

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
March 3, 2014**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County 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
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Rachel Kullman	Montrose Municipalities
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Olen Lund	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
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:**

Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County

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

David Graf (CDPW Liaison), David Kanzer (Non-Voting Liaison), Gary Shellhorn (USFS Liaison), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison).

**Public:** Gus Jarvis (The Watch); Cary Denison, Jesse Kruthaupt, Richard Vangytenbeek (TU); Sara Sauter (Western Slope Conservation Center); Michael Dale (NPS), Steve Schrock (No Chico Brush); Erin Wilson, Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group); Brent Newman (CWCB); Mike Drake, David Herz (Stewart Mesa Water Company); Rhianna Williams (Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership); Jason Ullman (Division IV Engineers Office); Sonja Chavez DeBaca (Selenium Task Force).

### **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**

Michelle Pierce stated that there will be a short discussion at the end of the agenda about the Roundtable Summit. Thomas Alvey requested a discussion for an additional member for the screening committee as part of item number 4.

Thomas Alvey made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Neal Schweiterman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Neal Schweiterman made a motion to accept the February 3, 2014 minutes as circulated. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Bill Trampe stated that the documentation that he asked Michelle Pierce to distribute should give some idea of the issues that they've been trying to work through over the last few months at the IBCC and what they're trying to accomplish in the next few months. Bill is looking for some feedback about any issues that members may have with the draft document. One of the issues that keeps coming up at the meeting is what does "new supply" mean. Currently the Gunnison Basin implementation Plan defines new supply as any new development out of the Colorado River. There will be a special meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> to work through this and prioritize methods of identification of future development. Bill needs to have the feedback on the document for this meeting.

Bill asked the Roundtable what "new supply" means to this Roundtable? Is it any development out of the Colorado River? Michelle Pierce responded that this is the definition that is being proposed in our basin implementation plan. Bill then asked if there was any problem with the definition, and the response was no, there were no problems with it. To clarify, Michelle Pierce stated that "new supply" means any water right appropriation within the Colorado River system after December 31, 2013. In addition, contracting for water from a Colorado River storage

project reservoir should be considered a new appropriation with a priority determined by the date of the contract.

Tom Alvey stated that he didn't think that it's reasonable that the definition be closed by the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. These issues need to be worked on as we continue. John McClow stated that he felt the only way to have a consensus is to have another caucus and get the west slope roundtables together and try to assure them, get them to see the dangers of a carve out and brainstorm a better plan. Bill Trampe stated they were trying to get another caucus before the next IBCC meeting, or at least before the April IBCC meeting. Tom feels we should wait until we have a west slope caucus.

Bill asked if the Roundtable's opinion was that risk management applied to all four criteria, or the bottom three priorities defined in the document. Michelle stated that what she is hearing is that the group believes that risk management should apply to those three and that we would support the definition of new supply that is currently in our basin implementation plan. Ken Spann added that if we cannot maintain that position, then we need to be figuring out what our carve-out needs should be.

Bill Nesbitt moved that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will stand by what we have in the BIP about new supply, and we are opposed to carve-outs, and we want risk management to apply equally to all future collaborative basin development. Wendell Koontz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

George Sibley stated that they are starting to try to line up dates for our first set of public input meetings for the end of March and beginning of April. There is one already lined up in Gunnison for March 25<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to figure out other places to have the meetings and will be in touch with people around the basin. They are also working on what the format for those meetings should be to try to have some uniformity across the basin for getting consistent input back.

Tom Alvey stated that the further off we can have the meetings the more useful they will be. The meetings will need to focus on and be aware of any technical findings that we get. Other basins will be interested in what we've come up with.

Frank Kugel mentioned that there has been a PowerPoint presentation developed that provides a rudimentary format to work from that he has used a number of times. George stated that we need to update the presentation to include something about our goals and the needs assessment that we'll be coming up with.

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

John McClow stated that there has been no meeting since the last time the Roundtable met. The board will be meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> in Denver at the Colorado History Museum.

## **Report from BIP Committee**

Greg Johnson reported on the BIP Committee and gave an update on where things are at with the Basin Implementation Plan. Greg said they are now focusing on moving on to Sections 2 and 3 of the Basin Implementation Plan, and getting all the assessment sections done. The biggest part of that effort is the technical outreach meetings. The first meeting was held just prior to this meeting and that was the non-consumptive technical outreach meeting.

