

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
June 2, 2014**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
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
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Tim Decker	Montrose County
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Olen Lund	At-Large Member
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Steve Snyder	Saguache County
VACANT	Montrose Municipalities

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Graf (CPW Liaison), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), David Kanzer (Non-Voting Liaison).

Public: Steve Glammeyer (City of Delta), Michael Dale (NPS), Gus Janis (The Watch), Torie Jarvis (NWCCOG/QQ), Sarah Sauter (Western Slope Conservation Center), Cary Denison (Trout Unlimited/No Chico), Steve Schrock (No Chico Brush), Agnieszka Przeszlowski (Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership), Richard Vangytenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Steve Schechter and Steve Glazer (UGRWCD), Jim Pokrandt (CO River District), Brent Newman (CWCB), Ken Stahlnecker (NPS), John Harris (City of Montrose), Jana Mohrman (USFWS), Hannah Holm (Water Center @ CMU), Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited), Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group), Susan Hobeppon (US Sen. Mark Udall), Jason Ullmann (DWR), Hank Lohmeyer (Delta Co Independent).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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 the review of the Educational Plan on the Agenda has already been done, so that item is removed.

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

Approve May 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Bill Trampe requested a change to page 4, paragraph 3, where the word "Oak" should have been "Coal".

Tom Alvey made a motion to accept the May 5, 2014 minutes as amended. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Bill Trampe said that there has been no IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting, but the assigned task forces are working on the seven points. Bill said his group will be meeting next week, and Rick Brinkman said his group hasn't met yet.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley stated there had been a couple of meetings in the Surface Creek area since the last meeting.

George provided copies of the latest update on the planning session, along with a much abbreviated form of the projects list that we now have. He said that Greg Johnson can provide copies of that project list that are more detailed.

George mentioned that he has information and a finalized schedule to distribute from the Western State University about the 39th annual Colorado Workshop called “The Peoples Water”, which will be held in about 2.5 weeks.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McCloy said that the CWCB had met in Pueblo. They spent about half of the meeting working on various aspects of the water plan. Other topics covered were:

- An update on the basin implementation plans from all of the basins that submitted plans.
- An updated progress report on the IBCC process and developing a conceptual agreement.
- A review of the staff’s seven chapters of the plan. They made some suggestions and edits and came up with a committee to further edit and refine the chapters.
- A report and review of all the public outreach input and staff responses since the last board meeting.
- The next step to appropriating a number of instream flow water rights, none of which are contested.
- Discussed the water supply reserve account grants. Both of the Gunnison Basin applications were approved.

Also discussed was the statewide account. The account will be refreshed in July from the next fiscal year’s appropriation, but as stated before, these statewide grants are going to become extremely competitive. The IBCC/CWCB committee on standards and criteria for approval of those statewide grants came up with some new scoring techniques. The scores will not affect pending approval, but will give them some priority evaluation for the benefit of the Board. There were a series of loans that were also approved.

Tom Alvey asked if the new standards and criteria for approval of grants were public record and on the website, and was told they may not be posted yet since they have to be approved formally by the IBCC. When approved formally they will be distributed.

Report from the BIP Committee

Frank Kugel said that the Basin Implementation Planning subcommittee met at 3:00 today to go over the latest draft of the BIP. They could have spent much more time on it, since there is so much material to review. They’ve had a good deal of comments and good feedback. They are going to have another BIP subcommittee meeting in Gunnison in conjunction with the aforementioned water workshop.

1. Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan – Review of Draft of Full Report

Greg Johnson gave an overview of the status of the five sections of the draft BIP, describing each section and what it contains. This is the first full draft and the committee requested that any review provided should be focused on the big picture items, i.e., major additions and omissions and things where they missed the mark. The purpose of the review period is for everyone to review the document and provide feedback by the 16th of June. Placeholders are highlighted in yellow and the executive summary is still fairly rough.

Frank Kugel reminded members that if they have any comments to submit them to either him or Greg via email by June 16, and they will circulate to the other BIP members to review at the next meeting. The deadline for the BIP is to have a draft ready for submittal at the CWCB in July. The final draft of the state water plan will be reviewed and considered for approval by the CWCB at the Board's November meeting. The plan will then be submitted to the Governor by the December 31st deadline. There will most likely be opportunities for continued input into next year if necessary.

2. Gunnison Basin Roundtable – Set Special Meeting in July

Michelle Pierce stated that there will be a special meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable on July 7, 2014 starting at the usual time of 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

