

**HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable  
Minutes  
January 14, 2009 - Cortez**

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mike asked the members and guests to introduce themselves and to fill out the sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

**Members present:**

Jerry McCaw	Elyse Salazar
Kay Hartman	Peter Ortego
Mike Preston	Russell Kennedy
Ken Beegles	Tim Hunter
Bruce Whitehead	Bruce Smart
Raymond Keith	Jenny Russell
Steve Harris	John Taylor
Jack Rogers	Fred Kroeger
John Porter	Carrie Weiss
Steve Fearn	Gary Kennedy
John Ey	Chuck Lawler
Chuck Wanner	Rege Leach

**Guests included:**

Pat Page	Gene Bradley
Ed Toms	Roy Horvath
Denise Rue-Pastin	Dick Lunceford
J. R. Berry	Ron Gillen
Kelly Palmer	Marty Robbins
Michael Francis	Nadia Hubbard
Felicity Broennan	Trent Taylor
Dennis Miller	

**Administrative Reports**

**Review & Approve Minutes**

The minutes of Nov. 11, 2008 were approved as corrected.

**Officers & IBCC Representatives Report**

IBCC – Steve Harris

Steve attended an IBCC meeting in early December. He reported that the vision statement has not changed, and they spent most of their time on strategies. Some highlights were:

- 1) Higher density development
- 2) Changed planning horizon to 2050.
- 3) The Yampa-White Roundtable and the Colorado River Roundtable funded a study to estimate water needs for oil shale production. The estimates included the water used

to produce the energy needed to process the shale as well as the water needed to process the shale. Estimates of water needs under medium and high development scenarios is are extremely high, in large part due water use related to large electricity demand..

- 4) Looking at east slope needs for 2050. There are only two options for the vast majority of water: West Slope diversions or East Slope ag water.

John Porter was encouraged that land use planning will be left to local governments. John reported that state budget shortfalls could impact the \$10 million earmarked for CWCB water projects as well as the funds that we have now (at the state level and roundtable level).

Mike referred to expenditure worksheet that was emailed. SWRT has spent about 42% of the \$1 million basin fund. He reminded the membership of the new state level criteria for applications to include a 20% match that can include basin level fund commitments and in-kind services.

IBCC is taking an educational needs assessment survey from each of the roundtables. We will include it in the next meeting. Jenny will email it to Mike and he'll send out before next meeting.

It had been suggested that there be a screening committee to review the applications prior to a presentation to members. Some of the discussion included:

What is the purpose of screening? Who makes the decisions? Steve Harris added that this idea was discussed early in the history of the roundtable and it was decided not to screen prior to applications going to the entire roundtable. There was general agreement that we not make any changes at this time.

### **Non-consumptive Needs Assessment Update**

Chuck Wanner distributed plans for public meetings that have been scheduled to gather public input. The maps are online. CDM is assisting and will be attending the meetings. Mike asked membership to attend meetings in their areas and to encourage the public to attend. Chuck also mentioned the Healthy Rivers tax check-off on tax return, and encouraged everyone to support it and to communicate it.

### **Consumptive Needs Assessment Update**

Mike referred to the distributed material on projects and processes from the SWSI report. We're going to use this as a starting place to do the consumptive needs assessment. He suggested that we start by updating Section 6. Members need to add, subtract, and amend items in Section 6 and add any projects that are anticipated. Members were asked to start working on the list and turn their updates to Mike. This would give us a good inventory to begin discussions with CDM.

### **Water Banking Concept**

Bruce made a presentation on a water banking concept as a mechanism to address a call on the Colorado River. The group that is working on the concept includes staff members from CRWCD and SWCD and Steve Harris. Copies of the presentation were distributed to the members.

### **Jackson Gulch Reservoir Dam Expansion**

Gary Kennedy gave a brief update on the dam expansion. SWRT previously provided funds for a feasibility study on expanding the dam done by the Bureau of Reclamation. The study provided three alternatives:

- 1) 5-foot embankment raise: taking off entire face, raising the dam 5 feet on the top.  
Highest cost at over \$40 million.
- 2) Single parapet walls down center line of the dam; \$4.2 million.
- 3) Double parapet walls down each side of the dam; \$8.5 million.

These alternatives would give them an additional 100,000 af that would meet the Mancos Valley needs through 2050. They could come up with an additional 500 af using a barrow pit. The study came in under budget and they will be returning the unused money to the Roundtable.

### **La Plata West Water Authority Update**

Roy Horvath and Gene Bradley presented the current status of the intake structure project at Lake Nighthorse Dam.

### **Water Supply Reserve Account Requests**

#### **Application – La Plata Archuleta Water District**

Dick Lunceford made the presentation. The new district was formed in August 2008. They are now preparing a master plan to prepare for a mill levy election in November, 2009. The election of the district was very close and there is a need for public education and input. Meetings will be held through the spring. Money from this application will be used for permitting and is a request for state level funds only. Discussion took place among the RT members. One concern was the issue of timing---working on permitting prior to the mill levy election results. With the agreement that none of the grant would be spent until after a successful mill levy election, it was moved and seconded that the funds be approved. There was general consensus by the members.

#### **Application – Florida Canal**

Peter Foster, Wright Water Engineering made the presentation. The request is from a coalition of the Florida Canal Company, the Florida Canal Enlargement Company, the Florida Cooperative Ditch Company, Florida Farmers Ditch Company. Several board members from the various companies introduced themselves. Peter presented two applications; one for the Basin Roundtable and one for state-level funds. Originally constructed in the late 1800's, the conveyance system is comprised of 86.5 miles of canals, ditches, and laterals. All the canal companies' water rights are pre-compact. Based on a water measurement program started in 2002, conveyance losses equal about 11,600 af which is about 24% of what is diverted. The canal companies voted to double their assessments to assist in conveyance improvements. The

improvement program will include new hydropower that can produce new revenue. In addition, the coalition approved a water conservation and management plan. They are requesting \$221,000 for:

- 1) Ditch loss study to prioritize the improvement projects (\$54,000)
- 2) Purchase and install 3 water measuring devices, 7 real-time telemetry sites, 3 automated gates (\$140,000)
- 3) Hydropower feasibility study (\$27,000)

\$100,000 is requested from the Southwest Basin Roundtable and \$121,000 from the state. Additional funds are coming from BOR, and the Florida Water Conservancy District and canal companies are providing \$20,000. State-level funding would provide design and construction of the ditch lining project which totals \$1,364,000, of which \$364,000 is matched. Implementation of the project would result in 24% decrease in releases from Vallecito Reservoir which will give them increased operational flexibility. It was moved and seconded that both applications be approved. There was general consensus.

#### **Concept – Red Mesa Reservoir Incremental Damage Assessment**

Dennis Miller, UBS Consulting Engineers, provided a brief summary of a request for basin funds for Red Mesa Reservoir. They are in need of a spillway design that would meet the State Engineer's Office requirements. The Red Mesa Dam spillway is inadequate and they are in danger of being shut down. The incremental damage analysis has never been done for Red Mesa Reservoir. The request would be for \$26,000 for damage analysis and \$6,000 for emergency action plan. He answered questions from the members and was given suggestions for improvements. There was general consensus that they proceed with a full application for the next roundtable meeting.

#### **Next meeting and events:**

March 11	Durango Rec Center	2:30/3:00
May 13	Cortez/DWCD Office	2:30/3:00
July 8	Durango Rec Center	2:30/3:00
Sept 9	Cortez/DWCD Office	2:30/3:00

January 28-30	Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention, Denver
February 2-5	SWRT Non-Consumptive Use Public Meetings (various locations)

Mike adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.