

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Durango Public Library
Durango, Colorado
April 8, 2015

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	John Porter	SW Water Conservation District
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	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Liaisons Present:

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

Public:

Richard Ballantine (Durango Herald), David Brown (U.S. Geological Survey), Justin Catalano (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Matt Clark (Trout Unlimited), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Christy Duran (Pine River Irrigation District), Pete Foster (Wright Water Engineers), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Robert Haining (Town of Mountain Village), Eric Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), James Lambert (Montezuma County Commissioner), Marcia Larson (La Plata County Treasurer's Office), Ken Leib (U.S. Geological Survey), Charlie McCoy (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Allison Morrissey (La Plata County Treasurer), John Ott (Animas Water Company), Jan Quinn (Public), Denise Rue-Pastin (PEPO Liaison, Water Information Program), Tom Schillan (Filmmaker), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), John Whitney (Senator Michael Bennet's Office)

Introductions & Review Agenda

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. Administrative Reports

Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes from January 14, 2015 were approved.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

April Montgomery, CWCB Representative, encouraged members to contribute to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund on their tax returns. As part of the CWCB "Projects Bill," there was a proposed increase in funding for weather modification to \$300,000, which was decreased to \$175,000 in response to concerns expressed by State Senator Sonnenberg. Funding requests may come before several Roundtables to upgrade cloud seeding equipment. Steve Harris, IBCC representative, reported that the next IBCC meeting is on April 30. Bruce Whitehead added that several subcommittees have been established to make recommendations to the IBCC.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Mike Preston reported that the fund balance was \$775,916, less the \$50,000 committed to the Montrose County Reservoir Project.

2. Comments on Statewide Roundtable Summit

The 2015 Statewide Roundtable Summit was held in Westminster on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Roundtable members commented that the table discussions were very productive, the speakers were excellent, and overall, the Summit was worthwhile. There were 300 attendees, 46% of which were Roundtable members. From a survey conducted at the Summit, 81% of attendees thought the state water plan was moving in the right direction. Craig Godbout directed

Roundtable members to the Basin Roundtable Summit Executive Summary, and summarized common themes which emerged from the table discussions on permitting, funding, agricultural viability, and legislation.

3. Basin Implementation Plan

Overview Key Insights, Roundtable Discussion

Since the last Roundtable meeting, Ann Oliver and Carrie Lile made editorial changes to the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), updated the public outreach section, added a section in Strategies & Tools chapter regarding transmountain diversions, and finalized the appendices, which include the IPP list, public outreach documents, public comments, and the education action plan. The final BIP was distributed electronically to Roundtable members for review on March 23, and one comment was received regarding the land use planning and water supply nexus. The final BIP will be submitted to CWCB by April 17, with public comments on the first draft due by May 1. Carrie and Ann will present the BIP to the CWCB board at their meeting on May 20 and 21. On July 15, the second draft of the state plan will be released for public review, with public comments due on September 17. The final state water plan will be submitted to the Governor by December 10. Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver requested an extension of their grant to support BIP work through September, which was approved.

Public Input on Basin Implementation Plan

There was no additional public input on the final BIP. John Ott thanked the Roundtable for their hard work in developing the plan.

Roundtable Approval of Final Basin Implementation Plan

Steve Harris moved to approve the submittal of the BIP as drafted. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion was approved by consensus.

4. Continued Discussion of Statewide Issues & State Water Plan

IBCC - 7 Points of Conceptual Agreement

Bruce Whitehead summarized subcommittee discussion of the seven points of conceptual agreement regarding transmountain diversions. On point no. four, the term “insurance policy” was changed to “state strategy to better secure Colorado’s state compact entitlements,” and the following language was added: “Any new TMD will have measures put in place so that it will do no harm to existing uses and some reasonable increment of future development on the Colorado River system.” On point no. three, the “triggers” language will be reworked by CWCB staff to allow for more flexibility. Bruce responded to questions from Roundtable members. There was significant discussion. There was consensus to support further review of the seven points of conceptual agreement by the IBCC, with the opportunity for the Roundtable to formally approve the final language. The next subcommittee meeting will be on April 13.

