

## **HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable Minutes July 7, 2010 – Durango**

Members	Mike Preston	Carrie Weiss	Steve Fearn
Present:	John Taylor	Chuck Lawler	Gerald Koppenhafer
	John Ey	Hal Pierce	Russell Kennedy
	Tim Hunter	Jack Rogers	Steve Harris
	Bruce Whitehead	John Porter	Chuck Wanner
Guests:	Denise Rue-Pastin	Greg Johnson	Ellen Roberts
	Kelly Fearney	Carrie Lile	Michael Canterbury
	Ray Alvarado	Rege Leach	

Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.  
Introductions were made.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Review and Approve Minutes**

The minutes of May, 9, 2010 were approved as written.

#### **Officer and IBCC Representative Reports**

##### **IBCC and Officer Reports**

CWCB and IBCC approved amendments to the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant program's criteria and guidelines. State Fund requests will be received only in September.

Mike distributed a spreadsheet listing all the Southwest Basin Projects that have been funded from 2007 through June, 2010. Out of 23 total projects, 4 were for non-consumptive projects. The Southwest Basin Account has awarded a total of \$1,049,446 during this timeframe; State funds have totaled \$3,015,000, for a total of \$4,064,446 for Southwest Basin projects.

#### **Preparation for Roundtable Elections Sept. 8**

Newspaper announcements were sent to the following regional newspapers June 23, 2010, requesting applications be submitted to Jane at Southwestern Water Conservation District by July 30, 2010: Durango Herald, San Miguel Basin Forum, Pagosa Springs Sun, Dove Creek Press, Dolores Star, Pine River Times, and Cortez Journal. There are 9 open positions. Applicants will make a short presentation at the October meeting and the election will take place.

### **Overview of Colorado River Water Availability Study and consideration of Roundtable Comments**

Steve Harris distributed a "Discussion Topics" paper that listed items for discussion and possible comments. After much discussion, Mike agreed to write a letter addressing the following points raised during the discussion:

1. A range of available water supply between 0 and a million acre feet is too wide and reinforces uncertainty and polarization.
2. Phase 2 should only be undertaken if it will result in narrowing this availability gap and provide a most probable scenario at the Basin level.
3. There are Phase 1 errors that need to be corrected. One example is the need to operate Reclamation project reservoirs by contract allocations rather than simulated irrigation demand.

4. San Juan Recovery Program should not be counted as downstream demand without a serious policy discussion involving CWCB Board and stakeholders.
5. Historical modeled stream flow fits within the range of the climate generated alternatives. Use of historical modeling is the most practical and comfortable approach.
6. The limitations of the Study as a state level planning tool need to be disclosed, to avoid misrepresentation of more local realities in policy and decision making.
7. For the study to be useful at the Basin level significant variables need to be brought into consideration such as changes in cropping, irrigation demand, and growing season. It was pointed out how much these factors have changed in recent decades.
8. Climate projections based on global modeling are to course to be useful at the Basin level, especially in the Southwest Basin which sits right in the transition zone between widely varying northern and southern temperature and precipitation modeling.
9. Better understanding and correction of errors in Phase 1 should be addressed before Phase 2 commences.

### **CWCB Deadlines**

Mike announced that statewide funding requests are due 60 days in advance of the September CWCB meeting, and that Basin Fund requests are due 60 days in advance of any regularly scheduled CWCB Board Meetings. Requests for Basin Funds will be received at the October Basin meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

Southwest Basin Education Mtg	Sept. 8	Cortez	1:30 p.m.
Southwest Basin Meeting	Sept. 8	Cortez	2:30 p.m. (election)
Southwest Basin Meeting (2010 final)	Nov. 10	Durango	2:30 p.m.
Proposed 2011 Quarterly Meetings:	Jan. 12	Cortez	
	April 13	Durango	
	July 13	Cortez	
	Oct. 12	Durango	

Mike adjourned the meeting shortly after 6:00 p.m.