

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Basin Roundtables**

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

Meeting Agenda

**July 1, 2013
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, CO
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Roll Call/Introductions

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes from 6/3/2013 Meeting (attached)

Report from IBCC Representatives (action item)

Report from Educational Committee

Report from CWCB Representative

- 1. Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan** – Rebecca Mitchell, Water Supply Planning Section Chief, Colorado Water Conservation Board, will give an overview of this process and will assist the roundtable members in developing its strategy for this plan. (see attached Draft Purpose and Outline)
- 2. Risk Management/Colorado River Development Issues** – Eric Kuhn, General Manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District will lead a discussion on these topics.
- 3. Public Trust Initiatives** – Douglas Kemper, Executive Director of the Colorado Water Congress will present information on this topic.
- 4. Project Proposal Reevaluation** - 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.

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
June 3, 2013**

Voting Members Present:

Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Tim Decker	Montrose County
Cary Denison	Ouray County
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
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
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Rachel Kullman	Montrose Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Vacant	Saguache 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).

Public: Jim Pokrandt and Eric Kuhn (CRWCD), Todd Doherty (CWCB), Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center), Ralph D'Alessandro (Delta Conservation District), Terry L. Commander and Bobby Scanton (Somerset Domestic Waterworks District), Kenneth Nelson (North Delta Irrigation), Kate Greenberg (National Young Farmer's Coalition, Bruce Marvin (Western Engineers), Elmer Ferganchick (Bonita Reservoir), JoAnne Snyder (Cochetopa area), Chris Menge (American Whitewater), Jason Ullman (Asst. Div. IV Engineer DNR), Hank Lohmeyer (Delta County Independent).

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.

Michelle Pierce introduced and welcomed member Steve Snyder, the new appointee for Saguache County.

Approve Agenda

Frank Kugel made a motion to accept the Agenda. Tim Decker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approve May 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A couple of typographical changes were requested on page 3; change Hash to Ashe, and Nesbit to Nesbitt.

Neal Schwieterman made a motion to accept the amended May 6, 2013 minutes. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Olen Lund reported that there had been no meeting since the previous Roundtable meeting.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley reported that he is continuing work on the handbook. Neal Schwieterman thanked George for his work on the publication.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow stated that the CWCB had met on May 14 and 15 in Grand Junction. It was a fairly routine meeting, although they spent 2 hours in executive session learning about the large amount of litigation currently going on over river issues, which have some effect on Colorado. Other topics included:

- Some water projects were approved including the one for the Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District.
- A presentation was given on the Colorado River Water Bank Project and the Colorado Water Availability Study – Phase II.

- The Board Approved 6 Alternative Agricultural grants to explore alternatives to “buy and dry” for agriculture in Colorado.
- A few hours were spent on the State Water Plan and update of the SWSI 2015 and the basin implementation plans.

Other Announcements

Todd Doherty will be leaving the CWCB to take a position with the Boulder Open Space.

Michelle Pierce received a note from Jennifer Gimbel thanking the Roundtable for the resolution. She has accepted a position with the Department of the Interior as counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Water and Science, which will require her to relocate to Washington D.C.

1. Basin Roundtable Project Exploration Committee: Flaming Gorge – Ken Spann and Rick Brinkman

Ken Spann gave an overview of the 134 page report on the results of this committee’s work. Ken recommended that everyone read at least the first four pages.

The committee representatives from the Roundtables met one time per month for 1 year to evaluate the concept of a Flaming Gorge project and to use the Flaming Gorge process to look for other potential projects and what the issues might be as a new supply coming out of the Colorado River.

Ultimately the group recommends that there be an intensive “adult conversation” at the Roundtable level to try to sort out some of the very basic things to form a position about a new supply coming out of the Colorado River.

The basic questions that came out of the process are:

- How can we maximize our use and minimize our risk?
- Who would we finance a project of this magnitude?
- What is the role of the State in such a project?
- What are the alternatives?
- How would water be regulated when coming in from another state?
- How would a compact be administered in time of call?
- Do we want to affirmatively use the Colorado River Storage project reservoirs as sources for water to use and consume, or as banks and protection from the downstream compact obligation and develop other storage?
- How do the member states coordinate and consult on a major new diversion from a potentially impacted reservoir?

What is the next step? John McClow answered that the next step is the state water plan, but with input from the Roundtables and the IBCC. Each Roundtable is expected to develop a plan which will be then input into the state water plan.

2. **Project Proposal** – Elmer Ferganchick, \$54,285 in Basin Account Funds for Bonita Reservoir Outlet Repair Project

Frank Kugel stated that the project is for reservoir rehabilitation for a critical water supply for the Ferganchick Ranch. The request is for funds from the Basin account only, because as a private entity they are not eligible for State funds. The Project Screening Committee unanimously recommends approval. The applicant has met all guidelines, and feels that it is a worthy project to retain storage on the Grand Mesa. The project will indirectly benefit 8 other users for a total of 320 acres. The proponent plans to do the project this year, so it is on a short timeline.

