

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
October 1, 2012**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Allen Brown	Hinsdale County
Cary Denison	Ouray County
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Marc Catlin	At-Large Member
Tim Decker	Montrose County
Rachel Kullman	Montrose Municipalities
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Olen Lund	Delta County
John McCLOW	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Vacant	Mesa County
Vacant	Saguache County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Bob Hurford (CDWR Liaison), David Kanzer (At-Large), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison), Gary Shellhorn (USFS Liaison).

Public: Richard Vangytenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Drew Beckwith (Western Resource Advocates), Todd Doherty (CWCB), Nathan Henne (Town of Lake City).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Michelle Pierce.

Roll Call/Introductions

Following roll call it was declared that quorum was not present.

Michelle Pierce introduced Nathan Henne as the new Town Manager for the Town of Lake City. Michelle also provided her new email address to the Roundtable as michellepierce@centurytel.net.

Approve Agenda

No quorum was present to approve the agenda.

Approve August 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

No quorum was present to approve the minutes.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Bill Trampe stated that he attended the IBCC meeting on September 11. Bill felt that it was an interesting meeting because again the IBCC is faced with the east/west debate about how and how fast the IBCC is moving forward and what it is accomplishing. Some Roundtables do not see much merit in the scenario planning process.

The morning session was a lengthy discussion about how and where the process is going and whether it is fast enough to provide what the Front Range needs to fill the gap at the rate they claim it needs to be filled. Nonetheless, the IBCC is moving forward with the same plan and the IBCC staff will be visiting all the Roundtables to get input on scenario planning.

The plan is to have several scenarios. One scenario deals with the worst case - the most rapid growth with the hottest temperatures and lowest supply. Another scenario will be designed more around an environmentally sensitive growth pattern with extreme temperatures and an extremely short supply. And then there will be a scenario that is somewhat like current situation - relatively fast growth with very little control as far as environmental sensitivity.

The big debate is about whether we're moving fast enough to meet the desires of the Front Range and Arkansas Valley. It is important for us to be responsible and accountable, but recognize that those folks do have a problem, and we should be part of their solution.

There was not a quorum present to ratify Bill's report.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley was not at the meeting, but asked Michelle Pierce to deliver his report that he prepared for the Roundtable members.

George summarized on the two events that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable hosted this summer for the “Year of Water”. The June event in Gunnison commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the commencing of construction on the Blue Mesa Dam of the Curecanti/Aspinall project. The August event commemorated the 50th anniversary of construction of the Paonia dam. Both were held in conjunction with Roundtable meetings in the projects’ home watersheds. Given the number of people who showed up for both of those Roundtable meetings who do not make the trip to Montrose for the regular meetings, he suggests that the Roundtable hold summer and/or fall meetings in the other parts of the basin. Ken Spann agreed with George’s suggestion. Bill Trampe suggested 1 or 2 meetings per year strategically planned to be least disruptive to those who have to travel some distance. Michelle said she would put it on her calendar, and that the Roundtable will start to discuss it well in advance.

Hannah Holm has been collecting articles and short essays from members about aspects of the water situation, and these have been published consistently by the Grand Junction Free Press, as well as other newspapers and magazines around the region. Hannah is working on presentations as well, which could be delivered to various groups around the basin in the interest of increasing public knowledge and participation. She will be contacting members about setting up presentations in their home areas.

The newspaper insert about the “Gunnison Basin, Its Past, Present, and Future” is still being developed. What is still needed are good pictures of the basin, historical and current, people working with water, major and minor construction of structures and the like.

There will be a public participation and outreach meeting late in October, probably in the Frisco or Breckenridge area. The CWCB is tentatively promising to pay mileage to that meeting. The Education Committee would like to have more participation, and this would be a chance to meet with other people around the state to talk about public education.

Report from the CWCB Representative

There was no report from the CWCB.

1. **Filling the Gap** – Drew Beckwith, Water Policy Manager for Western Resources
Advocates presented an Executive Summary of two ‘Filling the Gap’ reports produced in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and the Colorado Environmental Coalition. This series of reports that has been worked on over the past couple of years and is an extension of the river report on “Facing our Future” which was written in 2005 concluded that the gap in Colorado can be met strictly with conservation efforts. The focus now is on new areas of water management, water conservation, and water reuse. Land use planning will play a large role in conservation in the future.
2. **Canal Automation/Modernization** – Zach Thode, Project Delivery Engineer for Rubicon Water, presenting information about these new technologies.

This item has been moved to the next meeting agenda in November.

- 3. M & I Water Conservation** – Roundtable Members discussed their expectations for municipal and industrial water conservation measures from Front Range and Eastern Slope water providers and users including what measures are reasonable, how much water can really be saved, how the savings should be applied and how land use codes can be used to promote conservation. The Roundtable members also discussed potential water conservation plans and measures for Western Slope water providers/users.

Some of the discussion was about how part of problem is that the water shortage issue is not being faced, and that there is no incentive to conserve water on the Western Slope. Conservation will have to happen with land use changes, specifically that we cannot allow urban sprawl. Many of the Roundtable members agreed the best way to get people to conserve is to hit them in the pocketbook.

Michelle suggested that a committee be formed and that they should meet before the next Roundtable meeting. A new committee was formed consisting of: Rufus Wilderson, Frank Kugel, Joanne Fagan, Steve Shea, Mike Berry, Jennifer Bock, and Adam Turner, with Frank Kugel to chair the effort. The committee will plan to meet before the next Roundtable meeting in November.

Michelle Pierce mentioned that a meeting was tentatively planned for all Roundtables on November 14, but that date might be shifted.

4. Water Supply Reserve Account, Applications for Funding of Non-Consumptive Projects

Roundtable member Cary Denison presented information on the non-consumptive needs assessment process, and gave an overview of the projects that have been funded and successes.

The discussion shifted to project funding and whether the Roundtable wants to provide guidance. Tom Alvey suggested that any guidance would be helpful, and that currently there is not a good set of criteria.

5. Project Proposal – Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, \$22,186.62 from Basin Account Funds for Crystal Lake Fishing Pier.

Tom Alvey stated that the screening committee did not support the application. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

6. Withdrawal of Project Proposal – Trout Unlimited, \$40,000 from Statewide Account Funds and \$10,000 from Basin Account Funds for Relief Ditch Diversion Modification Project.

Cary Denison explained that this request for funding was withdrawn since there is plenty of funding for this stage of the project. There will possibly be a proposal for later stages of the project.

7. **Withdrawal of Project Proposal** – The Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife/City of Gunnison, have withdrawn their request for \$200,000 from Statewide Account Funds & \$20,000 from Basin Account Funds for Gunnison River System Assessment & Restoration.

8. **Basin Roundtable Project Exploration Committee: Flaming Gorge** – Report and Update, Rick Brinkman and Ken Spann.

Ken Spann stated that the committee met last month in Longmont, and worked on developing a process to build a project. Ken built a process flowchart and reviewed it with the Roundtable. Frank Kugel stated that there would be a meeting on Wednesday with the CWCBC staff to work on updating the process.

Note: A small focus group studying the possibility of putting excess water storage in Blue Mesa, is planning to meet on November 11.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

The M & I Water Conservation committee will meet before the November 5 Roundtable meeting.