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

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Following the Roundtable meeting there was a dinner for Roundtable Members and Staff. The Gunnison "State of the River" Meeting followed.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Roundtable members to review the draft of the BIP and submit comments by June 16, 2014 to Frank Kugel or Greg Johnson.

~~~ ***Gunnison Basin Roundtable*** ~~~

Michelle Pierce – Chair

George Sibley – Public Education, Participation and Outreach Liaison

2015 – GUNNISON BASIN ROUNDTABLE EDUCATION ACTION PLAN – 2015

Overview: The Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education and Outreach Program will focus activities for 2015 on three areas:

- A. Continue to keep decision-makers and interested general citizenry in the six sectors of the Basin informed on the development of the Gunnison Basin Plan and the Colorado State Plan.
- B. Continue existing water education programs in any of the six sectors of the Basin that have such programs in place. Local watershed groups especially have initiated public education and participation programs addressing problems specific to their areas; these need support for continuity.
- C. Lay the foundation for an Education Action Plan for the years 2016-2025, toward some specific goals described below to prepare the people of the Gunnison Basin for the cultural and economic changes that will probably take place through the decades of the planning period (2015-2050).
The underlying assumption here is that a possible doubling of population statewide, with a fixed or quite probably decreasing water supply, will require significant cultural and economic changes in Colorado life. The current “generation in charge” that is doing the planning will be retiring or otherwise leaving the active field by 2030-35; a new generation, now in school, will be taking over the actual execution of the Colorado Water Plan for its critical years. The next decade (2015-25) will be critical in developing a moving toward not just public awareness-raising, but the institutional changes necessary for a more proactive approach to the water problems we will face as the Southwest both “fills up and dries up.”

TASK A: *Continue to keep decision-makers and general citizenry in the six sectors of the Basin informed on the development of the Gunnison Basin Plan and the Colorado State Plan.* This will be achieved with continuity from the 2014 Education Action Plan:

- As benchmarks on the way toward the adoption of a Colorado Water Plan late in 2015 are reached, “GBRT Progress Reports” will be drafted by the PEPO Liaison, and distributed in paper and electronic format to City Councils, County Commissioners and other Basin decision-makers.
- An updated website with the evolving Basin and State plans will be maintained, with links from local water organization sites, and with online opportunity for public responses.
- Public meetings will be held in the six sectors of the Basin as benchmarks on the way toward adoption of a Colorado Water Plan are reached, and at other times when it seems desirable to do so.

TASK B: *Continue existing water education programs in any of the six sectors that have such programs in place.*

- The Basin watershed groups, conservancy districts and some water providers have education plans and programs in various stages of development.
- The public schools have some water education activities that should be not only continued, but also amplified on and expanded.

TASK C: Lay the foundation for an Education Action Plan for the years 2015-2025, at the end of which time these things will be in place for the rest of the planning period (2015-2050):

- Every school district in the Gunnison River Basin will have an established water education program, involving 4th, 7th and 11th grades that will combine responsible field stewardship (watershed monitoring, stream cleanups, riparian restoration) with standards-based classroom education. This will involve all segments of the curriculum – natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.
- All Basin governing bodies (municipal, county, water-related special districts, and their planning staffs) will participate in annual half-day seminars on “the state of the streams and water resources” in their sector of the Basin, and in the Basin, state and region at large.
- Each of the six sectors of the Gunnison River Basin will have an annual spring or summer celebration focusing on the watershed streams and water resources, combining educational presentations (booths, films, readings or theater, etc.) with in-stream activities, displays and competitions. (Gunnison’s River Festival or the North Fork’s Float are examples.)
- Municipal and county governments, Chambers of Commerce, realtors, and others at the interface with new and existing residents will have informational materials prominently available to inform new and existing homeowners on basic personal water concerns and to help engage them in creating water-efficient and climate-appropriate homes and landscaping.

Toward those goals, these things will occur in 2015:

- A. A Gunnison Basin Education and Outreach Committee (GBEOC) will be organized, composed of a representative from each of the six sectors of the Gunnison Basin (Upper Gunnison, North Fork, Surface Creek/Grand Mesa, Upper Uncompahgre, Lower Uncompahgre, Lower Gunnison). For sectors with existing watershed groups, the education facilitator from that group should ideally be a GBEOC member. The Roundtable Public Education, Participation and Outreach Liaison will also be a member. This group will meet quarterly (February, May, August and November), prior to Gunnison Basin Roundtable meetings, and as necessary between those meetings.
- B. The six sector representatives will explore partnership opportunities in their sector, identifying organizations and individuals interested in participating in the water future of their area, either financially in supporting project activities or through providing volunteers for program field activities, or in other more specific participatory ways.
- C. The six sector representatives, working with funds provided by the CWCB and Roundtable, will assess the perceived education needs in their sector, for youths, adults, and specifically targeted groups (city councils, county commissions, business organization, etc.), and will report that to the full committee. *(See the attached exemplary model for youth water-ed needs from the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership.)*
- D. The GBEOC will prepare activities for the Roundtable, and possibly for selected other Basin organizations, to spur discussion on water-related issues requiring clarified or changed thinking. An example will be the challenge of gradually freeing up some water from agriculture for other uses over the 35-year time period without diminishing the acreage under irrigation in the Basin.
- E. The GBEOC will (presumably working with other basins and state organizations) develop an education program for enlarging basin inhabitants’ thinking about M&I water providers, bringing them to acknowledging that water providers are not selling water by the gallon, but are providing a service with fixed costs independent of individual use decreases.
- F. The GBEOC will initiate an inventory of Gunnison Basin land-use planning codes, regulations and guidelines as those codes, et cetera, relate to the relationship between land and water. Once this is complete, a followup study will pull together “Best Practice” analysis of alternatives that will try to balance land development with water sufficiency.
- G. The GBEOC representatives in the Upper Gunnison and Lower Gunnison sectors, together with other representatives, will initiate discussion with relevant college faculty and officials at Western State Colorado University and Colorado Mesa University, and organizations like the Youth Corps

Association, to initiate a “Water Leaders” program for the basin, utilizing college students to work in the basin’s public schools, assisting in delivering educational programs, and leading small field groups in stewardship activities.

The GBEOC will meet in February 2016, and in February each year following, to evaluate progress on those action items, and to determine what the next steps in each area of activity will be toward the goals above for the 2016-2025 decade.