Frank Kugel made a motion to approve the proposal from Elmer Ferganchick for \$54,285 in Basin Account Funds for Bonita Reservoir Outlet Repair Project. Cary Denison seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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.

Frank Kugel stated that this is one of two projects from the Delta Conservation District, which was originally submitted as a joint proposal with the next Agenda item, but it was recommended that they submit them in two distinct projects. This project is for eradication of invasives. The Project Screening Committee feels that the project proposal meets all the guideline requirements and recommends approval.

Todd Doherty added that there are some funds available for tamarisk removal, and the applicant stated that they have been approved for some of those funds, but those funds have been earmarked for some other land. This request is for new property on the west bank of the river, where very little work has been done and threatens to reseed all the work that has already been done eradicating the invasives in other areas.

Ken Spann made a motion to approve the proposal from the Delta Conservation District for \$8,865 in Basin Account Funds for Curry Easements West Side of the North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Woody Invasives Removal Project. Wendell Koontz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Project Proposal** – Delta Conservation District, \$4,800 in Basin Accounts Funds and \$43,200 in Statewide Account Funds for Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project.

Frank Kugel stated that this project is for study and preliminary design of the Somerset intake system for their municipal water supply. The Project Screening Committee recommends approval with some concerns, primarily with matching funds. The applicant was then asked to address the matching fund issue, and responded that this is a co-application, part of a multi-year project along the whole North Fork of the Gunnison River, addressing not only invasives but also diversions.

The co-applicant is the Somerset Domestic Waterworks District. Both are putting time into it trying to meet with the stakeholders including the Elk Creek Mine, who is willing to work to provide public access to the River. The applicant indicated that the time they were proposing as matching funds is valued at over \$14,000.

Neal Schwieterman made a motion to approve the project from Delta Conservation District, \$4,800 in Basin Accounts Funds and \$43,200 in Statewide Account Funds for Somerset Diversion Improvement Study – North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project. Cary Denison seconded.

Tim Decker, Joanne Fagan and Olen Lund voted against the motion, and were told they would have to submit a minority opinion report. However, it was later determined that the motion failed.

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 associated Basin Implementation Plan. The Roundtable members were all in favor of scheduling a meeting in July in order to begin work on this complex task as soon as possible. The next meeting will be held on July 1, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

The Gunnison State of the River Meeting was held after the regular Roundtable meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

June 3, 2013

Action Items

No action items.

Basin Implementation Plan

DRAFT Purpose and Outline

Purpose: During the needs assessment work summarized in the State Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2010, it was determined that every basin has a gap. Therefore, the fundamental purpose of the Basin Implementation Plans is to develop projects and methods to meet municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational needs. This involves review of the Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs) and the development of new projects and methods that meet the roundtables' water supply gaps identified in SWSI 2010 and additional shortages outlined in section three. As part of this work, roundtables will develop goals and measurable outcomes, and needs, constraints and opportunities in the basin. In addition, the plan will identify specific implementation strategies that will be needed to fully realize the projects and methods described in section four and indicate how well the plan meets the basin roundtables' goals and measurable outcomes.

The Basin Implementation Plans will focus on projects and methods recommended by the roundtables to address their consumptive and nonconsumptive needs. As such, they are intended to help basins proactively meet water needs, with currently planned projects, re-prioritized projects, and new projects, operational agreements, flow protections, or other methods. The Basin Implementation Plans will also likely include more detailed modeling analyses done via the CRWAS Continuation or WSRA-funded studies in basins outside of the CRWAS area.

Relation to Other Pieces: The Basin Implementation Plans will be a fundamental component in SWSI as they will focus on strategies to meet roundtables' consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs. The Colorado Water for 21st Century Act established the Basin Roundtables and tasked them to develop a water supply needs assessment, conduct a water supply analysis and propose projects and methods to meet those needs. This work will provide a more detailed analysis and be geared towards implementing projects to meet those needs to address the gap in a meaningful way. This effort will be a foundational component of the update to SWSI and provide critical inputs into the State Water Plan.

Outline: Following is the table of contents for the Basin Implementation Plans. Each section presented below will include guidance on what the section should contain, information that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) will provide to the Basin Roundtables (BRTs), and sections that are optional.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Section 1	Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes
Section 2	Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs
	2.1 Nonconsumptive Needs
	2.2 Consumptive Needs
Section 3	Evaluate Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Constraints and Opportunities
	3.1 Current Basin Water Operations and Hydrology
	3.2 Water Management and Water Administration (Optional)

	3.3	Hydrologic Modeling (Optional)
	3.4	Shortages Analysis
Section 4		Projects and Methods
	4.1	Education, Participation & Outreach
	4.2	New Multi-Purpose, Cooperative, and Regional Projects and Methods
	4.3	M&I Projects and Methods (i.e. projects, conservation, reuse, drought planning)
	4.4	Agricultural Projects & Methods
	4.5	Non-consumptive Projects and Methods
	4.6	Interbasin Projects and Methods (optional)
Section 5		Implementation Strategies for the Projects and Methods Identified in Section 4
Section 6		How the plan meets the Roundtables' Goals and Measurable Objectives