The purpose of the meetings is to be as focused as possible on who is coming and really get the feedback needed on what projects are out there, update the project list, and then what is being brought to the table with this process is really the analysis of flow using the CSS modeling tools.

Frank Kugel gave kudos to Greg and the committee members for their work on the Basin Implementation Plan, stating that we're still leading the charge amongst the roundtables in the state.

### **1. Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan – Review and Approval of Section 1, Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes.**

Michelle Pierce stated that what was circulated was close to a final version of Section 1, the basin goals and measureable outcomes of the Basin Implementation Plan. John McClow circulated an amendment to the second page belonging to the statewide goals section.

Michelle Pierce stated that since the committee has completed the work on this section, it was thought that it was time for a Roundtable review. She said that is not necessary to get a vote on it tonight, but if there are any questions or concerns now is the time to mention them. This is still a working draft, it is not final. It was suggested that the Roundtable should not approve the section until the completion of the rest of the pieces, since there may be things that need adjustment or rethinking. Michelle stated that she agreed with this statement.

Roundtable members reviewed and discussed the document, and the suggested changes were noted.

### **2. Project Proposal – Stewart Mesa Water Company, \$12,876 Basin Account Funds for the Stewart Mesa Water Company Improvement Project.**

Tom Alvey stated that the Stewart Mesa Water Company is near Paonia, and gets water from Paonia. It supplies domestic water to 75 taps. It is an aging system and their request fits really well with our described needs assessment in terms of aiding small municipal providers and aging infrastructure. It is a well thought out relatively small request. The screening committee recommends approval of this request.

There was some question as to what is a small request and why the expenses were not being passed on to water users. The reply was that this request is not any different than the irrigation companies that have applied in a similar situation with aging dams. It is an identified need in our basin to address the issues of small municipal providers. It was

agreed that there should be a definition of what is a small water provider. In the Basin Implementation Plan for non-consumptive needs one thing they are working out is how to prioritize projects. John McClow stated that the purpose of the Basin Account Funds is to meet the Basin's goals. We have declared as one of our goals improvement of existing infrastructure. We will see more of these types of requests and that is what the money is for.

Bill Nesbitt made a motion to approve the project proposal for Stewart Mesa Water Company, \$12,876 from Basin Account Funds for the Stewart Mesa Water Company Improvement Project. Rufus Wilderson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Olen Lund abstained.

John McClow brought up an issue about funding of the water supply reserve account grants. We have come to that place that we always feared, the state fund is over-subscribed substantially this month by applications. About 1.5 million dollars more was applied for than there are monies available, including two applications from the Gunnison Basin. What the staff intends to do at the board meeting in a couple of weeks is recommend a freeze on the statewide account right now until the next installment comes in, which may or may not bail us out. John suggested that we be very prudent about the use of our basin funds, because there may be very little available in the future, especially in the near future, from the state funds.

3. **Senate Bill 14-023 – Water Efficiency Savings**

Senator Gail Schwartz has asked that the members of the Roundtable review and consider offering support for Senate Bill 14-023.

John McClow stated that the committee that put this together had another meeting today and he thinks they agreed on some additional amendments that are addressing protection of return flows and notification of water rights holders that could be affected, so there probably will be some additional "protections" built in. So they are still working on the final language of the bill.

GBRT decided not to support by general consensus.

4. **Gunnison Basin Roundtable – Resignation of Rachel Kullman, Montrose Municipal Representative**

Rachel Kullman submitted a letter of resignation to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable creating a vacancy on the Roundtable and also the Project Screening Committee. Tom Alvey stated he was open for volunteers. There is no particular geographic assignment, but it would be good to keep someone from the Uncompahgre Valley in that position. Joanne Fagan has expressed her willingness to take that position if no one else is interested.

Michelle Pierce will follow up with the Montrose County municipalities regarding the need to replace her.

**5. Roundtable Summit March 6, 2014**

The statewide summit is coming up at the end of this week. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has offered a little travel money for the folks that need it. Michelle asked whoever else would like to go to let her know.

Frank Kugel stated that there were already over 300 people signed up to attend.

**Whitewater Park**

Chuck Mitisek mentioned that the City and State Parks are looking at constructing a white water park in the Redlands Water and Power tail race. They are putting boulders in to cause turbulence where there isn't turbulence, and there are at least five sections that they're looking at. The non-consumptive use project will cost about 1.2 million dollars.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MB', is written above a horizontal line.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Michelle to follow up for Rachel Kullman's replacement, the Montrose Municipalities representative on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.