

**HB 1177 Southwest Basins Water Roundtable-
Minutes, July 9, 2008**

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He asked members to update their email addresses. Mike asked members to introduce themselves. Three members from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable were present as well as Bruce Spalding, Tom Brossia, Ann McCoy Harold, Mike Applegate, Pat Page, Randy Seaholm, Scott Brinton, Rege Leach, John Whitney, and Ann Oliver.

Administrative Reports:

Review & Approve Minutes

The minutes of May 14, 2008 were approved as written.

Officers & IBCC Representatives Report

John Porter recognized Randy Seaholm, saying that he can answer any inter-basin compact questions we might have and that we appreciate his attendance. John P. reported that the last IBCC meeting revolved around the Vision. Quite a bit of discussion revolved around the strategies, and the question of which drives the other. Consensus was that one won't wait for the other---develop them in tandem. The draft strategies are:

DEMAND SIDE

- Muni and industrial conservation
- Agriculture conservation, efficiency and alternative cropping patterns

SUPPLY SIDE

- Reuse, recycling and desalinization
- Agricultural transfers
- Traditional permanent transfers
- Alternative transfers
- Optimize existing storage and delivery systems
- In basin storage that can meet multiple uses that are sensitive to environmental and recreational needs
- Develop compact entitlements on Colorado River System, either for in basin use or transbasin diversions in a way that strengthens the West Slope economies and is sensitive to our environmental and recreational needs

STRATEGIES INVOLVING REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Coordinating infrastructure and development and opportunities for shared infrastructure
- Timing of flows to meet multiple consumptive and non-consumptive needs (you don't time flows without storage)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Manage our compact obligations in a way that benefits the river corridors
- Integrated management of ground water and surface water

The next part of the IBCC meeting discussion identified the roles of the IBCC and the Roundtables, and CWCBC. CWCBC staff will be used in visioning and evaluating the strategies. The Basin Roundtables need to provide input on the visioning process and input on various work products through their representatives on the IBCC. They also need to complete work on updated needs assessments for incorporation in the technical work on statewide needs. The IBCC will produce a document to share.

Steve Harris added that from his perspective the East Slope organizations are starting to push West Slope organizations to conserve. There's still quite a bit of East versus West direction. Mike said he will forward IBCC minutes to the roundtable members when John P. forwards them to him. Jim Siscoe asked if there's an understanding that West Slope "pastures" are more than just grasses, but that they are critical to support agriculture and livestock production. John didn't believe that is the overall opinion.

Mike referred to the 2Q08 IBCC newsletter to the members.

Report from Consumptive Work Group

The CDM consultants will attend within the next two meetings. Ken, Mike, Bruce S. and Steve H. are on the committee who will do some pre-work so they can have a good discussion when the consultants come. The committee wants to be prepared to tell them what additional work we want done with their help.

River Compact and Obligations Out of State

Randy Seaholm updated the members on the current storage levels. There is no danger with respect on how much water is going to the Lower Basin. Lake Powell is going to come up to about 50 feet in elevation this year. We will gain about 3.5 million AF from where we were last year.

Gunnison Basin Roundtable:

Michelle introduced John McClow, counsel for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, who made a presentation describing an overview of the GBRT. After the presentation, Mike asked how they were doing on the Consumptive and Non-Consumptive Work Groups. Michelle said Consumptive Needs work is well underway. But they are struggling on the Non-Consumptive. They're looking at the Arkansas Basin work plan and it seems to be more appropriate for Gunnison Basin. They will be reviewing their maps at their next meeting. Implementation of the task orders is slow.

Report from Non-consumptive Work Group

Jim Siscoe distributed a summary of his presentation (attached) to update the members on the group's progress. We need more data on where and how much we recreate. Jenny suggested that we need to take the current data back to the communities and get input, and that the process should be formal and organized so meetings are consistent between communities and that the best information can be garnered. She also asked for full-size maps for this purpose.

