

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
November 4, 2013**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Tim Decker	Montrose 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
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Steve Snyder	Saguache County
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
John Justman	Mesa County
Olen Lund	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County

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

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), David Kanzer (Non-Voting Liaison), Gary Shellhorn (USFS Liaison), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison).

**Public:** Richard Vangytenbeek, Jesse Kruthaupt and Cary Denison (Trout Unlimited); Michael Dale (NPS); Dan McClendon (DMEA and No Chico Brush); Steve Schrock, and John Harold (No Chico Brush), Tom Kay (North Fork Organics, No Chico Brush), Brent Gardner-Smith (Aspen Journalism); John Stulp (IBCC/Governor's Office); Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group); Steve Westbay (City of Gunnison); Dan Brauch (Colorado Parks and Wildlife); Jim Briscoe and Jack D'Orio (Lone Cabin Ditch & Reservoir Co.).

### **Welcome**

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

### **Roll Call/Introductions**

Following roll call a quorum was declared present.

### **Approve Agenda**

Michelle Pierce announced an addition to the Agenda to call for another volunteer for the Proposal Screening Committee.

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

### **Approve October 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Bill Trampe requested a change to page 2, last paragraph where it should read "compact curtailment", and on page 4, #5 where it should be Steve "Fletcher" not Steve "Shea".

Frank Kugel made a motion to accept the October 7, 2013 minutes as amended. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the IBCC Representatives**

Bill Trampe stated that there has not been an IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting.

Bill reported that he and John McClow have discussed the risk management issue seriously over the past month and have come to consensus with regard to new appropriation out of the Colorado River. John has shared these thoughts with Director Stulp and the CWCB which is to back our ideas up and start talking about individual water rights. The concept is that when a new appropriation is made out of the Colorado River, that appropriation is okay with the condition that should it come to curtailment it would be the first one to be curtailed from diverting. Bill asked the Roundtable to discuss and if they agree to endorse it. If not, then come up with another idea for the IBCC members to take to the IBCC meeting in December, because that meeting is supposed to focus on risk management.

Bill suggested a timeline of January 1, 2014 for when new appropriation would be put under this new rule. Frank Kugel stated he would prefer it be 2013 to include projects existing or underway. Bill Trampe asked the Roundtable if everyone is comfortable with the recommendation of this concept to the IBCC.

Ken Spann moved to amend the motion to include that the risk management principles set forth by Bill Trampe be implemented into our Basin Implementation Plan. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Kugel made a motion to adopt and support the risk management principles set forth by Bill Trampe, and to direct the IBCC representatives, Rick Brinkman and Olen Lund, to carry that message to the full IBCC membership. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the Educational Committee**

George Sibley stated that he had nothing new to report.

### **Report from the CWCB Representative**

John McCloy was not present to give his report.

John Stulp reported that the CWCB staff is working on refining the guidelines and he encouraged the Roundtable to complete their draft basin implementation plan as soon as possible. There are two Roundtables still in the process of identifying their contractor. After all contractors have been chosen there will be a caucus where all the contractors will meet, with the purpose of instructing them to put their plans together in a somewhat similar format.

**1. No Chico Brush Group** – Members of the recently formed “No Chico Brush” group will present information regarding the efforts of the No Chico Brush Group in the Uncompahgre and North Fork Valleys.

John Harold, Cary Denison, Dan McClendon, and Tom Kay gave a presentation. Several members of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable are also members of this group, as well as some other organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited.

The purpose of this newly formed group is to find ways to improve methods of irrigating crops to use water more efficiently. They are also working on improving soil health. The group chose the name No Chico Brush because they don’t want the valley to get turned back into Chico Brush.

**2. Our Colorado River** - Richard Vangytenbeek, the Colorado River Basin Outreach Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, introduced the “Our Colorado River” program to the Roundtable.

Trout Unlimited is a conservation group with 150,000 members nationwide. “Our Colorado River” is a project of Trout Unlimited with the goal of improving the quality of the Colorado River and its tributaries. Their primary message is cooperation. They are trying to get communities to work together as much as possible. His presentation has two goals: 1) Let people know what they do on the western slope, and; 2) Get people to cooperate and to endorse their core values. The core values are 5 principles that they’ve come up with. Richard asked that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable consider endorsing their core values and support their program.

**3. Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) – Draft Goals & Measurable Outcomes.**

Frank Kugel updated the Roundtable on the progress of the basin implementation planning effort. The water supply reserve account grant has been approved and funds are now available to pay the contractor. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District is the fiscal agent handling the contract and distributing funds on behalf of the Roundtable.

