

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
La Plata Electric Association
Durango, Colorado
November 12, 2014

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	Animas-La Plata WCD	Peter Mueller	San Miguel Municipalities
Mike Canterbury	Agricultural Representative	Dirk Nelson	La Plata Municipalities
Anthony Edwards	San Juan Municipalities	Ann Oliver	At-Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Bruce Smart	Montezuma Municipalities
Celene Hawkins	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Tim Hunter	Recreation Representative	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
Chuck Lawler	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Local Domestic Water Provider Rep.	Mely Whiting	Environmental Representative
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board), David Graf (Co. Parks & Wildlife), Kara Hellige (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Kelly Palmer (U.S. Forest Service)

Public:

J. Paul Brown (State Representative Candidate), Jimbo Buickerood (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Marc Catlin (Montrose County), Kelly Close (Leonard Rice Engineers), Robert Haining (Town of Mountain Village), Lee-Ann Hill (Dolores River Boating Advocates), Roy Horvath (La Plata West Water Authority), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), Philip Johnson (CPW, Cortez), James Lambert (Montezuma County), Bridget Nash (Russell Planning & Engineering), Jan Quinn (Public), John Rodgers (Leonard Rice Engineers), Denise Rue-Pastin (Water Information Program), Brian Sheffield (Pine River Irrigation District), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Justin West (Sacred Valley Farm)

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 September 10, 2014 were approved.

Officer and IBCC Representatives Reports

April Montgomery, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Representative, directed Roundtable members to the entire draft Colorado Water Plan available online. April and others are working hard to ensure that Western Slope views and concerns are being incorporated into the plan. Any concerns that Western Slope perspectives are not adequately represented in the plan should be directed to April.

Craig Godbout directed members to a document entitled “Colorado’s Water Plan: Western Slope Implementation and Themes” drafted by James Eklund, CWCB director, and Brent Newman. The document outlines 10 areas of concerns expressed by the Western Slope and how those are addressed in the plan.

Steve Harris, Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) representative, reported that there will be no more Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) coordination meetings. There was a conference call among West Slope Roundtable representatives. A meeting of the Four West Slope Roundtables will be held on December 18 from 9am to 3pm at the

Ute Water Conservancy District in Grand Junction. Discussion will focus on similarities and differences between each BIP for the four legs of the stool.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$655,916.

Committee/Task Force Reports – BIP Drafting Committee Consensus Language

Mely Whiting summarized the BIP subcommittee's work on developing consensus language for three suggested topics to be addressed in the BIP executive summary. BIP subcommittee members commented that the discussion was thorough and expressed gratitude at the group's willingness to seek agreement. Consensus was reached on language for the Roundtable's consideration.

1) Federal-State-Tribal Language

"In Colorado, the authority to establish water policies of the state, determine the beneficial uses of the water resources, and the administration of water rights pursuant to the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation fall under the jurisdiction of state government. It is recognized that there is a significant amount of land administered by the federal government in Colorado, which creates the potential for conflicts between state and federal laws and policies. Congress and federal agencies have a long standing deference to state water allocation systems, and Colorado continues to promote state-federal cooperation to avoid contentious water rights issues. Federal policies and actions could affect existing and future water supplies and planning efforts in southwestern Colorado.

Therefore, the Roundtable supports Colorado's system of water rights administration and allocation and the full recognition and use of tribal rights under the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement. The Roundtable also encourages and supports creative solutions sought through collaborative efforts, negotiated settlements, and strengthening the use of State-Federal MOUs, to limit conflicts between state, tribal and federal policies, laws, and land management plans. Maintaining opportunities that allow for management solutions that provide for multiple beneficial uses and are protective of environmental and recreational values are critical for the planning and strategic development of the water resources in the State of Colorado."

There was consensus to accept the federal-state-tribal nexus language as written.

2) Future Use Allocation Language in Connection with TMDs

"In development of Colorado's Water Plan and the SW Basin Implementation Plan, the Roundtable has discussed water supply "gaps" that exist for various uses throughout the State. In evaluating those needs for southwestern Colorado, it is important that future uses and needs for the Western Slope be recognized and preserved. The SWBRT also acknowledges that uses in other parts of the state, especially demands on the Front Range, may develop sooner than those in southwestern Colorado, and that, prior to consideration of any TMD, an allocation for future uses ~~should~~ shall be recognized for development in the San Juan and Dolores River basins."

Roundtable members commented that the language should be stronger and asked questions. It was proposed to change "should" to "shall." There was consensus to accept the future use allocation language in connection with transmountain diversions as revised.

3) Overarching Future Use Language

"The Roundtable recognizes that the full development of agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, and tribal settlement water supplies has the potential to create conflict in the future. The Roundtable recognizes that there will continue to be significant work to ensure that one water use does not come at the expense of the others, and is committed to resolving those conflicts."

There was significant discussion. There was consensus not to incorporate the draft language in the BIP executive summary.

3. Basin Implementation Plan – Final Plan to CWCB April 30, 2015

a. Brief Update on BIP & Steps to Meet April 30 Deadline

Carrie Lile directed Roundtable members to a summary of comments submitted on behalf of the Roundtable to CWCB in October. For the next two months, local public outreach meetings will take place. The public has until the end of January to submit BIP public comments. In February, the BIP subcommittee will meet to review and incorporate public comment into the BIP. The final BIP will be presented to the Roundtable by March 15, for discussion and final approval at the April 8 meeting.

