

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
May 5, 2014**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Jennifer Bock	Environmental
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Tim Decker	Montrose County
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Olen Lund	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Steve Snyder	Saguache County
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
VACANT	Montrose Municipalities

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Graf (CDPW Liaison), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), David Kanzer (Non-Voting Liaison), Gary Shellhorn (USFS Liaison), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison).

Public: Richard Vangytenbeek, Jesse Kruthrapt, Cary Denison (Trout Unlimited), Nick Hughes (West Reservoir & Ditch Co.), Brent Newman (CWCB), Michael Dale (NPS), Ken Nelson and Vernon Nutter (North Delta Ditch Co.), Rhianna Williams (Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership), Sarah Sauter (Western Slope Conservation Center), Torie Jarvis (NWCCOG Water Qual/Quant Comm), Kathryn Sellars (Olathe, Ouray, Lake City Attorney), Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group), Gerry Knapp (Aurora Water).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Hugh Sanburg.

Roll Call/Introductions

Following roll call it was declared that a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

Tom Alvey made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Ron Shaver seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approve April 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Neal Schwieterman made a motion to accept the April 7, 2014 minutes as submitted. Steve Fletcher seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

The IBCC met on April 29th in Loveland. Bill Trampe said that it was an interesting meeting. They talked about Lake Powell levels getting so low and the danger of going below hydropower capability. There was discussion about demand management and reoperation of the CRISPA reservoirs, as well as voluntary agricultural land deficit irrigation and fallowing to help the levels and remove the risk at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Bill said that the biggest problem is the different philosophies in the four states.

There was continued discussion about the seven topic points created at the previous month's meeting. There was no solution for any of the seven points except that it was agreed that they need to be combined down to a fewer number, which staff said they would do. Members will then be reassigned to groups to talk about the confined points.

There is no consensus, even among those on the west slope, about what an insurance policy is and what it will cover. Bill thinks the most important thing is to protect existing uses, but others on the west slope feel it should protect all uses, including new uses. There was more discussion about development of a new supply, and Bill said if you go very far down that road then you need to talk about risk management. However, they were told they can't talk about risk management until there are new interim guidelines, and the current guidelines will expire in 16 years. Bill went on to say that Lake Powell would be the first thing that would be hit before we get compact curtailment, so in his opinion risk management should be based on Lake Powell

levels, and that will protect compact curtailment. Other roundtable members expressed that they liked the idea of using Lake Powell levels as a trigger for risk management.

Rick Brinkman said in his report that a list of topics were identified by the IBCC as needing further discussion in the near term, and that included defining existing uses, agreed to projects, future west slope development, and how they relate to insurance policy or contingency planning. Rick stated that he feels these conceptual talks are frustrating, and that it's very hard to have this talk about new supply and to have negotiation and some kind of meaningful discussion when you have no idea about where the water is going to come from, where it's going, how much, and how is it going to help everyone on the front range from Ft. Collins to Pueblo.

Bill Nesbitt moved to ratify the IBCC members' report. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley said they were continuing to work on meetings around the basin. There were a couple of good meetings with good turnout in the North Fork and Lake City. Two more meetings are coming up for the Surface Creek area; one in Cedaredge and the other in Orchard City; as well as a meeting scheduled for the Upper Uncompahgre in late May. In June there will be the State of the River meeting, which will double as another BIP meeting.

They are having trouble finding dates for further meetings, and if there are any other ideas about how to get input from people other than more physical meetings, George will be happy to hear about those.

The committee is working on a report about what is happening so far and will email the report to the roundtable. They expect to have this by the next meeting on June 2nd.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McCloy was not present at the meeting, and there was no CWCB report.

Report from BIP Committee

Frank Kugel said that the BIP Committee met this afternoon from 2:00 p.m. until just before the roundtable meeting. They are on an incredible timeframe for getting the BIP done, and they are doing their best to get whatever they can to address the high points in the guidance document and meet the deadline with the understanding there will be opportunity for refinement later on. The deadline is to have the BIP complete in July, and as part of that requirement each Roundtable will present their BIP to the CWCB in Rangely in mid July. Frank asked if anyone would like to volunteer to present the BIP in Rangely, otherwise he will be doing that.