The first BIP meeting occurred on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Gunnison. The BIP Committee's primary objective was to develop goals under Section 1 of the draft guidance document for basin planning efforts. This list of goals was distributed by Michelle in the meeting packet. They plan get these goals adopted soon then move on to the measureable outcomes of section 1 of the guidance document.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00, immediately prior to the next Roundtable meeting. All Roundtable members are welcome to attend.

Greg Johnson of Wilson Water Group presented and discussed the BIP committee's goals and the 3 documents from John McClow, George Sibley and Dave Kanzer.

**4. NRCS – Snow Survey & Snotel Data – Curtailment of Program.**

Frank Kugel attended an NRCS meeting in Lakewood last week, where he learned that the NRCS is planning to do away with 47 snow courses around the state due to budget cuts. Eight of the snow courses are in the Gunnison Basin.

The Snotels are a satisfactory replacement that provides real time data that is used more by forecasters. It is a great system but is not being maintained. The data is serving users and they make decisions based on this data. The current difficulties are vacancies and funding constraints.

The Roundtable discussed how this important program could be continued. Suggestions were made to have cooperators take over, or cooperators fund the program. Other suggestions were that basins could get together to help fund the program and having various entities help by collaborating and taking measurements.

Mike Gibson advised to hold off on any action until next week. They are confident that they will be able to fund the program through this current year. Frank will keep the Roundtable posted. The NRCS will need to know of any action taken by the Roundtable by end of November in order to plan for next year.

**5. Project Proposal – City of Gunnison, \$45,540 in Basin Account funds and \$400,752 in Statewide Account funds for Gunnison River Riparian and Diversion Restoration Project.**

This proposed project is from the City of Gunnison working together with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife for stream restoration on the Gunnison River. The Screening Committee recommends approval. The project has both consumptive and non-consumptive benefits.

Neal Schwieterman asked about the water rights for Old Milton Ditch and if the decree was going to be moved back to it and how that would be handled with the state. It was stated that it was a possibility that those water rights would be transferred back.

Ken Spann made a motion to approve the project proposal for the City of Gunnison, \$45,540 in Basin Account funds and \$400,752 in Statewide Account funds for Gunnison River Riparian and Diversion Restoration Project. Ron Shaver seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Project Proposal – Lone Cabin Ditch & Reservoir Company, additional request for \$121,150 in Basin Account funds and \$46,000 in Statewide Account funds for Lone Cabin Dam Repair and Rehabilitation Project.**

This is a proposal that was brought to the Roundtable and approved last spring. The CWCB reworked it dramatically. There are some new criteria being used by the state in hearing grant requests from State funds. The Screening Committee needs some input from the Roundtable as well as thoughts on how we're going to forward projects from this time on. The CWCB has changed their policy so that grant requests from the state should now be half grant and half loan from the CWCB. In the case of this proposal, it was put at 25% and 75% due to the fact that there are shareholders to help pay the costs.

The applicant is already paying on two loans to the CWCB, and cannot do the whole amount of this new loan as well. The CWCB encouraged them to go back to Roundtable to make up the difference to make it a 50% grant and 50% loan with basin account funds. The Screening Committee supports the project proposal with the increase in Basin Account funding.

The Roundtable discussed the changes implemented by the CWCB. Bill Nesbitt suggested that a letter be written to staff requesting clarification for the new policy. Michelle Pierce will write the letter.

Bill Nesbitt made a motion to approve the project proposal from Lone Cabin Ditch & Reservoir Company for a total of \$121,150 from Basin Account funds and \$46,000 in Statewide Account funds for Lone Cabin Dam Repair and Rehabilitation Project. Neal Schwieterman seconded, and the motion carried with one opposing vote from Ken Spann stating he wants to write the minority report in order to express his concerns about recent rule changes for the Water Supply Reserve Account.

**7. New Volunteer for Project Screening Committee**

Jennifer Bock volunteered to be on the Project Screening Committee, and Michelle Pierce appointed her to the committee.

Director Stulp announced that the Statewide Summit for all Roundtables will be in March or April 2014.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

November 4, 2013

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', written over a horizontal line.

Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Michelle Pierce will write a letter to CWCB staff requesting clarification for the new State grant request policy.

Ken Spann will write minority report for opposition to Lone Pine Ditch grant proposal.