Water Conservation

Steve Harris reported that the subcommittee on conservation will meet again on April 20 to work on including a high conservation goal in the state water plan. West Slope Roundtables would like to see a statewide high conservation goal, while the East Slope supports a high conservation goal for new development only. An expert panel at the SW Water Conservation District seminar also focused on conservation. Steve has scheduled a meeting with the City of Durango to discuss possible measures for increased water conservation, and will be looking to work with other southwest Colorado municipalities. There was additional discussion of the “use it or lose it” disincentive to conservation and pursuing creative alternatives for encouraging conservation in local systems.

Alternative Water Sources to Meet Future East Slope Urban Water Demand

Steve Harris added that the language approved at the January Roundtable meeting regarding alternative water sources was included in the BIP. State Representative J. Paul Brown introduced HB15-1167, which directed CWCB to study the feasibility of supplementing water supplies in the South Platte river basin through the construction of a new reservoir on the mainstem of the South Platte river between Greeley and Julesburg and the importation of water into Colorado from the Missouri river basin. HB15-1167 was postponed indefinitely in committee. Club 20 passed a resolution in support of studying alternative water sources to satisfy Front Range demand. There was consensus to recommend additional discussion of alternative water sources for inclusion in the state water plan.

Other IBCC Subcommittees

Craig Godbout summarized activities of three other IBCC subcommittees. The funding subcommittee will have its first meeting on May 5. The agricultural viability subcommittee has met with producers and discussed subjects such as ag producer education programs, consistent standards for water rights applications, incentives to reduce urbanization of ag lands, and attracting young producers. The IPP subcommittee has discussed a state-led process to assist with permitting rules and procedures, improved state and federal coordination, and IBCC review of IPPs for categorization, among other topics. Bruce Whitehead summarized recent ideas proposed on the legislative subcommittee. There was consensus to add Kate Greenberg, National Young Farmers Coalition, as a liaison to the SW Basin Roundtable.

5. System Conservation Program

Steve Harris described the System Conservation Program, which provides \$11 million from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and major Western municipalities to support a pilot temporary ag fallowing or other “demand management” proposals to increase storage into Lakes Powell and Mead. The Program will be administered by the Upper Colorado River Commission. Bruce Whitehead added that the River District and SW Water Conservation District adopted the following principles regarding the Program: 1) any pilot project impacting West Slope agriculture needs to be conducted in coordination with to be conducted through the water bank, and 2) pilot projects need to include projects on the East and West Slopes and not solely focus on agriculture. There was Roundtable discussion.

6. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRA Application: Upper Dolores River 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 and tributaries, 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 among stakeholders. Project partners include Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Roundtable members asked questions. Ed Tolen moved to approve the WSRA application for \$15,000. John Porter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Town of Mountain Village Water Line Extension

Bill Frownfelter, Russell Planning and Engineering, and Robert Haining, Town of Mountain Village, presented the request for \$30,000 to support the Mountain Village Waterline Extension Project, which will increase reliability and redundancy of the Town’s water system, particularly to meet emergency water demand if there is a fire in the western portion of the Town. The project will connect two existing water storage tanks with a new waterline. As part of the extension, the Town will install up to two micro-hydroelectric generators, pending an updated feasibility study. The Town has been approved for \$30,000 from the SW Water Conservation District and \$15,000 from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. The remaining \$2.4 million estimated construction cost will be matched by the Town. Bill responded to Roundtable member questions. Phil Johnson moved to approve the WSRA application for \$30,000. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Concept Proposal: Hess Lateral Improvement Project, Florida Consolidated Ditch Company

Pete Foster, Wright Water Engineers, and Florida Consolidated Ditch Riders Charlie and Justin Catalano presented the concept proposal for \$30,000 from the Basin Account and \$500,000 from the Statewide Account in support of the replacement of the Hess Lateral ditch with a buried irrigation pipeline. The project will address two main resource concerns: inefficient use of irrigation water and water quality degradation. The total cost is estimated at \$2,200,000. Colorado Department of Transportation has committed \$800,000-\$1,000,000, and the Ditch Company plans to request \$670,000 from the CWCW Water Project Loan Program. Roundtable members made recommendations and asked questions. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration.

7. Upcoming Events

2015 Meeting Schedule

July 8	Cortez
October 14	Durango

8. Adjournment

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