

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
March 12, 2014

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Dan Huntington	La Plata WCD	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Tim Hunter	Recreation Representative	Bruce Smart	Montezuma Municipalities
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Local Domestic Water Provider Rep.	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
April Montgomery	CWCB Appointment	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member	Mely Whiting	Environmental Representative
John Porter	Southwestern WCD	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Liaisons Present:

David Graf (CO Parks & Wildlife), Chuck Lawler (Southern Ute Indian Tribe)

Public:

Eric Bikis (Bikis Water Consultants), Paul Black (Upper Pine Fire District), Joe Busto (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Mark Catlin (Montrose County), Mack Coker (Upper Pine River Protection District), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Kennan Entel (Montezuma County Commissioner), Jim Fisher (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Vern Harrell (Bureau of Reclamation), Lee-Ann Hill (Dolores River Boating Advocates), Beth LaShell (Old Fort Lewis), Brice Lee (La Plata Water Conservancy District), Rege Leach (Division of Water Resources), Dennis Miller (URS Corporation), Marta Nelson (Radiometrics Corp.), Doug Pickering (Division of Water Resources), Buck Skillen (Five Rivers Trout Unlimited), Laura Spann (Southwestern Water Conservation District), Todd Street (Leonard Rice Engineers), Trent Taylor (Red Mesa Reservoir & Ditch Company), Linda Tolle (Montezuma County), Jon Waschbusch (Montrose County)

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 January 8, 2014 were approved.

CWCB Weather Modification Program Update

Joe Busto, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Weather Modification Program Coordinator, and Marta Nelson, Radiometrics Corporation, described the temporary installation of a radiometer near Jackson Reservoir. The radiometer is able to determine the best combination of water content in clouds and temperature for cloud-seeding. The goal is to make weather modification programs more efficient and address a gap in atmospheric data. Data from the radiometer will be available to weather modification programs across the state.

Officer and IBCC Representatives Reports

Mike Preston announced that Senator Michael Bennet will be at the Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD) office on March 19 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the Farm Bill.

Tim Hunter reported that Animas River Whitewater Park is scheduled for completion on March 31. All are welcome to participate in the "Paddle Parade" on April 1.

Steve Harris reported on the following:

- The CWCB is concerned about the amount of money accumulating in WRSA Basin accounts and the lack of funding available in the WRSA statewide account. Due to this lack of funding, CWCB will not be considering grant requests in March. Steve requested feedback and comments on possible changes to WRSA requirements from Roundtable members.
- A draft framework of the Colorado Water Plan was distributed at the Statewide Roundtable Summit and a new supply section was notably absent. Also, the Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs) and Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs) are not in the draft framework, but may be included in the appendices.
- The Colorado River Basin Roundtable has called a West Slope Caucus meeting for Thursday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. in Glenwood Springs to discuss new supply.

April Montgomery encouraged Roundtable members to donate to the “Healthy Rivers Fund,” an option on Colorado tax return forms. Donations support CWCB’s grant program for non-consumptive projects statewide, including programs such as the Dolores River Dialogue and Mancos River Restoration.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$589,177.

3. Roundtable Officer Elections

Ken Beegles moved to reelect current Chair Mike Preston by acclimation. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by consensus. Ed Zink moved to reelect all current officers by acclimation: Bruce Smart as First Vice Chair, Steve Fearn as Second Vice Chair, and Bruce Whitehead and Steve Harris as IBCC Representatives. John Porter seconded. The motion passed by consensus.

4. IBCC Update

Update on March 6 Roundtable Summit

Roundtable members in attendance at the Statewide Roundtable Summit on March 6 shared observations and reactions to conservation, ag dry-up, and new supply discussions that took place at the event.

Water Conservation

Steve Harris reported on the status of SB 017 (Limit Use of Ag Water for Lawn Irrigation), which the Roundtable supported in concept. The bill passed the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee, but was opposed by municipalities and counties, which saw the legislation as a land-use mandate. SB 017 was amended and sent to the Interim Water Resources Committee for discussion over the summer.

Steve presented preliminary conservation goals and measurable outcomes for possible inclusion in the BIP (*see attached document*). Roundtable members provided feedback and comments. There was consensus to support draft conservation goals and discuss them at upcoming IBCC and West Slope Caucus meetings. Steve will incorporate any suggestions to the goals and present them to the Roundtable for further discussion at the May meeting.

New Supply

Steve reminded the Roundtable about upcoming new supply meetings. Steve asked the Roundtable to consider adopting the definition of new supply as “a new diversion of Colorado River water to east slope municipalities.” Steve proposed several factors for consideration in accepting a transmountain diversion (TMD). Roundtable members provided changes, additional factors, and comments (*see attached document*). There was consensus to support the definition and further develop factors after discussion with the IBCC and West Slope Caucus. Any changes to the definition and factors will come before the Roundtable for further discussion at the May meeting.

