

## **Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting**

Durango Public Library

Durango, Colorado

January 8, 2014

### **Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	John Porter	SWCD
Anthony Edwards	San Juan Municipalities	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Celene Hawkins	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Bruce Smart	Montezuma Municipalities
Dan Huntington	La Plata WCD	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Local Domestic Water Provider Rep.	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
Peter Mueller	San Miguel Municipalities	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member	Mely Whiting	Environmental Representative
		Ed Zink	La Plata County

### **Liaisons Present:**

Craig Godbout (CWCB Liaison), David Graf (CO Parks & Wildlife), Kara Hellige, (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Chuck Lawler (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Denise Rue-Pastin (Education Liaison), Kelly Palmer (San Juan National Forest)

### **Public:**

Pauline Benetti (Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Jim Davis (La Plata County), Nathan Fey (American Whitewater), J.D. Feuquay (Palo Verde HOA), Sally High (Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership), Phil Lane (Pine River Irrigation District), Beth LaShell (Old Fort Lewis), Don Magnuson (Public), Fred Ochsher (Public), Adam Smith (La Plata County), Laura Spann (SWCD), Joanne Spina (La Plata County), Todd Street (Leonard Rice Engineers), Cecilia Whitaker (Animas Valley Ditch & Water Company)

## **1. Introductions & Review Agenda**

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

## **2. Administrative Reports**

### **Minutes Review and Approval**

Minutes from November 13, 2013 were approved.

### **Officer and IBCC Representatives Reports**

Steve Harris invited Roundtable members to attend the statewide Roundtable Summit on March 6 in Denver.

### **Committee/Task Force Reports**

No reports were given.

### **WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance**

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$537,618.

## **3. IBCC Update**

### **Water Conservation**

Steve Harris reported that, after the Roundtable adopted a resolution supporting the concept of lawn conservation legislation at the November meeting, there was consensus at the Colorado Roundtable to support it as well. CO Senator Ellen Roberts will introduce a bill limiting development that uses permanent ag dry-up to irrigate lawns.

Bruce Whitehead gave information about press coverage and discussion statewide surrounding the lawn conservation legislation.

### **Feedback to IBCC**

Bruce Whitehead handed out a request from the IBCC for feedback. Comments can be relayed to Steve Harris or Bruce Whitehead, IBCC representatives, before February 7. The document also included the Statement of Principle on New Supply developed by the IBCC, as well as the 2014 IBCC meeting schedule.

### **Colorado Water Plan: Southwest Colorado Basin Statement of Importance**

Bruce Whitehead distributed the draft “Colorado Water Plan: Southwest Colorado Statement of Importance” accepted by the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) board on December 9, 2013, which outlines principles for the development of the state water plan. Roundtable members provided suggested changes to the document. Don Schwindt moved to adopt the “Colorado Water Plan: Southwest Colorado Statement of Importance” with suggested revisions and comments from Roundtable members. Gary Kennedy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **4. Basin Implementation Plan**

### **Update on Basin Implementation Plan Process & Schedule**

Carrie Lile presented their aggressive 2014 schedule of work for the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP): In February, Carrie and Ann Oliver will attend the second BIP meeting in Denver. They will present this Roundtable’s goals at the Statewide Summit on March 6 in Denver, and present the complete draft Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) lists and map to the Roundtable on March 12. In April, Carrie and Ann will attend the third BIP meeting in Denver and draft measurable outcomes and objectives to present to the Roundtable in May. There is a fourth BIP meeting in Denver in June, after which Carrie and Ann will distribute the draft BIP to Roundtable members for review. The final BIP will be reviewed and approved at the Roundtable meeting on July 9, then presented to the CWCB at their July 22-24 board meeting. Given unexpected travel costs, it may be necessary to apply for further CWCB funding for BIP development.

### **Update on IPP Sub-basin Outreach (Animas, La Plata, Mancos)**

Carrie and Ann summarized outreach completed to develop the draft IPP list, which included e-mail, phone calls and interviews with Roundtable members, SWCD board members, La Plata Conservation District board members, and the public. They also met with Education Liaison Denise Rue-Pastin. Mike encouraged Roundtable members to bring IPPs forward to be included in the lists to address water supply gaps. Carrie and Ann solicited feedback on the draft lists.

### **Report on Goals Workshop**

Ann summarized the Goals Workshop held at 12:30 pm. Ann and Carrie used several supporting documents to develop draft goals and measurable outcomes, including the No/Low Regrets Action Plan, Governor’s Executive Order, SWCD Statement of Importance, Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) 2010 Needs Assessment, SW Basins Roundtable By-laws and Grant Criteria, and the CWCB WRSA Threshold Criteria. Roundtable members provided feedback, edits and additions. Ann and Carrie will now 1) organize and restructure the draft document, 2) meet with the BIP sub-committee for review and edits, 3) circulate newly structured goals to the Roundtable for edits and comments, and 4) present the draft goals on March 6 at the Roundtable Summit.

