbs Roller Dam Whitewater Park - \$100,000, did not pass	5	10	12/18/06		
25,000		Missouri Heights well monitoring program	22 / 0		6/25/07	Approved 8/15/07	100%
50,000		Bull Creek Res. #5 spillway analysis	20 / 1		6/25/07	Approved 8/15/07	100%
	120,000	Bull Creek Res. #4 reservoir improvements		22 / 0	6/25/07	8/15/07 failed	0%
100,000		Grand County Phase 2 Stream Flow Mgmt Plan		19/0	12/17/07		
40,000		Roaring Fork Watershed Study Phase 2		20/0	12/17/07		
100,000		Old Dillon Reservoir Enlargement		17/2	12/17/07		
60,000	127,900	Fraser River Berthoud Pass sand collection facil	16/3	11/2	12/17/07		
40,000		West Divide Water Conservancy District			5/19/08	Approved	

		proposal for feasibility study of 3 Thompson Creek reservoirs.				June 2008	
80,000		Improve Battlement Reservoir #3 to protect Native cutthroat trout habitat			5/19/08	Approved June 2008	100%
315,000		Develop flow evaluation tool (FET) and conduct 3 site assessments on the Colorado River between Pumphouse and Dotsero to test the FET.	18/1		1/26/09		\$315,000
		Tybar Ranch owned by Betsy Considine requested \$100,000 to construct a spillway and repair the outlet pipe at Dinkle Lake 8 miles southeast of Carbondale.			Dec. 2009	Turned down	
		Tim Beck on behalf of Spring Valley Holding LLC, which owns and plans to develop 6,000 acres into a residential PUD, requested funds to improve Hopkins Reservoir 6 miles east of Glenwood Springs.			Dec 2009	Turned down	
25,000	175,000	\$200,000 grant to pay for improvements to repair the Grand River Ditch above Silt that was blown out in the 2009 runoff, \$25k from CBRT and \$175k from CWCB.	12/8		June 2010	CWCB rejected \$175,000 July 2010	\$25,000
50,000	175,000	Improve Lede Reservoir to provide a water supply for Gypsum's future growth.	17/3		June 2010	July 2010	\$225,000
25,000		Colorado Headwaters issue in June 2011 devoted to Colorado Basin issues.	16/2		July 2010	July 2010	\$25,000
\$950,000	\$2,597,900	Total approved					