Feedback to IBCC

Bruce Whitehead requested that Roundtable members provide feedback via email on the draft IBCC New Supply Plan language.

5. Basin Implementation Plan

Update on Basin Implementation Plan Process & Schedule

Carrie Lile requested feedback on the draft IPP lists from all nine sub-basins before April 30. A workshop will be held at the May 14 meeting to review the draft IPPs and maps for all sub-basins and discuss strategies and gaps. Carrie and Ann Oliver will be working on spatial mapping and analysis to discuss supply gaps at the May meeting.

Update on IPP Sub-basin Outreach (Dolores, San Miguel, McElmo)

Carrie summarized outreach completed to develop the draft IPP list, which included e-mail, phone calls and interviews with Roundtable members, DWCD, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Montrose County, Education Liaison Denise Rue-Pastin, and the public. More outreach to the San Miguel basin is needed. Any other updates should be submitted before April 15.

Report on Goals & Measurable Outcomes Workshop

Based on Roundtable feedback at the January 8 meeting, Ann and Carrie organized and restructured the draft goals, met with the BIP sub-committee, and circulated a draft goals document to the Roundtable. At the workshop held at 12:30 pm, Roundtable members provided feedback, edits and additions primarily on the measurable outcomes. Ann and Carrie requested that Roundtable members submit redline comments on the draft goals by March 28 and measurable outcomes by May 2 for consideration at the May 14 meeting.

IPPs for Non-Consumptive Data Needs

Mely Whiting presented the IPPs developed to address Roundtable's concerns about a lack of data around non-consumptive gaps. Roundtable members provided feedback.

6. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRA Application: Rehabilitation of Old Fort at Hesperus Water System

Beth LaShell presented the application for \$25,000 to support the rehabilitation of the Old Fort Lewis Water System by upgrading the electrical system, replacing the current pressure tank, installing an up-to-date chlorination system and cartridge filtration equipment, and addressing safety issues in the building. Current funding sources include \$49,103 from the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD), \$20,000 from the State Land Board, and \$25,000 from Fort Lewis College. Current users purchase bottled water or haul water in coolers from Durango to meet their potable water needs. Ed Zink moved to approve the WSRA application for \$25,000. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Rehabilitation of McElmo Creek Flume

Linda Towle presented the application for the reduced amount of \$18,280 to support the rehabilitation of the McElmo Creek Flume located east of Cortez—the only wooden flume remaining from the water delivery system built in the 1890s. It is listed under Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Endangered Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Funding is also being sought from the Colorado State Historic Fund. Montezuma County has committed \$2,500 and SWCD has approved a grant for \$15,000. The Ballantine Family Fund committed \$4,000 and the Montezuma County Historical Society has committed \$1,500. Roundtable members asked questions about the application. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$20,000. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WRSA Application: Red Mesa Reservoir Feasibility Study

Trent Taylor and Dennis Miller presented the application for \$30,000 to support dam and spillway improvements and a reservoir enlargement feasibility study. The feasibility study would be presented to the CWCB to apply for a loan and/or grant. SWCD has approved a \$30,000 grant. The Roundtable has funded two previous Red Mesa Reservoir engineering studies. Roundtable members asked questions about the application. Steve Fearn moved to approve the WRSA application for \$30,000. Steve Harris seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Concept Proposal: Long Hollow Reservoir Compact Delivery Study

Brice Lee, La Plata Water Conservancy District, and Eric Bikis, Bikis Water Consultants, presented the concept proposal of \$38,000 to support the development of a study to better meet the La Plata River Compact requirements to the State of New Mexico. Releases from Long Hollow Reservoir will be made when streamflow in the La Plata River is not sufficient to satisfy Compact requirements. This study would establish a plan for reservoir releases and stream administration. Roundtable members asked questions about the application and recommended that a full application be submitted at the May meeting.

7. Upcoming Events

2014 Bi-Monthly Meeting Schedule

May 14 in Cortez

July 9 in Durango

September 10 in Cortez

November 12 in Durango

8. Announcements

Bruce Whitehead and Laura Spann invited members to register for SWCD's Annual Water Seminar on Friday, April 4 in Durango.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attachments:

Southwest Basins Roundtable Municipal Water Conservation Goal and Measurable Outcome
New Supply Leg of the Stool

**SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE
MUNICIPAL WATER CONSERVATION GOAL
AND MEASURABLE OUTCOME**

Introduction

The Southwest Basins Roundtable (SWBRT) supports water conservation as a significant component of meeting the 2050 municipal water gap in southwest Colorado and for the entire state. As part of the water supply portfolio exercise, the SWBRT supported medium or high municipal conservation in all of its water supply scenarios, but recognizes that conservation is only one component necessary to meet Colorado's future water demands.

