

Southwest Basin Roundtable April 17, 2013

Present:	Mike Preston Rod Proffitt John Porter Chuck Lawler Don Magnuson Ken Beegles Bruce Smart	Carrie Lile Gary Kennedy Val Valentine John Taylor Steve Fearn Tim Hunter Dan Huntington	Celine Hawkins Ann Oliver Steve Harris Don Schwindt Ed Zink Bruce Whitehead
Guests:	Denise Rue-Pastin Pete Foster	Dale Smith	Richard Vangytenbeck

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

Administrative Reports

Approve Minutes

Minutes from 1-09-13 were not available for review.

Vacancy on Board Announcement

Wendy McDermott, Environmental Representative, has left the region for other opportunities and vacates a seat on the Roundtable. The vacancy will be noticed in newspapers and the board will have election at next meeting.

Committee Reports

Conservation Subcommittee of IBCC

Steve Harris reported on promoting conservation by consensus throughout state. Mike Preston added his perception that part of what is driving this discussion is the Front Range is trying to address their M&I gap. The Front Range feels that if conservation goals are imposed on them, that conservation goals should be implemented on the West Slope. We should design a plan that moves in a conservation direction while recognizing the water supply variations in our basin and the minimal proportion of M&I use relative to other uses in the Southwest Basin.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the \$216,483 balance includes the \$14,500 just approved for the Animas River Diversion Study by our Roundtable.

Review & Updates on Basin Level and State Level Water Planning Roadmap & IBCC Process

4 Legs of the Stool

Made up of IPPs, New Supply, Conservation, and Ag Conversion. Some combination of the four will determine how we as a Basin and as sub-basins will meet 2050 demands.

Review of Southwest Basin Portfolios

Mike Preston referred to the memo sent to Greg Johnson summarizing our Statewide portfolio:

- Minimize ag transfer (all agree) by means of:
 - Aggressive conservation (1/3 of votes cast)
 - Up to 150,000 af of Colorado River water for transfer to East Slope was potentially acceptable as long as West Slope needs are met (2/3 of the votes cast)

Overview of West Slope Caucus

John Porter attended the meeting in Glenwood Springs on March 28. Mike Preston, Bruce Whitehead, April Montgomery and Steve Harris also attended by telephone. The caucus was motivated by the Gunnison Roundtable. One of their concerns is the priority for meeting West Slope needs from junior water rights associated with new storage with trans-basin diversions as a secondary priority when water availability is tight. A whitepaper was written and delivered to the IBCC and nothing came of it; it's possible that their Roundtable attendance is dropping because of that. There was discussion on the possibility of a lower basin curtailment and how the water bank concept could help. Russ George, CWCB Board, strongly encouraged the West Slope roundtables to take a leadership role in reaching out to the East Slope. This caucus group felt the blueprint for moving forward was the New Supply Group's (Flaming Gorge) report in terms of more supply and getting water from the west to the east. There was also discussion in linking land use to water use in future developments.

Basin Implementation Plan for IPPS

2013 Roadmap – John Stulp and Jennifer Gimbel letter

Mike Preston discussed the elements of the letter. It's time now to address the already identified IPPs and determine those that should be pushed to implementation (both consumptive and non-consumptive). SWRT is going to be asked to participate in an on-going discussion about transbasin diversions. If new supplies provide the East Slope with water, SWRT needs to have identified opportunities that will help narrow gaps within our Basin. Next step for Southwest Basin is to identify priority consumptive and non-consumptive projects, worthy of attention, with support and initiative coming from the sub-basins. Discussion occurred on the process to do this.

It was agreed that members interested in participating in the process of identifying supply gaps and making sure that there are well focused IPPs to address them should attend a pre-Roundtable Workshop on July 10.

Statewide New Supply Projects

Greg Johnson, CWCB, said the State is working on the structure for the new implementation plans. They will create criteria for selecting projects identified by roundtables.

Colorado River Water Availability Study

Greg Johnson reported that CWCB is in scoping Phase 2. He gave a description of:

- Summary for scoping process
- Summary of Phase 1
- Full scope of work

Discussion occurred and initial input was given to Greg Johnson. A letter from SWRT with basin feedback is due within 30 days. Steve Harris will send his own comments to Roundtable members and to CWCB. Other individuals should send comments directly to Greg and copy Mike.

Update on Flaming Gorge Exploratory Committee

Bruce Whitehead recapped the update that was given at the last meeting. The committee concluded that there are three choices for going forward:

- Continue to convene
- Continue this dialogue at state-wide summits
- Continue Interbasin discussions and take to IBCC

IBCC chose to discontinue the Exploratory Committee. There was consensus, however, that discussion needs to continue. Chuck Wanner and Ann Oliver added their comments. Both who thought the committee produced good results. The group finessed a process that could be applied in reviewing other projects. Discussion occurred. Mike Preston thanked Bruce, Chuck and Ann for their effective participation in the committee.

Review of Applications

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe \$30,000 Basin \$40,000 Statewide

Celine Hawkins recapped the concept presentation given at the last meeting for the development of a Tribe Water Conservation and Management plan. With the Southwest Basin Colorado-based work, the Tribe will work with tribal resources as well as outside entities. The request is split between basin and state funds. Ed Zink moved, and Steve Harris seconded that the request be approved. There was general consensus that the request be approved.

La Plata River Water Resources Operations Model – Contract Amendment

The La Plata Water Conservancy District was earlier approved for a state grant. They are asking for the Basin Roundtable's approval to seek an additional \$7,000 in state funds to complete the study, necessitated by additional time needed to address CDSS issues. They would like the request to be heard at the CWCB September meeting in Telluride. Steve Fearn and Chuck Wanner moved and seconded that the request be approved. There was general consensus that the request be approved.

Upcoming Events

CFWE President's Award	May 3	Denver (honoring Jim Isgar)
SWRT meeting	July 10	Durango Public Library (All day workshop and meeting)
4-State Irrigation Council	Aug. 14	Durango