

**INTERBASIN COMPACT COMMITTEE BASIN ROUNDTABLES**  
**Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable**  
**May 10, 2011**

**M I N U T E S**

**Attending:** Don Thompson, Ron Riggerbach, Mario Curto, Heather Messick, Heather MacSllarrow, Lawrence Gallegos, Don Martinez, Greg Higel, Gene Farish, Aquino “Jerry” Gallegos, Theresa Corless, Jeanna Paluzzi, Steve Vandiver, Peter Clark, Rodney Smith, Judy Lopez, Dale Pizel, Dale Wiescamp, Ronald Peterson, Kevin Reidy, Lewis H. Entz, Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, Gopa-Ross, Larry Svevum, Cindy Medina, Perry Cabot, Mike Gibson, Charles Spielman, Charlotte Bobicki, Brenda Felmlee, Erin Minks, Ralph Curtis, Travis Robinson, Ruth Heide, Rio de La Vista, Nicole Langley, Mike Gibson,

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**Approval of Minutes April 12, 2011:** Cindy Medina moved the minutes be approved as written. Judy Lopez Seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

**Announcements:**

- Jeanna Paluzzi announced the San Luis Valley Sustainable Energy Collaborative is conducting a Micro-Hydropower workshop with site visits to local micro-hydro projects. Jeanna passed out a flyer with contact information and invited everyone to sign up and come – Tuesday, June 7, 2011 from 8:45 am to 3:15 pm at the Carnegie Library, South Fork Branch.
- Heather Messick announced that the Southwest Conservation Corps will be working in the Valley, providing assistance to communities. Heather MacSllarrow is attending the Roundtable today. She directs SCC, a project which pays youth and young adults in a service-learning environment to work in communities and for nonprofits. For information call 719-539-2438 or (cell) 719-580-5972.

**Division 3 Engineer’s Report - Craig Cotten -** The current ten-day reports and analysis sheets were distributed by email on May 6<sup>th</sup>, based on the NRCS/NWS May forecast flows. The NRCS increased their forecasted flows slightly on both the Rio Grande and Conejos river systems with the May forecasts. These analysis sheets were for both the 50% forecast (most probable) and the 70% forecast numbers from the NRCS. We have some concern that the 50% forecast numbers may be too high, so we are also looking at the slightly lower forecast. We are staying with the previous curtailment percentages (6% on the Rio Grande, 16% on the Conejos) until we can get a better idea of where we are headed on the runoff. The next few days of warmer temperatures may give us some indication. Copies are available.

**Request for funding – Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Company, Travis Robinson, Manager:** SDRC presented its proposal for Water Supply Reserve Account funds, requesting \$10,000 from the Basin account and \$85,000 from the Statewide account. Electronic copies of the proposal were distributed to the Roundtable prior to the meeting and hard copies were available. Lawrence Gallegos moved to approve funding and Cindy Medina seconded. Several members praised the project and the funding request was approved unanimously.

**Consumptive Needs Assessment:** Mike Gibson, Travis Smith, Steve Vandiver, and Lawrence Gallegos are studying this document from CDM. They need to ratify what this document says and get it back to CWCB by the end of May. Rio thanked them for doing this work. Cindy suggested that it needs editing. Mike asked Roundtable members to comment on the contents of this document. Response was a profound silence. Greg moved to approve the document once it had been studied and edited and Judy seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Program of CWCB - Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi:** Taryn, who is a drought and climate change technical consultant with CWCB, explained that a drought mitigation plan defines when a drought-induced water supply shortage exists and specifies the actions that should be taken in response. The main objective is to preserve essential public services and minimize the adverse effects of a water supply emergency on public health and safety, economic activity, environmental resources and individual lifestyles. Most important in developing a drought plan is to determine the actions and procedures for responding to a drought-related water supply shortage before an actual water supply emergency occurs. This program was mandated by FEMA. The last one was done in 2001.

The drought task force is led by AG DOLA and DNR, lead agencies which communicates information to the Governor. There was discussion about activating this drought plan, putting quantitative information in the previous plan, potential drought phases with actions and responses to be considered. This is the first time a state has done a quantitative and qualitative vulnerability assessment relating to climate change.

