

Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtable
Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable
MINUTES
January 13, 2015

Attending - Those who signed in are as follows: *Craig Godbout, Dale Wiescamp, Peter Clark, Ron Brink, Ed Nielsen, Judy Lopez, Karla Shriver, Heather Dutton, Mario Curto, Guinevere N. Freer, Greg Higel, Travis Smith, Emma Regier, Stan Moyer, Christi Bode, Rio de la Vista, Charles Griego, Keith Holland, Eugene Jacquez, Brenda Felmlee, Gina Randolph, Don Thompson, Ruth Heide, Ralph Curtis, Susan Wolfrey, Charles Spielman, Kevin Terry, Cathy Morin, Ruben Sandoval, Gene Farish, Joseph Old Elk, Cindy Medina, Nathan Coombs, Lawrence Gallegos, Rick Basagoitia, Charlotte Bobick, Jay Skinner, Steve Vandiver, Nicole Langley, Mike Gibson,*

Welcome and Introduction: Chairman Mike Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:03pm at the offices of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, Alamosa, CO. A quorum was established and those in attendance were introduced and welcomed all.

Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2014: Charlie Spielman moved that the Minutes be approved, Dale Wiescamp seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Issues:

- **Officers:** Mike Gibson noted that he will be stepping down from his position as Chair of the Roundtable in March and suggested we postpone election of officers until that time. Judy Lopez made a motion that elections be postponed until March 2015, Charles Griego second the motion, which carried unanimously.
- **Discussion of Officers:** Mike G. is going to step down as Chair. Rio de la Vista and Nathan Coombs have expressed interest in being appointed Chairperson. Currently the position is unpaid, though there has been discussion about the possibility of that changing. Mike G. asked Travis Smith to comment on whether or not the position should be funded by CWCB in the future. Travis said that while the discussion is happening, the position will not currently be paid because the funding is not currently available and our bylaws state that it is not a paid position. If you are interested in this position, you will be overworked and under appreciated!

Travis added that we have all become very close and familiar with each other and because of this we have personalized the issues. This is a new year and we will move forward. We would like people to commit to coming to the meetings and participating in a respectful and cooperative manner, so if you represent an entity, we would like to get someone that can come regularly. Today we will discuss our function, officers, and future participants. Everyone is welcome to come, participate and partake in lively discussion. If you agree to take a place on the Roundtable, view it as a commitment. Please take it seriously and attend as this is needed for productive conversation

- **Roundtable Membership:** Mike turned attention to the membership spreadsheet and reviewed existing members and suggested participants to fill vacant positions. Travis noted that Hindsdale County would like a letter stating information from the bylaws about attendance. They will appoint a new representative upon receipt of the letter. After reviewing the list, the group affirmed that they are comfortable with the proposed changes
- **Bylaws:** Mike presented suggested changes to the bylaws including membership makeup and proxy voting. There were questions about some of the changes that need to be verified as acceptable by the statutes that enabled the formation of the Roundtable. The proposed proxy rules would state that a voting member could notify the chair by email or telephone of their absence from a meeting before the meeting and designate another voting member as their proxy. This would occur one meeting at a time. Alternates are allowed to attend and share the opinion of an organization or position, but cannot vote. Lawrence suggested the notification of a proxy be recorded through email or in the minutes. Judy suggested that a person should only be allowed to carry one proxy vote at a time. A discussion ensued about the At Large members and whether the need exists to designate positions.

WSRA Grant Guidelines: Mike shared that Rio has worked to put together draft guidelines for WSRA proposals. Rio will send the guidelines out to the members to be reviewed and approved at the February meeting.

SLV Video Presentation/Proposal - Christi Bode, Producer/Photographer

Moxiecran Media LLC: Christi shared a 5 minute trailer that she produced about water in the San Luis Valley. She would like to produce a series of vignettes that can be shared online and at meetings to educate a wider audience on water. Many members spoke about how short videos could be beneficial in telling the story of work being done in the Valley to various groups and outreach to the community. She would like to gather a small group to discuss ideas and funding opportunities.

Snow Pack and Water Content - Colorado Division of Water Resources: James Heath was present from the DWR to give an update. The 2014 Recap – Saguache Creek and the north basin were above average, the Rio Grande was at average, and Conejos and Mogote were around 80% of average. Snowpack basin-wide is below last year everywhere in the Basin. The NOAA forecasting for the next 3 months shows above average precipitation. The first NRCS streamflow forecast for 2015 shows Saguache Creek at 109%, Rio Grande at 78%, and Conejos at 66%. James noted that there are many vacant positions in the DWR offices open for qualified applicants. Mike G. asked about the lawsuit between TX and, NM and CO, and James said there is no change.

Update on the Sub-Districts - Rio Grande Water Conservation District: Steve Vandiver gave an update on the Sub-Districts. He showed a map but noted that the final boundaries have not been set on any Sub-Districts, except #1. Steve brought copies of the latest unconfined aquifer study sheets; we are currently 60,000 AF above the lowest

point and 45,000 AF above this time last year. We have seen recovery because of the average water year. It appears a 600,000 AF river is needed to make gains in the aquifer. The RGWCD is still waiting on the CO Supreme Court decision on the use of Closed Basin Project water as replacement water in the Sub-District. The Closed Basin Project is a tool that can be used in four of the Sub-Districts. If the Court finds the Project water cannot be used, the needed replacement water in Sub-District # 1 would double. As such, this is a very critical decision. Sub-District # 2, the alluvial system, is the furthest along in development of additional Sub-Districts. The goal is to have the petitions signed by the end of January and come before the Board by March. This is the smallest Sub-District with the fewest wells. The RGWCD is currently working on reports due to the State Engineer, such as the Annual Replacement Plan, due April 15th. In the ARP, the RGWCD must estimate flows and diversions to determine depletions. This is a hugely complex issue, requiring a lot of estimates, which makes the need for better forecasting important. Sub-Districts # 3, # 4, and # 6 are moving along; the Saguache Creek Sub-District is the least active. Steve added that Colorado Water Congress is watching many bills and it is important for us to continue to have a presence to monitor this legislation. Wild Earth Guardians filed a FOI request about the Closed Basin Project. The Rio Grande Natural Area Commission is meeting January 22nd at the RGWCD, where they will review the latest Management Plan draft. The quarterly meeting of the RGWCD will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the City Hall, Alamosa.

Report from IBCC Representatives: Travis Smith shared the draft Executive Summary of the Water Plan. He noted that the next big discussion in the IBCC is likely to be a discussion of the conceptual agreement, which would entail what a future transbasin diversion would look like.

WSRA: Craig Godbout gave an update of the current WSRA account balances. The Rio Grande Basin Account has \$146,630. We can expect another \$120,000 in the account soon. The State Account has \$1,767,980 currently. Craig added that he would be interested in visiting basin WSRA projects and would be able to make time before the next Roundtable meeting.

Plaza Project, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project: Heather Dutton gave a quick update on the Plaza Project, which is underway. Robins Construction, the project contractor, has begun pouring the concrete footers for the new diversion dam.

San Luis Valley Soil Health Conference: Judy Lopez with the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative invited everyone to attend the San Luis Valley Soil Health Conference on February 2nd at Adams State.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 10, 2015
Conference Room, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO