

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Basin Roundtables**

**Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

**Meeting Agenda**

**May 5, 2014  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, CO  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Roll Call/Introductions

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes from 4/7/2014 Meeting (attached)

Report from IBCC Representatives (action item)

Report from Educational Committee

Report from CWCB Representative

Report from BIP Committee

1. **Front Range Water Council** – Gerry Knapp will present information regarding the Council's current activities and how they relate to the "4 legs" of the Colorado Water Plan.
2. **Project Proposal** – Trout Unlimited, \$6,000 in Basin Account Funds for the Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration Project. (see forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey).
3. **Project Proposal** – High Country Conservation Advocates & Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, \$23,346 in Basin Account Funds for the McCormick Ditch Reconstruction Project. (see attached letter of support from the Town of Crested Butte and the forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey).
4. **Project Proposal** – West Reservoir Ditch Company, \$75,000 in Basin Account Funds and \$175,000 in Statewide Account Funds for the West Reservoir #1 Outlet Pipe Replacement Project. (see forwarded e-mail from Tom Alvey).
5. **Project Update** – North Delta Ditch Company. Members of the North Delta Ditch Company will update the roundtable members on the results of its tunnel survey.
6. **Gunnison State of the River Meeting** – June 2, 2014. The Gunnison Basin Roundtable and Colorado River Water Conservation District will co-host the annual Gunnison State of the River Meeting.

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
April 7, 2014**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
John McCLOW	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
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
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:**

Tim Decker	Montrose County
Olen Lund	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County
VACANT	Montrose Municipalities

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

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

**Public:** Steve Schrock (No Chico Brush), Richard Vangytenbeek and Cary Denison (Trout Unlimited), Sarah Sauter (Western Slope Cons. Ctr.), Rhianna Williams (Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership), Aaron Denningson (The Nature Conservancy), Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group), Michael Dale (NPS), Zach Thode (Lehi Water Users), Hannah Holm (Water Center @ CMU), Kathryn Sellars (Ouray, Olathe and Lake City), Brent Newman (CWCB).

### **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**

Ron Shaver made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approve March 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

John McCLOW requested to strike the first sentence from the last paragraph on the second page.

Frank Kugel made a motion to accept the amended March 3, 2014 minutes. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Bill Trampe gave his report on the IBCC meeting held on March 25, 2014. The meeting was about new supply development, and started with each member giving their viewpoint of the documentation from the February meeting. Bill reiterated the Gunnison Basin's position on those four points at the meeting.

A document containing eight summary points was created and circulated to members. Denver Water created the first statement; that the east slope is not looking for firm yield from a transmountain diversion project, and would accept a west slope hydrologic risk for that project. That started the discussion that led to the other seven points. As a result, eight task groups were appointed to work on those points and discuss all the issues. Bill feels this is the IBCC's effort to try to move the new supply development forward.

Rick Brinkman spoke about the task group he is on, which is looking at what will happen when there is a new supply project but water is not available, what they are going to do for a backup source for water. That involves things like potentially storing water in the Denver Basin aquifer and alternatively agricultural transfers and other non-west slope water sources, including some sort of terminal reservoir to store water. It is their attempt to give the west slope some sort of comfort with the idea of a transmountain diversion in that they'll have a backup plan when the water is not available.

Ron Shaver made a motion to ratify the IBCC Representatives' report. Hugh Sanburg seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

George Sibley discussed the various public input meetings that have been held, and others that folks are trying to organize. There was a meeting in Gunnison last week that was attended by over 30 people, including the county commissioners. The subject of most interest to people was transmountain diversion and it is not a popular thing. It's hard to get them to think about inbasin topics that are a focus of concern.

Some key things:

- People generally do not understand what is going on.
- Transmountain diversion is the focus for most people.
- We need to explain what the real concern is about a call.
- The feedback form can be picked up on the website.
- This is an opportunity for us to identify our needs and to promote projects.
- Improve the meeting presentation to define the common terms.

There is a meeting scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> in Lake City and Martha Whitmore is working on scheduling a meeting for early May. George urged other members to get other meetings organized, to encourage people to come, as well as attend the meetings themselves.

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

John McClow said that the CWCB met for three days in March. The first day they worked on the Colorado Water Plan reviewing several draft sections that the staff prepared. The CWCB members have been asked to read and edit each of those drafts.

The first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was spent on the water plan, implementation plans, public input, and the progress of the SWSI 2016 effort. They discussed how they will deal with the inevitable conflict that will arise when all of the Basin Implementation Plans reveal different ideas, and how they will work out a process for resolving the differences.

The Board reviewed a number of applications for the water supply reserve account. The two basin applications from the Gunnison Basin were approved. The statewide applications that are currently presented were put on a delayed status until they know what the additional funding will be. They are working on a policy on how to address new applications until the funding is increased. Staff is working on a memo to the roundtable chairs to explain that situation.

In addition the members spent some time on both 2014 and 2015 instream flow appropriations. They did some work on policy on acquiring instream flow rights that involve conversion of agricultural water, and John thinks the policy is now much improved so that it takes into account the fact that this program should not be incentive for removing water from irrigated agriculture.

Tom Alvey asked what advice should be given to applicants that have a state component to their request, and was told to go ahead and process those applications so staff and the Board are aware of them and what the amounts are. Some applicants have time sensitive projects, but all we can do is fund those projects as soon as funds are available. The applications that are currently pending will be funded first, beyond that there has been no determination made.