Taryn's conclusions and the entire premise of having such a study were met with a lot of questions, some of them being somewhat skeptical. For more information contact Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi at 303-866-3441 X 3231. [Taryn.Hutchins-Cabibi@state.co.us](mailto:Taryn.Hutchins-Cabibi@state.co.us)

Taryn responded saying that the toolbox is focused on municipalities, not on agriculture. Pete Magee, SLV GIS/GPS, commented that there's already a regional group, and he defended this initiative, saying it really is time to start discussing drought mitigation and drought planning. Mike conceded that yes, we do need to know more.

Jeanna Paluzzi, CSU Extension and Governor's Energy Office, said that agricultural economists at CSU have developed such a tool and it provides significant resources for families and farmers.

Charlie Spielman asked how one could possibly put together a drought impact or mitigation plan without considering water rights. Municipal water users have first legal rights – any shortages are going to get shifted over to Ag, with municipalities being pretty well covered. Others doubted what Charlie said and there was a bit of a storm over all this.

**Kevin Reidy**, who works with Taryn, but on the water conservation side, said he is working on an annual water use report based on requirements of a House bill passed in 2010 with guidelines for reporting, which is supposed to start in 2014. He's developing mechanisms to start collecting information and he asked water providers what they wanted in order to get the most bang for their buck. Mike - Alamosa has had to come up with a conservation plan, and it's happening in larger communities.

**Oil and Gas Exploration:** Dale reported on the oil and gas workshop held in Monte Vista on Fracking. We haven't seen any real activity yet and no paperwork for natural gas drilling near San Francisco Creek. He had asked several industry reps, including Dan A. Hughes out of Houston, to come, but they didn't come. Charlie has a map showing where their leases are. Mike offered to make another email list specific to this line of interest.

**GIS/GPS Ditch Company Mapping Project, Pete Magee:** Some time back Jim Mietz, formerly with RC&D, initiated some ditch mapping projects, one in San Luis the other in the Trinchera Irrigation system, the idea being to develop a tool which ditch companies could use in the future to know more about their ditches -- total miles, how much water they can carry, etc. Pete has developed this as a tool and it is quite useful in predicting costs. Also many people are confused about names of ditches and other basic information.

Pete said all this data is now available in a GIS format, organized in a 3-ring binder, showing width of structures, relative condition of ditches. It can also be provided on a CD in Excel or in big wall maps. All GIS data is hyperlinked to specific structures, photos, data – sources of water. "What is in the ditch rider's head is now being collected, organized, and inventoried for maintenance purposes." They show how many flumes, head structures, what kinds of gates. "I know I'm preaching to the choir, but we do not need inefficient delivery systems for our water." Pete has completed a good inventory of the Monte Vista, the Piedra, and the Atencio, Silva, and Consolidated ditches. This is being funded by the BLM, starting about four years ago. It's a toolbox for ditch companies.

Ron Riggerbach, NRCS, said they won't have any funding available for this. Lawrence said the El Codo Ditch Company attempted a similar project a couple of years ago and he thanked NRCS for providing a hard copy of that study, which is "really useful."

Nicole Langley, Plaza Planning Project CCoordinator, asked Pete if the Silva Ditch study contained information that might support or inform the planning being done around Sevenmile Plaza. Pete asked Nicole to visit with him about that.

**Colorado Year of Water 2012, Judy Lopez:** Judy told about Water 2012, which has six subcommittees. Each subcommittee has a Chairperson. “We’re an oversight team, with a new coordinator, Wendy Newman.” Judy is working with Jay Winner from the Arkansas Roundtable and has talked with Travis. A grant of \$2,500 per roundtable will go to the coordinator for that basin. She asked “If we could put 3-4K to involve our schools, libraries – how much can we put into this?” Jay Winner offered to have a plan for next meeting. [Nicole Langley has also been serving as volunteer coordinator for the Rio Grande Basin at the Water 2012 meetings in Denver and she and Judy have discussed several ways to promote our Basin for Water 2012.]

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

### **Next Meeting**

**June 14, 2011 @ 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Adams State College Student Union Building**