Steve F. related that the results of the River Protection Work Group RPWG information might help Districts determine where best to develop resources while respecting the values and priority of values of the various areas. Jim added that the next step is to have the general areas prioritized as to what areas we want to focus on. Then he can make those area maps in more detail. Then, the VALUE priorities of these areas can be studied. Mike asked the work group (Jenny, Jim, Steve, Bob and Jerry) to meet to identify the ground-truthing process and report at the next meeting. It was suggested that the River Protection Workgroup information might be pertinent to both work groups, and it was agreed that we should capitalize on the work of this group. For the next meeting, Mike asked that both consumptive and non-consumptive committees prepare a strategy.

Inter-Basin Roundtable Talks

Mike updated the members regarding the West Slope Roundtables talking among themselves before talking to the East Slope Roundtables. This roundtable suggested that we use the infrastructure that is already in place. There have been 2 West Slope Roundtables meetings and the next time we meet, we will discuss talking to the Front Range, and will not set up anything formal in advance of the West Slope meeting. Nov. 14 is the next West Slope Roundtables meeting at the Montrose Pavilion. The time will be communicated.

Update on Dry Gulch Project

Fred Schmidt thanked the members for their support and gave a brief update on the Dry Gulch Project. They've purchased the land and finished initial environmental studies. One member shared an opinion that future requests should include clear disclosure regarding public support.

Water Supply Reserve Account

MVIC Application for Financial Assistance – (Feasibility study on possible merger with Summit Irrigation Co.)

At the May 14 meeting, Jim Siscoe presented information regarding the merger proposal between MVIC and Summit Irrigation. At this meeting, a formal request is being presented as follows:

Task 1) \$ 39,300	Water Rights/Planning feasibility study of Summit Irrigation Company
Task 2) \$127,300	Infrastructure assessment of Summit facilities
Task 3) \$ 32,100	Institutional analysis of MVIC & Summit

The proposal is to fund Task 1 from the Basin fund, and use the result of Task 1 to decide on a recommendation from the Roundtable concerning State level funding for Tasks 2 & 3. Tim Hunter shared that he's received negative input from the public, and he doesn't know if the Roundtable wants to be a part of it. Gerald Koppenhafer said that these concerns reflected confusion about how this would affect Summit water rights and whether the costs of repairing the Summit system would be passed on to MVIC share holders. Gerald suggested that Task 1 should answer these questions and allow for an informed decision including answers to these questions. Kay Hartman added that San Miguel Wright's Mesa has the exactly the same scenario and feels that this is a good approach. Steve Harris moved that we approve the money for Task One. Fred seconded the motion. There was consensus.

Happy Scenes Water System, Vallecito

Gary Spaulding gave information regarding the current water system and wanted input from the Roundtable if this would be an appropriate request for the Roundtable. Gary explained the cost estimates because this request appeared to be much higher than the information given to the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Mike asked for feedback if this was a valid request and should they entertain a formal application. Steve asked them to document other forms of support they'll pursue. The purpose is to create a new system, improve water quality and improve water delivery efficiency. They used to use surface water, but that was contaminated by the 2002 fire and they now need to go to a well. Members have an option to go to their own well rather than stay with the surface water system. Among other suggestions, it was asked that a copy of their by-laws be included in the application.

Archuleta-La Plata Water District

Ann McCoy Harold distributed a resolution supporting La Plata Archuleta Water District in the effort to formally establish the District with voter approval. John T. moved that the roundtable endorses the resolution provided by Ann. Carrie seconded. There was consensus.

Basin Needs Overviews –

Still to be presented are Upper San Miguel, La Plata, Florida, and Piedra.

Next meeting and events:

Sept. 10, 2008	2:30 p.m.	DWCD Office, Cortez
Nov. 14, 2008	tbd	Annual West Slope Roundtables Meeting Montrose Pavilion
Nov. 12, 2008	2:45 p.m.	Doubletree, Durango

Mike adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.