

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
January 14, 2015

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	John Porter	SW Water Conservation District
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Tim Hunter	Recreation Representative	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Bruce Smart	Montezuma Municipalities
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Chuck Lawler	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Local Domestic Water Provider Rep.	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Dirk Nelson	La Plata Municipalities	Ed Zink	La Plata County
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member		

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Kelly Palmer (Bureau of Land Management)

Public:

Bob Becker (Mancos Conservation District), Leland Begay (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Kara Chadwick (San Juan National Forest), Matt Clark (Trout Unlimited), Kelly Close (Leonard Rice Engineers), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Kate Greenberg (National Young Farmers Coalition), Vern Harrell (Bureau of Reclamation), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), Ed Millard (Public), Cody Perry (Rig To Flip), Doug Pickering (Colorado Division of Water Resources), Jan Quinn (Public), Denise Rue-Pastin (PEPO Liaison, Water Information Program), Matt Seitz (Leonard Rice Engineer), Buck Skillen (Trout Unlimited), Jay Skinner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Todd Street (Leonard Rice Engineers), John Stulp (IBCC Director)

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 November 12, 2014 were approved.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

Steve Harris, Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) representative, reported that the next IBCC meeting is Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 12-4 p.m.

Statewide Roundtable Summit – March 12, Westminster

Mike Preston encouraged members to attend the 2015 Statewide Roundtable Summit in Westminster, CO on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Travel scholarships for Roundtable members are available from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$655,916, less the \$50,000 committed to the Montrose County Reservoir Project.

3. IBCC - 7 Points of Conceptual Agreement

John Stulp, Special Policy Advisory to the Governor for Water and IBCC Chairman, thanked the Roundtable for its work on the draft Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). The 400-page draft Colorado Water Plan was presented to Governor Hickenlooper on December 10, and Roundtable members were encouraged to continue reviewing it. The IBCC has not met since June, but made significant contributions to the development of the draft plan through consensus on “Low and No Regrets” and the “seven-point draft conceptual agreement” regarding TMDs. The final plan will be presented to the Governor in December 2015. Roundtable members were encouraged to ask questions.

Bruce Whitehead, IBCC Representative, solicited feedback on the seven points of the “draft conceptual agreement” regarding TMDs supported by the IBCC members at their June 2014 meeting, which he summarized as follows:

- 1) No firm yield, Accept hydrologic risk
- 2) TMD used conjunctively (storage/recharge/interruptible)
- 3) Manage TMD’s with triggers
- 4) Insurance policy, existing use & reasonable future use
- 5) West Slope needs as part of TMD
- 6) Commitment to conservation & reuse
- 7) Environmental resiliency & recreation needs

Other West Slope Roundtables are also reviewing this TMD framework for discussion. Emphasis should be placed on “conceptual,” as the intention was to establish a framework for future discussions. Roundtable members asked some clarifying questions, including the relationship between the Water Bank Working Group and the “insurance policy” described in the fourth point, and the relevance of the Windy Gap Firming Project in the context of the TMD discussion. The Southwest Basin Roundtable developed its own eight-point framework for discussing TMDs, most of which overlaps with the seven-point “draft conceptual agreement,” except the state’s position on administration of a compact call at the basin level.

Mike Preston walked through the Gunnison Basin Roundtable consensus regarding proposed definitions of key terms in the IBCC “draft conceptual agreement.” Roundtable members asked for clarification on several points, including page 2 of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable consensus regarding “an agreement regarding IPPs.” Several members supported defining further “Colorado’s commitment to conservation and reuse” in point 6. Ed Millard, member of the public, asked about the underlying assumption in TMD discussions that Colorado’s population will double in thirty years, and the intersection of land use planning and resource availability.

On February 2, the West Slope roundtable chairs and IBCC representatives will meet in Montrose to further discuss the draft conceptual agreement. There was a recommendation to specifically invite a recreation representative to the meeting.

4. Alternative Water Sources to Meet Future East Slope Urban Water Demand

Steve Harris summarized draft language for inclusion in the BIP, developed in conjunction with feedback from various Roundtable members, regarding alternative water sources to meet future east slope urban water demands. Roundtable members provided suggested changes to the language. There was significant discussion. There was consensus to support the inclusion of the draft language in the BIP, direct IBCC representatives to promote the language with other Roundtables, and request that an alternative water sources study be an action item for the CWCB. No public input was given.

5. West Slope Caucus: Other Topics Discussed

Lawn Conservation Policy

Steve Harris and Mike Preston summarized discussions at the West Slope Caucus meeting, which resulted in lawn conservation policy being referred to the IBCC conservation subcommittee. There is hope that, in cooperation with East Slope water providers over the next six to seven months, a statewide lawn conservation policy and a high conservation goal could be agreed upon for inclusion in the water plan.

Municipal Conservation vs. Agricultural Efficiency

Mike Preston summarized the concern raised at the West Slope Caucus meeting that conservation (municipal) and agricultural efficiency are being conflated, and the distinction needs to be clearly delineated. Also, agricultural efficiency should be considered in a holistic manner to ensure any proposals get the desired results. John Stulp reported on Senate Bill 14-023 (Agricultural Efficiency) which was vetoed by Governor Hickenlooper amidst opposition from agricultural organizations and the River District. A similar bill establishing an agricultural efficiency pilot program will be introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Regarding these two topics, there was no input from Roundtable members. John Stulp responded to public questions regarding administration of the proposed agricultural efficiency pilot program.

6. Basin Implementation Plan (Final Plan Due to CWCB on April 17)

Schedule for BIP and Statewide Plan Completion

Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver will re-read the draft Colorado Water Plan to review how SW Basin Roundtable comments were incorporated. Carrie and Ann proposed a few February subcommittee meetings to discuss data gaps and future analysis. The final draft water plan will be distributed to the Roundtable by March 20, with comments due by April 6. At the April 8 meeting, the final draft BIP will be considered for approval, for submittal to CWCB by April 17.

Report on Community Outreach Meetings

Carrie summarized public attendance and press coverage at the four community outreach meetings in Pagosa Springs, Bayfield, Mancos, and Placerville. The meetings included a presentation of the basics of the water plan and BIP, with time for comments. Among the comments, concerns were expressed about the state-federal water policy nexus and water conservation. More education about the Roundtable and Water Plan process is needed to quell concerns about the potential negative impacts of the planning process. Public comment will be included in the final draft plan as a separate section. Any additional comments should be submitted both to Ann and Carrie, and coloradowaterplan.com.

BIP Activity Leading Up to April 8 Roundtable, including “Addressing Gaps”

There was consensus to reconvene the subcommittee in February with those members who identified environmental and recreational IPPs and data gaps.

Input into Statewide Plan – Leading to Comment Deadlines (July & September)

Leland Begay verified that Celene Hawkin’s comments on behalf of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe had been received and will be included in the water plan.

7. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

Concept Proposal: Upper Dolores Cold-Water Fisheries Adaptive Management Plan

Matt Clark, Trout Unlimited, presented the concept proposal for \$15,000 in support of the development of a cold-water-fisheries adaptive management plan on the Upper Dolores River, with the goal of using limited resources efficiently and effectively to conserve fisheries for the long term. The management plan will identify the right places to invest limited conservation dollars and time and facilitate coordination between stakeholders. Project partners include Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Roundtable members made recommendations and asked questions. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration.

8. Upcoming Events

2015 Meeting Schedule

April 8	Durango
July 8	Cortez
October 14	Durango

Statewide Roundtable Summit

March 12	Westminster
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9. Adjournment

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