

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Basin Roundtables**

**Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

**Meeting Agenda**

**June 3, 2013  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, CO  
5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.**

Roll Call/Introductions

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes from 5/6/2013 Meeting (attached)

Report from IBCC Representatives (action item)

Report from Educational Committee

Report from CWCB Representative

- 1. Basin Roundtable Project Exploration Committee: Flaming Gorge** – Report. Rick Brinkman & Ken Spann will report on the results of this committee's work.
- 2. Project Proposal** – Elmer Ferganchick, \$54,285 in Basin Account Funds for Bonita Reservoir Outlet Repair Project (see attached PSC recommendation & forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey).
- 3. Project Proposal** – Delta Conservation District, \$8,865 in Basin Account Funds for Curry Easements West Side of the North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Woody Invasives Removal Project. (see attached PSC recommendation & forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey).
- 4. Project Proposal** – Delta Conservation District, \$4,800 in Basin Account Funds and \$43,200 in Statewide Account Funds for Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project. (see attached PSC recommendation & forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey)
- 5. Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan** – Proposal to Schedule a July Roundtable Meeting. Governor Hickenlooper has established a short timeline for the development of a Statewide Water Plan and the association Basin Implementation Plans. The members will consider scheduling a special meeting in July in order to begin work on this complex task as soon as possible.

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Gunnison State of the River Meeting**

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
May 6, 2013**

**Voting Members Present:**

|                   |                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Thomas Alvey      | North Fork WCD                               |
| Mike Berry        | Tri-County WCD                               |
| Jennifer Bock     | Environmental                                |
| Tim Decker        | Montrose County                              |
| Cary Denison      | Ouray County                                 |
| Allen Distel      | Bostwick Park WCD                            |
| Joanne Fagan      | Ouray Municipalities                         |
| Steve Fletcher    | At-Large Member                              |
| Austin Keiser     | Grand Mesa WCD                               |
| Wendell Koontz    | Delta Municipalities                         |
| Frank Kugel       | At-Large Member                              |
| Rachel Kullman    | Montrose Municipalities                      |
| Henry LeValley    | Crawford WCD                                 |
| Olen Lund         | At-Large Member                              |
| John McClow       | House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison |
| Chuck Mitisek     | Ute WCD                                      |
| Bill Nesbitt      | Gunnison Municipalities                      |
| Michelle Pierce   | Hinsdale Municipalities                      |
| Mark Roeber       | Delta County                                 |
| Hugh Sanburg      | Industrial                                   |
| Neal Schwieterman | Recreational                                 |
| Ron Shaver        | At-Large Member                              |
| Steve Shea        | Agricultural                                 |
| George Sibley     | At-Large Member                              |
| Ken Spann         | Upper Gunnison River WCD                     |
| Adam Turner       | Local Domestic Water Supplier                |
| Rufus Wilderson   | Gunnison County                              |

**Voting Members Absent:**

|               |                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Vacant        | Saguache County                            |
| Rick Brinkman | Mesa Municipalities                        |
| John Justman  | Mesa County                                |
| Bill Trampe   | Colorado River Water Conservation District |
| Stan Whinnery | Hinsdale County                            |

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

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

**Public:** Todd Doherty, Ted Kowalski, Ray Alvarado (CWCB), Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center), Hal Simpson, Mark McCluskey (CDMSmith), Aaron Derwingson (The Nature Conservancy), Paul Kehmeier (Farmer, Eckert), Dave Kehmeier, Ralph Kehmeier (public), Steve Snyder (Saguache), Jeff Sellen (Colorado Water Workshop), David Bram (USGS), Torie Jarvis (Montrose).

**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 a quorum was present.

**Approve Agenda**

Michelle Pierce announced an addition to the Agenda will be a Resolution for Jennifer Gimbel for her Service. This item will be placed before item 1.

Bill Nesbitt made a motion to accept the amended Agenda. Neal Schwieterman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approve April 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Neal Schwieterman made a motion to accept the April 1, 2013 minutes. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Report from the IBCC Representatives**

Olen Lund reported that there had been no IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting in March. The meeting dates have been changed for the CWCB and IBCC so that each will be held every other month, on alternate months. The next IBCC meeting will be June 5, 2013.

**Report from the Educational Committee**

George Sibley reported that he was continuing to work on the newspaper insert, and was hoping to have it complete by the end of the month.