Laura Spann directed Roundtable members to the template letters to the editor handout and encouraged members to use the document to either submit a template letter to their local paper or develop their own.

b. Dates & Plans for Basin Outreach Meetings on the BIP – How Roundtable Members Can Help

Carrie summarized the upcoming public meetings scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 17 at the Ross Aragon Community Center in Pagosa Springs; Nov. 19 at the Pine River Senior Center in Bayfield; Dec. 1 at the Mancos Community Center in Mancos; and Dec. 9 at the Placerville School House in Placerville. Carrie directed Roundtable members to a draft agenda and strongly encouraged people to attend the meeting in their area.

c. How the SW Basin Plan Interfaces with the Colorado Water Plan

Ann Oliver reported that they made comments, specifically on Chapters 3 and 6. All the public comments made are viewable online. The first deadline for submitting comments was on October 10. Public comment on the first final draft will be due in May, and the second final draft in September. The complete BIPs will likely be included in the plan appendix. Excerpts of the BIPs will be included in the plan text in several sections.

d. West Slope Roundtable Caucus – December 18, Ute Water Meeting Room, Grand Junction

Steve Harris reminded Roundtable members of a meeting of the West Slope Roundtable Caucus on Thursday, December 18 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Ute Water Conservancy District office in Grand Junction. Nearly 20 people thought they might attend.

e. Lawn Conservation Goal and Measurable Outcome – IBCC Subcommittee Negotiations

Bruce and Steve attended a meeting of the IBCC conservation subcommittee where a statewide conservation goal was developed. The two phases of the proposed goal were presented for the Roundtable's consideration:

- First phase: CWCB staff has estimated passive water conservation through 2050 to be 150,000 AF and medium conservation (active) would be an additional 170,000 AF. The statewide goal is to achieve at least 320,000 AF of conservation by 2050. The amount would be monitored through information provided to CWCB by the covered entities each year.
- Second phase: The second phase would be higher levels of conservation goals such as: 1) higher goals for entities using permanent ag dry up and/or TMD; and 2) a higher statewide goal.

Steve did not propose changing the conservation goals previously supported by the Roundtable and included in the BIP. There was discussion. Steve responded to various questions regarding the IBCC subcommittee discussion.

f. Transmountain Diversions (TMDs) – “The Missouri Compromise”

Steve Harris presented his recommendation for an alternative to a TMD from the Colorado River to serve east slope municipal water needs through 2050 and beyond. The study of a possible diversion from the Missouri River might be worthwhile as the state looks at the cost of a TMD. Steve responded to various questions. There was significant discussion of including this concept in the final BIP for submission by mid-December. Several Roundtable members stressed the need to make sure that discussion alternative sources would not involve watering down the commitment that the SWBRT has to a strong “Lawn Conservation” policy. There was general consensus not to include specific information about the “Missouri Compromise,” but to develop general language suggesting that other out-of-state options be considered in tandem with TMDs.

4. Public Comment on Basin Implementation Plan & State Water Plan

J. Paul Brown supported considering alternatives to transmountain diversions that would satisfy Eastern Slope demand and suggested more storage to catch South Platte water flowing out of state during good run-off years.

5. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

Application: West End of Montrose County Reservoir Project

Marc Catlin, Montrose County, presented the application to support geotechnical investigations, feasibility studies, and cost analysis for two proposed reservoir sites in the San Miguel Basin. Work will include topographic mapping and base map preparation, dam foundation drilling, permeability testing, and excavation of exploratory test pits. The County is requesting \$50,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the State Account. Montrose County has committed \$966,000 to support the total estimated project cost of \$1,266,000. Roundtable members asked questions and made recommendations about the application. Ed Zink moved to approve the WSRA application for \$50,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the State Account, subject to further assistance with the application by CWCB staff. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Concept Proposal: Town of Mountain Village Micro-Hydro Project

Bridget Nash, Russell Planning and Engineering, presented the concept proposal to support the installation of two micro-hydroelectric generators on the Town of Mountain Village's water system, which is currently being extended to increase reliability. The Town would like to take advantage of the difference in elevation between two tanks on the water link, which results in a pressure head of 254 feet, or 109 pounds per square inch. The estimated total cost for installation of both generators is \$185,000. The Town plans to request \$30,000 from the Roundtable and \$30,000 from the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The Town will match the remainder of the estimated micro-hydro project cost, along with the remaining \$2.2 million to upgrade the water system. Roundtable members made recommendations and asked questions. CWCB will need to clarify whether the project is eligible for WSRA funding, and the applicant should review state and federal energy grants possibilities as well. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration, subject to review of eligibility with CWCB.

Concept Proposal: La Plata West Rural Domestic Water Supply Implementation

Roy Horvath, La Plata West Water Authority (LPWWA), provided an update on the development of a rural domestic water supply in western La Plata County. The raw water project to pipe water from Lake Nighthorse to Lake Durango Water Authority is underway, with funding from Lake Durango, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Construction is anticipated between May and December 2015. Options for a treated water dock at Blue Hill are being developed. The phased distribution design was developed with a cost of \$3.85 million for Phase 1, with future phases approximately at \$4 million per phase. Conceptual agreements have been finalized between Lake Durango and the LPWWA, and LPWWA and the tribes. Additional funding is needed for the water dock and upsizing the pipeline. Roundtable members made recommendations and asked questions. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration.

6. Upcoming Events

2015 Meeting Schedule

January 14	Cortez
April 8	Durango (The move to quarterly meetings will be evaluated in April.)
July 8	Cortez
October 14	Durango

Public Outreach Meetings

November 17	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Pagosa Springs (Ross Aragon Community Center)
November 19	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Bayfield (Senior Center)
December 1	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Mancos (Community Center)
December 9	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Placerville (School House)

West Slope Roundtable Caucus

December 18	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Grand Junction (Ute Water Conservancy District)
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7. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.