

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
September 10, 2014

Members Present:

Mike Canterbury	Agricultural Representative	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	John Porter	SW Water Conservation District
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	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Chuck Lawler	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Mely Whiting	Environmental Representative
Carrie Lile	Local Domestic Water Provider Rep.	Ed Zink	La Plata County
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member		

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board), David Graf (Co. Parks & Wildlife)

Public:

Marc Catlin (Montrose County), Matt Clark (Trout Unlimited), Connie Clementson (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Lee-Ann Hill (Dolores River Boating Advocates), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), James Lambert (Public), Darlene Marcus (Representative Scott Tipton), Ed Millard (Local Farmer), Jim Mimiaga (Cortez Journal), Denise Rue-Pastin (Water Information Program), Charles Smith (Lake Durango Water Authority), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Danny Wilkin (Montezuma Valley Irrigation 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 July 9, 2014 were approved.

Officer and IBCC Representatives Reports

Bruce Whitehead reported that the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) has not held a meeting since the last Southwest Basin Roundtable meeting.

Committee/Task Force Reports

No reports were given.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$655,916, which includes pending approvals of \$104,000 for the Thompson-Epperson Ditch Company, Redburn Ranch Diversion, and Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Phase II applications that will come before the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) on Friday, September 12.

3. Basin Implementation Plan

Presentation of Draft Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) at July CWCBC Meeting

Ann Oliver reported on the CWCBC meeting in Rangely on July 16, at which representatives from each basin provided 45-minute presentations to the board on their BIPs. Many side discussions occurred around the Roundtable's conservation goal and measurable outcome. The final draft BIP was submitted to the CWCBC on July 31.

BIP Scope of Work Phase II

At the July 9 meeting, the Roundtable approved a request for additional funding to support Phase II development of the BIP in the amount of \$36,000, two thirds from the Basin WRSA account and one third from the Statewide WRSA account. Carrie outlined the scope of work for Phase II, which will include: 1) organizing and updating data (eg. the IPP list and maps), 2) facilitating Roundtable discussion, review and approval of the BIP, 3) investigating identified gaps from Phase I, 4) continuing education and outreach efforts, and 5) coordinating with CWCB to integrate the BIP into the final Colorado Water Plan. Final submittal of the BIP will be on April 30, 2015. To seek and record public comment, Carrie and Ann will distribute an email with a link to the draft BIP and IPP list, public input will be noted in the meeting summary, and interested people can leave their emails on the sign in sheet.

It was noted that a portion of Mesa County has not been included in BIP planning or Roundtable representation. Water professionals in that area will be contacted.

SB14-115 Legislative Water Resources Review Committee Meeting in Durango (August 27)

Mike Preston reported on the Water Resources Review Committee public meeting in Durango on August 27. More than 100 members of the public attended. After short presentations about the Southwest BIP by Mike and comments by legislators, small workgroups were formed (each with one legislator) to discuss the Colorado Water Plan. Roundtable members reported that many people expressed concern regarding changes to federal water and land management policy and how the prior appropriation system would be impacted by the state water plan. Many others expressed support for storage on the East Slope and water conservation. More public education surrounding water rights, basic water law, and the basis for the Colorado Water Plan is needed. There was consensus to direct the Roundtable BIP subcommittee to develop a public outreach strategy, which may include public meetings, presentations to community groups, and placement of opinion pieces in local papers.

How the BIP is Being Integrated into the Colorado Water Plan

Craig Godbout, CWCB Liaison, described CWCB's process for integrating BIPs into the Colorado Water Plan. Discussion occurred about evaluating water supply shortages and gaps in the region. Carrie and Ann have been directed by the CWCB to four specific chapters that highlight issues with specific BIPs; they will be providing comments on each section to the CWCB. Roundtable members' comments on the draft chapters were solicited as well. All chapters will be available online (coloradowaterplan.com).

Lawn Conservation Goal and Measurable Outcome

Steve Harris, IBCC Representative, reported that the hearing for SB14-017 (Lawn Irrigation Limitations), at which Bruce and Steve testified, was held on August 6. Municipalities reported on various conservation methods they have taken. Castle Rock, for example, has a grass rebate program through which the municipality buys lawn water back. At the IBCC conservation subcommittee meeting in October, it is hoped there will be discussion of a statewide conservation goal and measurable outcome. Steve summarized comments provided by Wayne Vanderschuere, Colorado Springs Utilities, on the Roundtable's water conservation goals and measurable outcome. There was extensive discussion. Roundtable members also reviewed the South Platte's draft BIP executive summary, which outlines their basin-wide priorities. There was consensus to give Steve Harris latitude to continue discussions and negotiate alignments with the SWBRT Conservation goal through the IBCC conservation subcommittee.

