

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
February 12, 2014
Steam Plant, Salida, CO
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Gary Barber called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty one (21) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Dennis Giese welcomed guests and roundtable members to Salida. Gary Barber described the history of our roundtable efforts for the benefit of the visitors.

January minutes

January minutes were approved.

Agenda Reviewed

Public Comment

March 6th: Roundtable Summit

IBCC Report

The next IBCC meeting is next week. IBCC members will be working on creating a conceptual agreement regarding transbasin diversions.

PRESENTATION: SCENARIO PLANNING AND ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES

Jacob Bornstein

This work may inform our basin implementation planning efforts. It stems from the Portfolio Tool as well as other sources. This presentation will be available soon on the web, and is not shown here in its entirety.

Our Approach Builds on Work of the Basin Roundtables and the IBCC

- Scenario Planning
- Basin Roundtable Portfolio Exercise

Traditional Predictive Planning: The Past is the Key to the Future

- Extrapolates the Future From What We Know
- Forecasts Need Updating Every Few Years

Scenario Planning

- Explores a Broader Range of Future Possibility
- Envisions Multiple Futures from what we Don't Know
- Scenarios can be useful for decades

No/Low Regrets Actions

- Designed to provide benefits under all/most scenarios of the future, and hence should be prioritized for near-term implementation
- For each portfolio, identify strategies and yield amounts common to all scenarios
- Compare no/low regrets actions to status quo portfolio from SWSI 2010

Adaptive Management Overview

- As stated, the No/Low Regrets actions only get us so far in meeting water demands. If demands are greater or supplies lower, then additional strategies are needed.
- Adaptive management provides the mechanism by which sign posts are identified, along with actions that get us to one of the five future scenarios we defined earlier.
- Signposts are based on some of the most critical drivers of the scenarios (e.g., demand levels, supply availability and social values)

The SWSI Update is different than previous versions of SWSI in the following ways:

1. Reflects uncertainty of future conditions through development of plausible scenarios
2. For each scenario, a representative portfolio of supply strategies was developed to meet demands
3. A “no/low regrets” strategy, that would provide benefits under most scenarios of the future, has been identified to be implemented within next 10 years
4. An adaptive management framework will be developed that will identify sign posts to determine which ultimate portfolio should be implemented in addition to “no/low regrets” strategy
5. If we are not successful in completing the “no/low regrets” actions, the gap will be larger and agricultural transfers or new supply options will need to be completed sooner

Summary Gantt Chart

Major Water Planning Components	2013			2014				2015			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<i>Colorado Water Plan</i>	Exec Order	Draft Outline	Evaluate Direction & Legislative Needs	Board Work-Shop		Initial Draft Reviewed	Draft to Gov. Office		BRT / Public Review		FINAL
<i>Statewide Water Supply Initiative</i>	SWSI Outline				Critical Chapters Due for CWCB	Board Work-Shop	Board Work-Shop	All Draft Chapters Due	BRT Board Review Due shop	CWCB Review	FINAL
<i>Basin Implementation Plans</i>	BRT Outreach / NC Toolbox Finalized	CWCB WSRA Grant Review	Regional Discussions		Preliminary Finalized to CWCB*	CWCB Review	Incorporation into CWP				
<i>Interbasin Compact Committee Work</i>		Present No/Low Regrets to CWCB	Complete Draft of New Supply Work	BRT Summit	Final IBCC Draft	Present to CWCB				Outreach & Develop Buy-In	

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

Executive Committee – BIP Work Plan & Meeting Schedule Recommendation

- Meet from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on April 9th, May 14th, and June 11th
- Meet on July 9th for Final Review

We know that we are going to be asking to put placeholders in the BIP, because a lot of the technical work and review will not be finished. The State Water Plan will be complete in December.

PRESENTATION – Upper Colorado River Commissioner John McClow

The Colorado River Compact and Adapting the Law of the Colorado River (this presentation also available soon via internet)

In 2013 the Governor appointed John to the Upper Colorado River Commission for the State of Colorado.

Disclaimer: The elegance of the Compact is its simplicity, its brevity – but that simplicity and brevity also leave a great deal to interpretation even 90 years later. This will be a factual presentation, but it is impossible to discuss the Colorado River Compact without interpreting some of its terms, which has been done by necessity.

Basin wide, the Colorado River supplies 40 million people and irrigates over 6 million acres of agriculture in the Upper Basin (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming), the Lower Basin (Arizona, California, Nevada), and Mexico. It covers 242,000 square miles in the US.

The Colorado is a desert river, and the basin averages 12 inches precipitation per year. Most of the water comes from runoff from the high mountains in CO, WY, and UT. In an average year 70% of that runoff is from Colorado. The combined metropolitan areas served by the Colorado River represent the world's 12th largest economy, generating more than \$1.7 trillion in Gross Metropolitan Product per year.

Adapting the Law of the River

2012-2013 are the driest in our recorded history.

2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines

- Coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

- Conditions under which the Secretary will declare shortage and surplus in the Lower Basin

- Rules allowing water users in the Lower Basin to develop and store conserved water in Lake Mead.

- 2014 Release: 7.48 maf.

Lake Powell water levels are in danger of falling below minimum hydropower levels. Lake Mead water levels are in danger of falling below the level of the outtakes to Las Vegas by 2016, meaning that Las Vegas would not receive water.

The seven basin states met several times to discuss “outside the box” solutions to worst case scenarios, (not current predictions). The upper basin states focused on keeping Lake Powell levels above the minimum power pool.

Lake Powell: 10-Year Cumulative Water Year Release

Even if this worst-case hydrology scenario occurs, our 10-year running average is still above 85 maf, and would not necessitate curtailment according to the compact. We’d make it to at least 2020.

Did extensive modeling, figured out that we could move water from Flaming Gorge to Powell to meet the minimum power pool. The second option is Demand Management; which means voluntary curtailment, like water banking. The Upper Basin would reduce its consumptive use voluntarily in order to maintain the minimum power pool. If we reduce our total use in the Upper Basin by 200,000 acre feet per year, combined with moving water from the upper reservoirs to Powell, we can reduce the probability of this worse case scenario happening to less than 5%.

The technical committee will report to the Upper Colorado River Commission in March. Once the commissioners have adopted the framework, they will then begin to expand the circle and invite stakeholders to join the process. This will have an impact on everyone. Any water stakeholder who can provide confident input to the process is welcome to participate. We don't want anyone to tell us we can't do it, only if you can help us do it better.

PRESENTATION – BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROGRESS – Gary Barber

This presentation also to be provided via internet

Overview

- Overview of the Basin Implementation Plan process
 - The Governor's Call to Action
 - Outline elements & schedule
- Work Plan for the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan
 - Team Approach
 - WestWater Research Tasks 1 through 4
 - Breakdown of Plan elements
- Section 1.0 Goals and Measurable Outcomes
 - Historic Goal Sources
 - Themes and Fundamentals
 - Format

WSRA Grant Applications

Basin Implementation Plan elements

- Nonconsumptive Needs: \$50,000 in Basin Funds
- Public Outreach: \$8,750 in Basin Funds

After discussion by Roundtable members, both BIP grant applications were approved by consensus, subject to Needs Assessment committee approval. They are being presented before Needs Assessment in order to make it to the March CWCB meeting.

After approval, the Arkansas Basin fund has \$140,000. In April, another ~ \$130,000 will be released.

Other Business

Next meeting March 12, 2014, CSU-Pueblo

CWCB in Pueblo May 21st – 22nd

Adjourn