At the March 12 meeting, there will be an open house from 1:30-3:00pm where interested parties can review the draft IPP lists and maps for all the sub-basins. Carrie and Ann would also like to propose a follow-up workshop on goals and measurable outcomes. At the meeting, they will present the draft IPP lists with maps of basins and draft goals and measurable outcomes for Roundtable approval.

## **5. Report on Data Needs Workshop**

Mely Whiting reported on the Data Needs Workshop held at 10:00 am, which focused on how to address a lack of metrics and data for non-consumptive IPPs. While there is a good map of non-consumptive values in the SWSI 2010, there is not enough data on non-consumptive uses. There was discussion about how much information is useful or needed, and what process can be followed in order to gather this information in a way that all parties can agree on. There was consensus to direct Ann and Carrie to develop language for an IPP that describes a process for addressing the non-consumptive data gap, which will be sent out to the Roundtable for review before the March meeting.

## **6. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals**

### **WSRA Application: Animas Valley Ditch and Water Company**

Cecilia Whitaker presented the application for \$30,000 from the Basin Fund to assist with the emergency repair of serious damage to the Animas Valley Ditch that occurred as a result of the severe thunder/hail storms that occurred on September 18 and 22, 2013 in the Animas Valley. Significant debris flow filled in and/or damaged approximately two miles of the ditch. The Company is also seeking \$30,000 in emergency funding from SWCD. Roundtable members asked questions and made comments on the application. John Porter moved to approve the WSRA application for \$30,000. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **WSRA Application: Geothermal Greenhouse Project, Archuleta County and Partners**

Sally High presented the application for \$25,000 from the Basin Fund and \$50,000 from the Statewide Fund to construct a water system for three geothermal greenhouse domes (\$25,000 invested in each) in downtown Pagosa Springs. Funding from the Roundtable will ensure completion of the water infrastructure for the first dome, which will focus on education. One of the major goals of the project is the share information about the use of geothermal water to produce locally grown food with less water. The project will also receive funding from the Musser Family Foundation and the Town of Pagosa Springs. Roundtable members asked questions and made comments. Mely Whiting moved to approve the WSRA application for \$25,000. Steve Fearn seconded. One Roundtable member thought the amount should be reduced, but gave consent for approval. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **WSRA Application: La Plata County Palo Verde Public Improvement District #3**

Joanne Spina, Adam Smith, J.D. Feuquay, Jim Davis, and Fred Ochsher presented the application for \$25,000 from the Basin Fund to assist with the construction of a water line to serve the 18-lot Palo Verde subdivision, located on the eastern boundary of the City of Durango. La Plata County views this project as a pilot for local homeowners to implement their own water service projects. Palo Verde will receive a \$50,000 grant from SWCD. Also, a loan is being sought from the Colorado Water Resource & Power Development Authority Revolving Loan Fund. Palo Verde property owners will ultimately contribute 90% of the project cost. Roundtable members asked questions and made comments. Bruce Whitehead moved to approve the WSRA application for \$25,000. Steve Harris seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Concept Proposal: Rehab of Old Fort Lewis Water System**

Beth LaShell presented the concept proposal for \$25,000 to support the rehabilitation of the Old Fort Lewis Water System by upgrading electrical system, replacing the current pressure tank, installing an up-to-date chlorination system and cartridge filtration equipment, and upgrading safety issues in the building. Current funding sources include \$49,103 from SWCD, \$20,000 from the State Land Board, and \$25,000 from Fort Lewis College. The Old Fort Lewis is used by the Cub Scouts, 4-H groups, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Forest Service, and Cooperative Extension. Current users purchase bottled water or haul water in coolers from Durango to meet their potable water needs. Roundtable members asked questions and made comments on the concept proposal. Roundtable members recommended that a WSRA application be submitted.

## **7. Upcoming Events**

### **2014 Bi-Monthly Meeting Schedule**

March 12 in Cortez

May 14 in Cortez

July 9 in Durango

September 10 in Cortez

November 12 in Durango

## **8. Announcements**

Bruce Whitehead invited Roundtable members to sign up for regular legislative reports, a service of Southwestern Water Conservation District. The reports summarize water-related legislation and the Colorado Water Congress State Affairs Committee's discussion on those bills.

Denise Rue-Pastin, Education Liaison, reminded Roundtable members to reach out to their boards about the Colorado Water Plan process and utilize information on the CWCB website. Handouts are also available with the Water Information Program.

Ed Zink reported that the study of the Animas River funded by the Roundtable last year is near completion.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.