

HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable Minutes January 9, 2013

Members	Mike Preston	Bruce Whitehead	Steve Fearn
Present:	Don Schwindt	Steve Harris	Bruce Smart
	John Porter	Chuck Lawler	Chuck Wanner
	John Ey	Rod Proffitt	Val Valentine
	Celine Hawkins	Ed Zink	Carrie Lile
	Peter Ortego	Tim Hunter	Don Magnuson
	Michael Canterbury	Wendy McDermott	
Guests:	John Whitney	Ed Tolen	Greg Johnson
	Denise Rue-Pastin	Fern Shahan	Don Shahan
	Karen Hellige	Jason Wells	Richard Van Gytenbeek
	Ryan Christianson		

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

Administrative Reports

Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes of October 10, 2012 were approved.

Other Reports

Ed Zink attended the riparian conservation meeting and gave a brief overview. Denise Rue-Pastin reported that Ed Zink received an Excellence in Riparian Management award from the Colorado Riparian Association for 2012. Ed and his wife have worked to create a 50-acre wetlands in the Animas Valley that improves water quality, provides a bird migration corridor and conserves the aesthetics of wetland open space, and will serve as a local educational facility.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that SWRT's current balance is \$230,983. Projects in the Southwest Basin have received a total of almost \$6.5 million from both the Basin and State accounts. Greg Johnson, CWCB, reported that the CWCB received an installment of almost \$2.2 million for January, and more than was expected. It is expected that quite a few applications will be received for the CWCB March meeting.

Updates on IBCC Process

Greg Johnson gave a presentation "Discuss Implementation of "No Regrets"" from the Nov. 15, 2012 IBCC meeting. The intent is to address the M&I gap by beginning/continuing to implement the IPPs from the 2010 SWSI. Bruce Whitehead added his comments from the meeting. Discussion occurred. The next meeting is March 5, 2013.

Flaming Gorge Exploratory Committee Update

Bruce Whitehead, Ann Oliver, and Chuck Wanner gave a presentation on the work being done by the committee. A draft report of Phase 1 is ready, "Threshold Steps & Process Framework for Consideration of a Major New Supply Allocation from the Colorado River". The CWCB board needs to make a determination to move forward or not. Originally, the committee discussed the pros and cons of the

Flaming Gorge Project. As discussions progressed, their focus became to develop a process by which to judge the merits of new projects:

- Step 1: Basin roundtables agree to discuss the new supply issue to plan for development from the Colorado River Basin
- Step 2: A roundtable working group agrees on possible allocation(s) of new water supply and on generic components of a good project (i.e. a good deal for everyone)
- Step 3: IBCC and CWCB review and ratify the interbasin agreements pursuant to HB1177
- Step 4: If/when the project proponent emerges, apply components of the Interbasin agreement to the specific project proposal; quantify, clarify and specify how the components are reflected in the new project.

Are the basin roundtables willing to have a conversation pursuant to these statutes?

If no, this process stops.

If yes, define Colorado River issues:

- a. Priority and availability of the source
- b. Risk management of compact call
 - Drought protection
 - Municipal conservation linked to storage levels in Lakes Powell & Mead
- c. Element of mitigation
- d. How does this address current and future gaps?

SWRT members gave input and asked questions.

Report on Mini-Conservation Roundtable Summit, Dec. 3, Silverthorne

Denise Rue-Pastin attended and gave a recap of the summit. What started out as conversations between the Metro, the Gunnison, and the Colorado River roundtables relating to conservation turned in to a state-wide mini summit. Approximately 60-65 people attended from all the roundtables. Metro and the front range participants related that they had already instituted about as much conservation as they could and that conservation should be an important process to the west slope as well. It was generally agreed that conservation should not be a political issue and should become a cultural norm on both sides of the range that will require some type of legislation. SWRT at one time provided a letter stating its position against mandated state-wide legislation for two reasons: one-size fits all legislation is not acceptable, and that IBCC should not be putting forward a legislative agenda.

Reports on Completed Roundtable Funded Projects

Molas Lake Ditch Rehab and Diversion Structures

Jason Wells, Silverton, and Bill Simon, Animas River Stakeholders gave a presentation on the Molas Lake Ditch Rehab projection that was successfully completed.

Review of Applications

Animas River Diversion Headgate Monitoring Study \$14,500 Basin only

Ed Zink presented a request for a \$14,500 basin grant for the Animas Consolidated Ditch Company. After discussion, there was general consensus to approve the grant. Ann Oliver moved to approve, and Chuck Lawler seconded the motion.

Concept Proposal: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Water Conservation Management Plan

Celine Hawkins gave information on the management plan that the tribe is undertaking in order to develop and prioritize water management goals, support basic services to Tribal members and long term planning of Tribal water resources and infrastructure needs. Members made suggestions to improve the request.

Impromptu Concept Proposal: Don Shahan-Spring Creek

Bruce Whitehead reported that SWCD funded a study (\$2500) through the San Juan Conservation District for rehab needs on a dam in New Mexico that supplies irrigation water to the Shahan ranch in Colorado. Don related details from the results of the study. The San Juan Conservation District may approach the roundtable for funding in the future. Greg Johnson, CWCB, will investigate the possibility of funding a project in New Mexico. Members asked questions and gave input.

Upcoming Events

2013 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

April 10	Cortez	changed to April 17
July 10	Durango	

Other Announcements

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 5:37 pm.