Limit Conflicts and Promote Collaboration within Framework of State, Tribal, and Federal Plans, Policies, Authorities, and Rights

Bruce Whitehead, Mely Whiting, Celene Hawkins, Don Schwindt and April Montgomery will meet to develop consensus language to address the interaction of federal, state, and tribal policies, authorities and rights in the BIP for review by the Roundtable in November.

Transmountain Diversions (TMDs)

Bruce Whitehead directed Roundtable members to the IBCC draft conceptual agreement and the SW Basin Roundtable's "Factors to Consider a TMD," which overlapped in many places.

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

Ed Millard, local farmer, asked for clarification regarding the definition of the Dolores River Dialogue as an IPP.

Connie Clementson, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), confirmed that the agency has been committed to collaborative efforts, both locally and statewide. When the BLM issued the proposed Joint Management Plan and went through the Governor's consistency review in 2013, the BLM made a commitment to the Governor that the standard regarding aquatic habitat would be changed to a guideline as was proposed in the draft. Included in the plan will be a provision to enable the BLM to consider alternative methods for identifying water needs for aquatic habitat. The Plan is expected to be released by December 2014.

Bruce Whitehead, Mely Whiting, Celene Hawkins, and April Montgomery will discuss the inclusion in the draft BIP of a future use allocation as part of the CWCB's instream flow program, and bring language to the November meeting for the Roundtable's consideration.

Lee-Ann Hill, Dolores River Boating Advocates, commented that the Roundtable should seek out data from Nathan Fey at American Whitewater, who has quantified recreation needs and gaps, and Co. Parks & Wildlife biologists, who have quantified needs for aquatic life as well. She appreciated outreach to the Dolores River Boating Advocates regarding the Colorado Water Plan. The Colorado Water Plan should look to address the specific needs of small-scale vegetable growers as well.

John Taylor provided background on Crowley Reservoir, a privately-owned project located in New Mexico. The reservoir, which supplies water to many irrigators near Chromo, Colorado, has been declared out of compliance by the New Mexico State Engineer's Office. CWCB cannot provide grant funding for a project located in New Mexico, but may be able to provide a loan. As the fiscal agent, the San Juan Conservation District, will present a funding request before the New Mexico Water Trust Fund board in September. The final application will be made on November 13.

5. Discuss Basin Implementation Plan Outreach, Now-April 2015

This topic was addressed as part of the SB14-115 discussion.

6. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

Concept Proposal: Drought Resilience in the Dolores, San Miguel, and McElmo Basins

Matt Clark, Trout Unlimited (TU), and Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD), presented the concept proposal to seek WSRA funding to create an integrated five-year program to protect and restore fisheries, improve recreation values, and support on-farm and delivery system efficiencies in the Dolores, McElmo and San Miguel watersheds. TU, DWCD, The Nature Conservancy, Montezuma Land Conservancy, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Tamarisk Coalition, and Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company have submitted a pre-proposal for funding through the NRCS Regional Conservation Program Partnership (RCPP). These partners are currently working to identify a number of different projects throughout the watershed that include: 1) on-farm irrigation efficiency improvements, 2) irrigation delivery system improvements, 3) fish passage for river diversions, 4) riparian and in-channel restoration and 5) Conservation Easements. Roundtable members asked questions about the proposal. There was consensus to recommend that full applications for individual projects under the RCPP proposal be submitted for consideration at future meetings.

7. Upcoming Events

2014 Bi-Monthly Meeting Schedule

November 12 in Durango (La Plata Electric Association Conference Room)

Mike Preston proposed returning to quarterly meetings for 2015: January 14 in Cortez, April 8 in Durango, July 8 in Cortez, and October 14 in Durango. There was consensus to schedule meetings for January 14 and April 8, and reevaluate in April 2015 the need for bimonthly or quarterly meetings. Roundtable members were encouraged to attend this year's Water 101 Seminar in Telluride on Monday, September 22.

8. Adjournment

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