

HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable Minutes

July 13, 2011 - Durango

Members	John Taylor	Steve Fearn	Gary Kennedy
Present:	Val Valentine	Jack Rogers	Bobby Lieb
	Tim Hunter	Bruce Smart	Chuck Wanner
	Bruce Whitehead	Ann Oliver	Steve Harris
	John Porter	Carrie Lile	Mike Preston
	Ken Beegles	Jenny Russell	Carrie Weiss
	Chuck Lawler	Tim Pierce	
Guests:	Denise Rue-Pastin	Don Magnuson	Ken Curtis
	Bill Warmack	Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi	Charlie Smith
	John Whitney	Greg Johnson	Tom Brossia
	Steve Boyd	Norman Butler	John McHenry
	David Samford	Ellen Roberts	Randy Carver
	Rege Leach	D. Adam Smith	Lynda Edwards
	Pete Foster	Patti Grafmyer	Kerry Welch
	Finn Kjome	Ron Gabbett	Andy Mueller

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

Administrative Reports

Mike introduced and welcomed Tim Pierce who is the new representative for Montrose Municipalities and Bobby Lieb who is the new representative for La Plata County.

Introductions were made.

Review & Approve Minutes – Jan. 12 and Apr. 11, 2011

The minutes of Jan. 12 and Apr. 11, 2011 were approved as written.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the current basin balance is \$173,304; this figure includes the \$80,000 recent installment from CWCB and the \$25,000 expenses pending on the Pagosa Lakes request.

Copies of the SWSI 2010 report are available. Mike thanked everyone who helped to create the report. The report is not static; as new IPPs become known, that information should be sent to the Basin Roundtable.

The Education Outreach Committee Meeting -- Mike encouraged participation from the sub-basins that are part of SWRT. Customized materials could be prepared that each sub-basin could share with their areas. An edition of Headwaters Magazine will be devoted to the Southwest Basin – there is a sign-up sheet for those who want to be involved in determining what will be included in the magazine. Contributors to the material will also probably be asked to contribute to the cost of publication.

Officer/IBCC Representative Reports

John Porter reported that the four West Slope Basin Roundtables met where Ted Kowalski talked about the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Study. That study will be used to look at how a compact curtailment would be administered. SWRT should keep that on the radar. Information will come from the Upper Colorado River Commission to the IBCC (Bruce Whitehead participates in Commission meetings).

Roundtable Elections/Annual Meeting, Oct. 12

Two seats are vacant: one at-large seat (vacated by Jim Siscoe) and one environmental seat (vacated by Meghan Maloney). The environmental seat requires letters of nomination from environmental organizations. The vacancies will be advertised in regional newspapers. Applications will be collected and distributed to members prior to the next meeting in order to vote on the applicants. Bruce Whitehead added that San Juan Citizens Alliance is interviewing to replace Meghan Maloney and that they are hopeful that her replacement will have some water background who might be a candidate for the environmental seat.

Officer elections will take place at the April 2012 meeting.

Reports on WSRA Funded Projects

Summit/MVIC

Bill Warmack, Applegate Group, reported that his firm investigated the feasibility of combining Summit Reservoir & Irrigation Company and Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company. He summarized the project and the findings. At the beginning of the process, it was with the intention of merging the companies, but later the focus became on how the two companies could work together for mutual benefits. His power point presentation and the Feasibility Study Report were distributed. Bill answered questions from the members.

Rio Blanco Restoration Project – "A River Once More"

Val Valentine reported on the restoration project that covered 9.75 miles of the Rio Blanco that was significantly impacted by the San Juan Chama Project that diverted water from the Navajo River, the Little Navajo River and Rio Blanco River to New Mexico. Val Valentine wrote a book, "A River Once More" about the project and presented a copy to the Roundtable.

Drought Plan, Drought Impact on Tourism, and HB 1051

HB1051

Mike introduced Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, CWCB, gave an update on HB 1051, 2010 (new water efficiency reporting requirements). She reported that CWCB and a committee is developing guidelines on how the data will be collected that need to be finished by February, 2012. The law takes effect in 2014 and will be in effect until 2020 when it will be determined if it has been useful. A fact sheet was made available. Jack Rogers is on the committee.

Drought Mitigation and Response Plan: The Drought Plan was comprehensively revised in 2010 by CWCB, integrating lessons learned from 2002. The Drought Response Plan is a stand-alone document that is being used now. CWCB also did a comprehensive quantitative/qualitative vulnerability assessment for the first time in Colorado.

Drought Impact on Recreation/Tourism: CWCB will be doing a pilot project in the southwestern part of the state to evaluate drought impacts on tourism. If anyone wants to be involved in the project, let Taryn know.

New Supply Task Force

Bruce Whitehead was asked by the Southwestern Water Conservation District to participate on this task force that is focused on dialogue about new supplies to fill the Front Range gap. It was determined that the basin roundtables could participate by appointing two members to the task force. Discussion occurred. Steve Harris moved that we make a clear statement that Southwest Roundtable would prefer a comparative evaluation of options for meeting the supply gap using the IBCC structure. However, if the Task Force to consider Flaming Gorge goes forward, we should appoint two representatives and allocate Basin funds to cover travel by SWBRT representatives. Tim Hunter seconded the motion. There was general consensus to support the motion. Bruce Whitehead and Ann Oliver were selected to represent Southwest Basin Roundtable.

Portfolio Discussion

Greg Johnson, CWCB, gave a presentation on the Water Supply Future Portfolio and Trade-off Tool and how to use it. Each roundtable is being to develop a portfolio for meeting the Statewide M&I gap using the tool. This exercise was put on the October meeting agenda. Mike encouraged members to try the tool online.

Proposals for Basin and Statewide Funds

Lake Durango Water Authority

Charlie Smith made presentation on their request for \$50,000 from the basin funds that would be needed as a cost-share in order for the already requested state funds to be approved. CWCB approved \$450,000 from state funds pending a \$50,000 cost share from another source. Bruce Whitehead added input from the CWCB meeting. He moved to approve the request. Discussion occurred. There was general consensus to approve the request.

Norwood Water Commission Program Development

Finn Kjome, Chairman of the Norwood Water Commission introduced the Norwood people that were in attendance and made a presentation of the Commission's request for \$40,000 (Basin) and \$60,000 (State) funds. The purpose of the request is to help fund the work to produce a water development plan for meeting Norwood Water Commission 50-year water supply gap. A considerable amount of discussion took place, including opposition to the request from Andy Mueller and Jenny Russell, attorneys representing clients who are opposed to water rights filings prompted by the San Miguel In-stream flow process. It was suggested that the application might be approved if Norwood Water Commission revised or dropped their water rights applications. It was clarified that the funds would not be used to gather data to support NWC's water rights applications. After considering several alternatives, consensus could not be reached on the request.

Upcoming Events:

2011 Quarterly Meeting	Oct. 12	Cortez
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Adjournment

Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.