

## **HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable Minutes**

### **October 12, 2011 – Cortez**

<b>Members</b>	Steve Fearn	Bruce Whitehead	Jack Rogers
<b>Present:</b>	Bruce Smart	Steve Harris	Carrie Lile
	Mike Preston	Ken Beegles	April Montgomery
	Chuck Lawler	John Ey	Celine Hawkins
	Chuck Wanner	Mike Canterbury	Tim Pierce
	Ann Oliver	Peter Mueller	Don Schwindt
	Rod Profitt		
<b>Guests:</b>	Kristen Maharg	Greg Johnson	Ellen Roberts
	Mark Ragsdale	Wendy McDermott	Ed Zink
	John Ott	Don Magnuson	Ken Curtis
	Randy Carver	Nona Shipman	Warren Rider
	Carrie Weiss		

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

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Review & Approve Minutes – approved**

Carrie Weiss introduced Rod Profitt who is replacing her on the roundtable as representative for San Juan Water Conservancy District. Mike thanked Carrie for her contributions to the Roundtable since 2004.

### **Officer/IBCC Representative Reports**

Mike Preston attended the last IBCC/CWCB meeting and reported that the Lake Durango Water Authority request was discussed. CWCB approved a grant of \$450,000 and a \$2.5 million loan. The Southwest Basin Roundtable approved a grant of \$50,000. In the future, it may become a matter of policy that match from Basin Funds may be required when an applicant applies for State water supply reserve account funds. The packaging of WSRA grants and CWCB loans may also be required for applications that involve substantial construction projects. CWCB and IBCC will be holding meetings to further discuss application criteria.

As of 2011, SWRT received more grant dollars from the state fund than any other Roundtable. And SWRT approved more grant dollars from the basin fund than any other Roundtable. It might be indicative of how willing the Southwest Basin members are to support each other's consumptive and non-consumptive projects. Plus, the Southwest Basin is geographically different from other Roundtable basins in having nine distinct sub-basins that are not connected to a main stem river within Colorado.

The "New Water Supply Taskforce" was given a grant of \$80,000 from CWCB to analyze new water supply opportunities (including Flaming Gorge). The taskforce will bring the projects back to the IBCC and the Roundtables before next steps are taken. Ann Oliver and Bruce Whitehead are SWRT's representatives on this taskforce.

April Montgomery, CWCB representative, reported that the following programs were reviewed and received budgetary consideration for 2012: tamarisk, weather modification, watershed restoration projects, in-stream flow. Also approved was a \$9 million loan for a micro-hydro project to Tri-County Water at Ridgeway Reservoir at 2% interest.

### **WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance**

The current basin fund balance is \$122,304.

### **Roundtable Elections**

Candidates for 2 open positions on the Roundtable include Don Magnuson, Ed Zink, John Ott, and Wendy McDermott. Ballots for the environmental position were distributed. Wendy McDermott and Ed Zink were given time to address the members. Ballots were collected and counted; Wendy McDermott was elected. Don Magnuson and John Ott were given time to address the members for the at-large position. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted; Don Magnuson was elected.

### **State-wide Non-consumptive Meeting – Oct. 13**

Jenny Russell is attending the State-wide Non-Consumptive meeting tomorrow. April Montgomery was asked to get inputs from the Roundtable to pass on to Jenny. The purpose of the meeting is to determine what the next steps should be for non-consumptive work, primarily at the state level. Discussion occurred. The Southwest Basin Roundtable IPPs includes 60-70 non-consumptive projects/efforts and an inventory of values. Input included:

- When considering consumptive projects, look at the underlying non-consumptive needs and where they overlap.
- Need prioritization by category
- Further develop tools that can inform, perhaps on a case-by-case basis, of why some projects might or might not be considered. A possible prioritization tool might be to understand the urgency of projects/efforts.

Steve Harris suggested that the Roundtable send Jim Siscoe a letter of thanks for his work in developing our database.

### **Interactive Development of Portfolio Alternatives**

Greg Johnson, CWCB, presented the Portfolio tool. The tool is the vehicle to provide regional information that accumulates to a state total, in evaluating trade-offs involved in different alternatives for meeting the front range M&I gap. Greg described the tool and demonstrated how to use it. It was agreed that more time is needed to more fully understand and develop the skills to use the tool. SWRT will hold a portfolio workshop on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm at the DWCD offices. Members are asked to RSVP in advance of the meeting.

### **Education and Outreach**

Kristen Maharg, CFWE, reported on the following:

- CFWE facilitates educational efforts for IBCC
- Water 2012 program – Denise Rue-Pastin, Water Information Program, is the Roundtable's representative for the program. Members can get involved by signing up on the website.
- The June 2012 Edition of the Headwaters Magazine will feature the Southwest Basin. Southwestern Water Conservation District will coordinate funding for the edition. All text,

design and layout will be reviewed by this subcommittee. The general theme will be collaboration, multi-use, and cooperation. Article ideas will be submitted to CFWE.

### **Colorado River Water Supply Availability Study (CRWSAS) Workshop**

A workshop was held prior to the start of the Basin Roundtable meeting. The CRWSAS gathered input from each roundtable on the study in order to improve the model. Steve Harris reported for the Roundtable that three issues needed to be corrected:

1. Use of New Mexico fish recovery as a downstream demand needs to be corrected
2. The demand out of Lemon, Vallecito, and McPhee Reservoirs were based on the consumptive use of crop demand, rather than storage allocations which actually determine water deliveries.
3. No satisfactory way of determining natural flows in McElmo Creek has been established, after many attempts.

CWCB produced comments to the Roundtable inputs. It will up to each individual entity to determine where in the broad range (0 – 1million af) of available water supply to use for planning purposes. The final report is to be completed by year end. CWCB is still accepting comments.

### **Upcoming Events**

Nov. 12            Noon    50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of DWCD celebration at Dolores Community Center

#### **2012 Meeting Schedule**

Jan. 11	Durango
Apr. 11	Cortez
Jul. 11	Durango
Oct. 10	Cortez

### **Adjournment**

Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.