Hannah Holm reported that at the last week's Colorado Basin Roundtable meeting they discussed holding a workshop for consumptive needs projects, similar to the workshops that were held for the non-consumptive needs projects. They have decided to hold a workshop in June in Grand Junction. It was pointed out that it would be logical to do it in conjunction with the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. Hannah asked for a couple of people from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to work with her that can provide input on our grant process. Tom Alvey and Frank Kugel agreed to help Hannah.

**Report from the CWCB Representative**

John McClow stated that the CWCB had a retreat on April 18, 2013. They discussed the process for selection of the new director. The Governor hopes to make an appointment by the end of June.

They also spent several hours discussing the size, shape and form of a state water plan. There will be more information on that after the May CWCB meeting.

**Resolution Honoring Jennifer Gimbel on Her Service to the CWCB**

Michelle Pierce read the resolution that was written by Bill Nesbit with the help of John McClow and Frank Kugel, honoring Jennifer Gimbel for her service to the CWCB.

Bill Nesbitt made a motion that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable adopts the resolution. Ron Shaver seconded, and the motion carried.

Michelle Pierce stated that she would make sure Jennifer gets a copy of the Resolution.

**1. Bureau of Reclamation/Seven States Colorado Basin Supply & Demand Study**

Ted Kowalski, Section chief of the Interstate and Federal Section of the CWCB, presented information on the Colorado River Basin Study. Mr. Kowalski has been traveling to all the basin roundtables to get everyone up to speed on the study, what it means to Colorado, and where we're going from here. The report was developed working closely with state water organizations and users. It is a 3-year study jointly funded by the Colorado River Basin states and Reclamation. The study is available on the CWCB website.

**2. Colorado River Water Availability Study Phase 2 Scoping**

Ray Alvarado, Senior Water Resource Specialist in the Interstate and Federal Section of the CWCB discussed the scoping of Phase 2 of the Colorado River Water Availability study. The CWCB had a workshop in September where they were directed to go out to the roundtables and talk to them about the scope of work. Information is available online.

Phase 2 has been divided into three tasks:

1. Look at the various studies that have already been done.
2. Take the work done in Phase I, look at the local imbalances, put it in the modeling framework, and then come back to the roundtables with an analysis and get feedback.
3. Look at risk management issues to come up with strategies to manage risk.

Mr. Alvarado asked for comments to be submitted by the end of May. All comments received will be combined and will go to the board.

**3. Blue Mesa Water Banking Study**

Hal Simpson and Mark McCluskey from CDMSmith presented their findings regarding the Blue Mesa Water Banking Study. The purpose the water banking study was to look at the feasibility and suitability of using the excess capacity in Blue Mesa Reservoir for helping to reduce or mitigate Colorado River Compact curtailment. A demonstration of the water bank model was given. The presenters requested input from Roundtable members as soon as possible.

**4. Colorado River Water Bank**

Aaron Derwingson with The Nature Conservancy Colorado River Program discussed their study to determine the basic viability of a water bank on the west slope. The purpose of the water bank would be to prevent and/or mitigate the impact of water shortages in the Colorado River.

Paul Kehmeier, a farmer in the Eckert area, gave a presentation on a study that was conducted by CSU on his alfalfa hay fields, where they used 3 plots and studied the effects of different watering levels and timing. The purpose was to determine what the ultimate effects would be for farmers' fields if they gave up various amounts of irrigation water to the water bank.

**5. Project Proposal – Grand Mesa Water Users Association, \$40,000 in Basin Funds for Replacement of Measuring Devices on Grand Mesa.**

The proposed project is to replace 14 weirs on the Grand Mesa. The system needs larger and more expensive weirs than usual due to pressures from snow and ice. The amount requested is \$40,000 from Basin Funds. The Project Screening committee recommends approval of the project proposal.

Tom Alvey made a motion to approve the project proposal from the Grand Mesa Water Users Association for \$40,000 in Basin Funds for the Replacement of Measuring Devices on Grand Mesa. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Ron Shaver abstained from the vote.

**6. Roundtable Membership & Attendance**

The proposed amendments to the Bylaws were circulated to the Roundtable members.

Tim Decker made a motion to approve the amendments to the Bylaws. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Berry asked if we are now going to keep track of whether an absence is excused or not excused. Michelle Pierces stated that we are, and that she will let Mike know who is excused.

**7. 2013 Gunnison State of the River Meeting**

The 2013 Gunnison State of the River Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, concurrent with the regular Roundtable meeting. It was decided to hold the regular meeting from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., and the State of the River Meeting after that. Ideas for Agenda items for the meeting were discussed.