Currently on a statewide average, approximately 50% of the treated water supply delivered for municipal and domestic purposes is used in-house and 50% is used outside, primarily for lawn irrigation. The in-house water use is approximately 5% to 10% consumed while the outside lawn irrigation is approximately 70% to 80% consumed. The current practice of 50% of municipal water deliveries being used for outside irrigation with the associated high consumption rate is not sustainable for the additional 5 million people that will need water in Colorado by 2050.

For instance, neighboring Colorado River Basin water users (e.g. Las Vegas, Phoenix) are leading the way in conservation by reducing outside lawn use through limitations on the amount of grass on new residential lots. Las Vegas has also gone so far as to pay homeowners to remove grass which has significantly reduced the water demand for EXSITING homes. The SWBRT believes that Colorado water providers should follow the lead of our neighboring states in the arid west by implementing measures to significantly reduce outside water use for future residential lots, while continuing to implement current conservation measures for existing homes.

Water Conservation Goal #1 for Southwest and State Water Providers

The SWBRT first conservation goal is to change the ratio of in-house to outside treated water use for municipal and domestic water systems (referred to as water providers herein) from the current ratio of 50/50 to 60/40 for southwest Colorado and the entire State by 2030.

The in-house water usage is expected to continue to gradually decrease through installation of more efficient fixtures and appliances that is already being implemented. Few, if any, additional measures are expected to be implemented for in-house conservation in the near term.

Therefore, the outside water usage would need to decrease to a greater extent to achieve the 60/40 ratio. Many measures have already been implemented by water providers, and some may have already achieved the 60/40 ratio. Some of the Measures that have or could be implemented by water providers include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing block water rates
- Best management practices developed by GreenCo for landscaping
- Water audits for residences and common areas
- No minimum requirement for lawns on new or existing residential lots

Water Conservation Goal #2 for Water Providers Using Ag Dry Up and/or TMD

The water providers in the state that are using dry up of agricultural land (defined as requiring a water court change case) and/or pursuing a new Transmountain Diversion (TMD) (as defined by IBCC to be a new west slope to east slope diversion project) shall have a higher standard of conservation. The goal for these water providers is a ratio of 70/30.

This goal would include all of the measures in Goal #1 plus additional measures such as listed below, but not limited to:

- Limitation of amount of lawn on new residential lots (e.g. no grass in front yard or limited to a percentage of the lot size).
- Grass in common space limited to “play” areas (e.g. ball fields).
- Removal of irrigated lawns through the potential purchase of grass on existing residential lots, such as Las Vegas
-

Southwest Roundtable Goal for support of a new TMD

Water providers proposing a new TMD shall achieve a 60/40 ratio by 2020 and 70/30 by 2030 (high conservation) as a prerequisite for the SWBRT to consider support of a new TMD.

Measurable Outcome

The SWBRT suggests that these measures be implemented by water providers to achieve the in-house to outside ratio goals. Using the ratio allows each homeowner, each water provider, and the state to monitor the progress towards the goals. The method used to achieve these goals is totally left to the discretion of the local water providers and planning departments.

Achieving the 60/40 and 70/30 goals can be measured and enforced by:

1. A water provider can determine the in-house diversion amount and use by selecting a winter period, such as December through February when there is no outside irrigation, and extrapolating that usage for 12 months. Dividing the extrapolated winter use by the actual total use for the year will determine the percentage of water that is used inside. The year to year variability in outside use is significant due to varying weather patterns, so the evaluation could be average over multiple years (e.g. 5 years).
2. A homeowner can measure their ratio in the same manner and would be included in the data provided in water audits.
3. The CWCB already is collecting information from water providers that deliver more than 2,000 AF per year. This data can be evaluated, and could also provide an indication of the ratio on a statewide basis.

NEW SUPPLY LEG OF THE STOOL

For SWRT – New Supply is not descriptive, will use Transmountain Diversion (TMD)

A TMD is a new diversion of Colorado River water to east slope municipalities (exactly which municipalities is not known). Other basins use different definition for New Supply.

SWRT Factors to Consider a TMD:

1. Receiving municipalities meet water conservation goal
2. Compensatory projects
3. Risk management implemented (what this involves not yet determined); more development = more risk; risk to both pre and post compact water rights
4. Yampa RT wants west slope basins to identify how much depletion each needs – kind of a sub allocation of Colorado River Compact – what do we think? Willing to discuss some sort of allocation (% instead of depletions?)
5. Fully develop existing supplies within their basin (reuse, storage)
6. TMD can't negatively impact quality of life on the West slope (environmental and recreational)
7. No headwaters diversions (pay for pump back costs)
8. State's position on administration of a compact curtailment on a basin level