### **Report from BIP Committee**

Frank Kugel said that the committee had a meeting this afternoon at 2:00. The purpose was to review sections 2 and 3 of the recently submitted draft that was sent out in an email to members. Greg Johnson gave a summary, stating the documents have a lot of placeholders and are a work in progress. Frank thanked everyone for the comments received said they are very helpful. They are planning to incorporate those comments near the end of the process.

1. **New Supply** – Review and discuss summaries of the March 25, 2014 of the IBCC and March 17, 2014 All-Chairs Conference

Michelle Pierce said the Roundtable chairs were requested by the IBCC to meet regarding the topic of new supply and that there had been four meetings. There was a followup conference call on March 17, and a special meeting of the IBCC on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Summary of those meetings were included in the meeting packet.

A West Slope Caucus took place in Glenwood Springs with the topic of new supply and the west slope roundtables being in consensus. The roundtables expressed a concern in new supply, and there was no conclusion at the West Slope Caucus. All roundtables got their issues out on the table. Risk management, and who would be subject to it, was an issue. We need a consistent unified position from the west slope. Any suggestions on how to achieve this goal would be good.

John McCloy asked the members if the Gunnison Basin Roundtable is willing to discuss a transmountain diversion with conditions, or if our position is “not one drop”? Roundtables members discussed the topic at length and generally came to the conclusion that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable may be forced to have this discussion, but that it will have to include risk management and conditions. We should be very conservative and careful. John McCloy stated that this discussion is inevitable, and we should make best deal while we can make a deal. The IBCC is simultaneously discussing this subject.

Michelle Pierce summarized the Roundtable’s position as: Risk management applies to all depletions. We are willing to “talk” but not “negotiate”.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

April 7, 2014

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

April 7, 2014

**Action Items**

None

## Michelle Pierce

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**From:** mcf@wic.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 4:18 PM  
**To:** michellepierce  
**Subject:** WSRA grants  
**Attachments:** WSRA app Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration Project-signed.pdf; WSRA app Exhibit A Statement of Work.pdf; WSRA Grant Application FY2014\_McCormick Ditch Reconstruction.pdf; ATT00834.pdf

Roundtable:

The Screening Committee met to consider three grant requests for WSRA funds.

1) Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration: This project aims to improve flows in a section of Castle Creek and Ohio Creek by improving a diversion structure, converting 40 acres to a center pivot sprinkler and working on an irrigation water management plan with the water users on Acme ditch. The water saved by more efficient use would be left in the stream. This is a good demonstration project which has a large number of co-operators and supporters, including the effected water users, Trout Unlimited, NRCS and the Upper Gunnison WCD. The grant request is for \$6000 in Basin funds and the committee recommends approval.

2) McCormick Ditch Reconstruction: This project would construct a new diversion structure for McCormick Ditch in the Town of Crested Butte. Request is for \$23,346 in Basin funds. Currently water is diverted by means of a push up rock and gravel dam which must be worked on each year. The project would have both consumptive and non consumptive benefits, helping the Town of Crested Butte and agricultural water users as well as benefitting the stream. The committee had some concerns that there was no cash contributed from project sponsors, only in kind matches. Nevertheless, the committee recommends approval of the grant request.

3) West Reservoir #1 Outlet Pipe Replacement: Request for \$75,000 in Basin funds, \$175,000 in State funds and a CWCB loan for \$175,000. West Reservoir (454 acre feet) is under a no fill restriction from the State engineers office because of concerns about a deteriorating outlet pipe. The owners propose to replace the existing pipe and restore the reservoir to use. This project fits well with Basin goals of repairing aging infrastructure and maintaining agricultural water supply. It also preserves a pre 1922 water right. The committee supports this project, but is concerned about the size of the Basin grant and the small number of beneficiaries (3 dam owners). The Screening Committee recommends approving a Basin Grant of \$50,000 with remainder split between the loan and state grant request, by a 5-1 vote, one member favoring the original application amounts.



# Town of Crested Butte

P.O. Box 38 Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

*-National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Award Recipient-*

*-A National Historic District-*

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April 28, 2014

Dear Members of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable,

I am writing to express the Town of Crested Butte's strong support for the McCormick Ditch Diversion Reconstruction Project. The McCormick Diversion has been a long-term challenge for the Town both from a practical and environmental perspective. We partnered three years ago with the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition to fix a similar problem on the Halazon Ditch and are very happy with the results.

The reconstruction of the McCormick Ditch diversion will allow for fish passage and reduced pollution from maintenance of the existing gravel push up dam. The project will also help improve the reliability of diversions of the Town's and a fellow irrigator's pre-1922 water rights. Collaboration between the Town, the Coalition, High Country Conservation Advocates, the irrigator and our generous funders will make this possible.

The Town of Crested Butte put significant time and labor into the Halazon Ditch, and we are prepared to undertake all of the construction for the McCormick Ditch this summer. Even given our staff time and equipment donations, these projects would not be possible without the generous support of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and we hope the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. In addition to our in kind donation, we are able to support the project with a \$2,000 cash donation.

We hope that the Roundtable will join us in supporting this important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Rodney E. Due  
Director of Public Works  
Town of Crested Butte