

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

**MINUTES  
August 10, 2010**

**Attending:** Mike Gibson, Ron Brink, JB Alexander, Nicole Langley, Jamie Hart, Gloria Gutierrez, Larry Sveum, Greg Johnson, Kevin Reidy, Ronald Peterson, Rio de la Vista, Judy Lopez, Greg Higel, Perry Cabot, Rodney Smith, Karla Shriver, Tim Garcia, Mike Collins, Erin Minks, Mike Willett, Theresa Corliss, Zena Buser, Travis Smith, Ruth Heidi, Charles Spielman, Jeanna Paluzzi, Adam Burgeson, Edward Vigil, Paul Robertson, Steve Vandiver, Nicole Sarmiento, Cindy Medina, Gene Farish, Ronald Riggensbach, Tracy Miller, Ralph Curtis, Corey DeAngelis

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- **Introductions** – Mike Gibson extended regrets from Sen. Lewis H. Entz, Jim Rhet, and Peter Clark who could not attend. He welcomed Commissioner Karla Shriver; Colorado State Representative Ed Vigil; Gloria Gutierrez, representing U.S. Sen. Mark Udall; and Erin Minks, representing Rep. John Salazar.
- **Approval of May 11 Minutes** – No quorum. Corrections noted. Approval delayed until next meeting.
- **Colorado Foundation for Water Education:** Copies of updated Members' Manuals were handed out as well as updated materials for existing binders.
- **Colorado Division of Water Resources - Cory DeAngelis** gave the Rio Grande Compact Flows and the Conejos Flows. Cory also summarized the Upper Rio Grande Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary, an update on the stream flows and obligations, and the 3-month probability of precipitation. Handout included "Best Practices for Determining Crop Historical Consumptive Use." Copies are available. Every ten years the Division Engineer for each Water Division develops a list of water rights that the Division Engineer has determined to have been abandoned. The process to protest the inclusion of any water right on the list is here:  
<http://www.water.state.co.us/pubs/abandonment.asp>
- **"Low Head Hydro Power Potential in Colorado" – Lindsay George, PhD, PE**, Water Resources Engineer, Applegate Group, Inc. In conjunction with Colorado State University and Colorado Department of Agriculture, Applegate is currently studying the potential for low head hydro within existing irrigation systems in the state, including the San Luis Valley. Their report will be available this fall. There are 20 to 30 different kinds of turbines which are appropriate for a typical structure in irrigation ditches. Applegate is sending a survey to irrigation companies and ditch owners to gather further information and will choose two sites in the state to perform a more complete analysis. Tim Garcia of NRCS/SLV-RC&D is coordinating an effort to explore the viability/potential of hydropower in the SLV. Lindsay George explained growing interest in micro hydro applications; potential revenue stream for ditch companies; need for more study before implementation; and discussed various types of systems for diversion dams, outfalls, drops, and very low head situations. Europe is ahead of the US in use of hydrodynamic screws and various types of DIY turbines. Surveys are available at 970-945-9686.

**Discussion:** developing some thresholds would be helpful; how to determine the potential; questions about the permitting process and the FERC MOU.

- **McDonald Ditch Diversion Feasibility Study - Request for Funds** – Jamie Hart, Mike Gibson and Nicole Langley presented an overview of what originally had been the McDonald Ditch Company's request for funds. By partnering with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and with the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, the original McDonald Ditch request has been expanded to include strategic planning for a 2.8 mile reach of the river, including the Silva, Atencio, and Lucero diversions. Not having a quorum, the request for funds for **The McDonald Ditch and Plaza Planning Project on the Rio Grande** will be repeated at the next meeting.
- **Colorado's Water Supply Future – Updates on Water Supply, Needs, and Conservation** – Greg Johnson & CDM Staff gave summaries and reported on the status of many of the following reports and studies: 2050 M&I Water Use Projections; Energy Study Phase 2 Revised Water Use Scenarios Memo; M&I Gap Analysis; Reconnaissance Level Cost Estimates for Ag & New Supply Strategy Concepts; Ag Demands/ Alternative Transfer Methods draft; Statewide Water Needs Assessment (SNA) Nonconsumptive: – Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool Pilot Study – NCNA Focus Mapping (Phase 1 ) – NCNA Phase 2 draft Conservation Products: SWSI Conservation Levels Analysis; Evaluation of Passive Savings; Guidebook of Best Management Practices for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado; M&I Conservation Strategies draft; Feasibility Study to Assess the Permanency & Penetration Rates of M&I Water Conservation draft; Portfolios and Strategies drafts; Density Memo draft. Greg's PowerPoint slide show and other details are available here:  
<http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/RioGrandeBasinRoundtable.aspx>
- **Lack of Time and Absence of Quorum** – Due to time limitations, the following will be presented at the next regular meeting of the Roundtable:
  - Report from IBCC - Steve Vandiver
  - Education Committee – Judy Lopez
- **Next Meeting -- The McDonald Ditch and Plaza Planning Project on the Rio Grande** request for funding.

**Next Meeting: September 14, 2010  
2:00 to 5:00 pm  
Student Center  
Adams State College, Alamosa, CO 81101**