Frank said that he attended the Statewide BIP meeting in Loveland last week. They exchanged ideas about what the other roundtables are doing with their BIPs. Everyone is approaching the BIP differently, and he is very comfortable with how we are doing it. The Wilson Water Group is doing a great job responding to the committee's direction. The goal is "defining our needs for the future, and how we can best address those goals and measurable outcomes".

Greg Johnson reiterated that all basins are approaching their BIP very differently. The guidance document is fairly loose, and the committee is restructuring the report some. Their goal is to have draft of whole report by the end of the month.

Tom Alvey mentioned that the roundtable will probably have to meet in July since the BIP is due in July.

1. **Front Range Water Council** – Presentation by Gerry Knapp

Gerry Knapp presented information regarding the Council's current activities and how they relate to the "4 legs" of the Colorado Water Plan. This was the same presentation that was given to the CWCB board in January. Mr. Knapp described who the Front Range Water Council Board is, and that it is made up of seven members from municipal water agencies and conservancy districts. He discussed various projects, a quick overview of IPPs, and the challenges going forward.

2. **Project Proposal** – Trout Unlimited, \$6,000 in Basin Account Funds for the Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration Project

Tom Alvey stated that the purpose of this proposed project is to restore flows on 2 creeks. There is a large group of supporters and cooperators. The committee feels that this is a good demonstration project and is recommending approval.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the project proposal from Trout Unlimited for \$6,000 in Basin Account Funds for the Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration Project. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Project Proposal** – High Country Conservation Advocates & Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, \$23,346 in Basin Account Funds for the McCormick Ditch Reconstruction Project.

Tom Alvey stated that the purpose of this proposed project is for improvements to a ditch that diverts water out of Coal Creek in Crested Butte. There is an agricultural user as well as irrigation for the Town of Crested Butte. The committee had some concerns that there was no cash being contributed from the project sponsors, but the applicants have since come forward with a cash contribution in addition to their in kind contribution. This answered the primary concerns of the committee. The committee feels it is a worthwhile project and is recommending approval.

Ken Spann moved to approve the project proposal from High Country Conservation Advocates & Coal Creek Watershed Coalition for \$23,346 in Basin Account Funds for the McCormick Ditch Reconstruction Project. Bill Nesbitt seconded.

Wendell Koontz asked if the cash donation and the in-kind contribution of labor and equipment will reduce the requested amount. The answer was no, the request was for the same amount. After some discussion, it was stated that the \$2,000 contribution could come off of the requested amount.

The motion was amended to reflect that the approval will be for \$21,346 from Basin funds. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Project Proposal** – West Reservoir Ditch Company, \$75,000 in Basin Account Funds and \$175,000 in Statewide Account Funds for the West Reservoir #1 Outlet Pipe Replacement Project.

Tom Alvey stated that the committee is recommending approval of this project proposal. It is a little more controversial. It is a pre-1922 water right, and serves only three water users for a total of about 360 irrigated acres of pasture and hay. However it meets several needs. The size of the original grant request is \$75,000, but the committee is recommending approval for \$50,000 with the remainder of the funds coming from loans and grants. At this point they have nearly a 40% match.

Tom Alvey stated to the applicants that there is no firm answer on what the state will do. The applicants replied that they know the risk for the state funds, and it is a risk they are willing to take.

Tim Decker moved to approve the project proposal from West Reservoir Ditch Company, for \$50,000 in Basin Account Funds and \$175,000 in Statewide Account Funds for the West Reservoir #1 Outlet Pipe Replacement Project. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Project Update** – North Delta Ditch Company. Members of the North Delta Ditch Company will update the roundtable members on the results of its tunnel survey.

Ken Nelson and Vernon Nutter gave an update on the issues they are having with their project. They have had the project surveyed and there are significant problems. They have more engineers coming from Denver. They are hoping for some compensation from the contractor.

6. **Gunnison State of the River Meeting** – June 2, 2014. The Gunnison Basin Roundtable and Colorado River Water Conservation District will co-host the annual Gunnison State of the River Meeting.

The State of the River meeting will be held after the next roundtable meeting on June 2, 2014. George Sibley asked if the regular roundtable meeting will be delayed an hour as in the past. It was decided that the roundtable meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. and run until 6:30. Then there will be a dinner and the State of the River meeting after that. The BIP subcommittee will be delayed an hour as well and will meet at 3:00 p.m.

Frank Kugel reiterated that there will need to be a July 7th roundtable meeting, and likely there will be a BIP committee meeting before the roundtable meeting on that date as well.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

None