May 6, 2013

**Bill Nesbitt – Gunnison Sage Grouse Update**

Bill Nesbitt announced that Mr. Hash, a Planning Commissioner, would be visiting Gunnison on next Tuesday or Wednesday to see the ground listed as critical habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Bill stated he would get the date to Michelle Pierce.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2012, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

May 6, 2013

**Action Items**

Michelle Pierce will get a copy of the Resolution to Jennifer Gimbel and forward to Jennifer.

Bill Nesbitt to get the date to Michelle Pierce that Mr. Hash would be visiting Gunnison.

## The PSC met to consider three applications for WSRA grants

- 1) Application from Elmer Ferganchick for Bonita Reservoir Outlet Repair for \$54285 in Basin funds. Mr Ferganchick is the owner of Bonita Reservoir, a 300 af storage facility, on Grand Mesa, used for irrigation of his farmland. The State Engineer has imposed a zero fill storage restriction on the reservoir because of a leak in the outlet between the pipe and intake structure. The proposed project would repair this leak using a Cured in Place Pipe method, utilizing relatively new technology which would allow this repair to be made with only ATV access. In addition, there would be a downstream drain installed. Since Mr Ferganchick is an individual owner, he is not eligible for state WSRA funds. The PSC recommends approval of this application. The grant would aid in repairing aging infrastructure, maintain agriculture and preserve a pre 1922 water right, all of which are identified needs of the Basin. In addition, the project would benefit others who depend on the releases from this reservoir to help "carry" their water in the same ditch. Also, the construction method, if effective, would be useful for many other inaccessible reservoirs.
- 2) One of two applications from the Delta Conservation District (DCD) (originally one app), this application is for \$8865 from the Basin account for eradication of invasive plants, primarily Tamarisk and Russian Olive, along a two mile section of the North Fork of the Gunnison, near Hotchkiss. This stream segment is identified in the Non-consumptive needs assessment as needing habitat improvement. The project is a two year effort centered on actual eradication and reseeding efforts. The DCD is providing oversight and management help as an in kind contribution of \$750. The PSC found the application met all requirements and recommends approval of the relatively small request for non consumptive purposes.
- 3) The second application from DCD is for a Somerset Diversion Improvement Study, requesting \$43200 in State funds and \$4800 from the Basin account. The aim of the project is to provide a preliminary design for improvements to the Somerset Domestic Water system diversion from the North Fork of the Gunnison, meeting the needs of several stakeholders. The study would assemble the stakeholders, including Oxbow mine, Somerset Domestic Waterworks District, Parks and Wildlife and recreational interests to provide input for an engineering design of a new diversion. The application includes both consumptive and non consumptive components and meets identified Gunnison Basin needs for improved Municipal water supplies, upgrading aging infrastructure and recreational and access improvements on the North Fork. The PSC found the application met all requirements for Basin and State grants, but was concerned with the level of in kind contributions to the project. Although the contributions meet the requirement of the grant (20% match of state funds and 5% from Basin funds), under Evaluation Criteria in the State application, Tier 2 sec e, a "significant & appropriate commitment to the project" is requested. This should be discussed by the Roundtable.

**Gunnison State of the River Meeting  
June 3, 2013 – Holiday Inn Express**

- 6:30 pm      Division Engineer's Water Year Outlook**  
Bob Hurford, Division 4 Engineer, Division of Water Resources
- 6:45 pm      Reservoir Operations**  
Erik Knight, Hydrologist, Bureau of Reclamation
- 7:00 pm      Drought Outlook**  
Nolan Doesken, State Climatologist, Colorado State University
- 7:25 pm      A Western Colorado Perspective on the Colorado River  
Basin Water Supply and Demand Study**  
Eric Kuhn, General Manager, Colorado River District
- 7:45 pm      Flaming Gorge Task Force: What About a Big Project?**  
Ken Spann, Flaming Gorge Task Force, Gunnison Basin Roundtable  
Rick Brinkman, Gunnison Basin Roundtable
- 8:05 pm      Gunnison Basin Roundtable Non-Consumptive Projects  
Completed, Underway and Projected**  
Carey Denison, Gunnison Basin Roundtable
- 8:20 pm      Gunnison Basin Roundtable Work and Priorities**  
Michelle Pierce, Gunnison Basin Roundtable Chair