

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
June 1, 2015**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Cary Denison	Environmental
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
David Harold	Montrose Municipalities
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	Delta Municipalities
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Michelle Pierce	Hinsdale Municipalities
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
George Sibley	At-Large Member
Ken Spann	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
John Justman	Mesa County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Steve Snyder	Saguache County
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Graf (CDPW Liaison), David Kanzer (At Large), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison).

Public: Bruce Smith (Western Water & Land Inc.), Brent Gardner-Smith (Aspen Journalism), Brent Newman (CWCB), Les Mergelman (Club 20), Slade Connell (City of GJ/WEA), Hannah Holm (Water Center @ CMU), Ralph D'Alessandro (Delta Conservation District), Mike Drake (DCD and Steward Mesa Water Company), David Herz (SMWC), Jason Ullmann (CDWR), Kathleen Curry (UGRWCD), Eric Kuhn (CRWCD), Jason Ward (CDWR), Ben (GMUG NFS), Julie Nania (HCCA), Sonja Chavez de Baca (SC Environmental), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Alesha Frederick (CRWCD), Marc Catlin (Montrose County).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Michelle Pierce.

Roll Call/Introductions

Following roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Approve Agenda

Michelle announced that the meeting will adjourn by 6:30 tonight to make time to set up for the State of the River Meeting at 7:00.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the agenda as circulated. Ron Shaver seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approve April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the April 6, 2015 minutes as circulated. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Rick Brinkman attended the IBCC meeting on May 21-22 in Pueblo. The day was filled with reports from the subcommittees.

Bill Trampe reported the Ag Viability committee is struggling to come up with language to include in the water plan. They talked about the long-term goal of integrating agriculture at the same level that it exists today with all the expected changes that will happen in society and water use in the future. Other topics discussed were programs to facilitate agricultural opportunities for young people, enforcing minimum standards to the water rights applications and making those standards apply uniformly across the state, incentives to reduce urbanization and fragmentation of agricultural lands, law review of barriers keeping agricultural land ownership with water shares, framework for evaluation of agricultural transfers and ag to ag sharing pilot, update and improve Colorado's aging infrastructure, and ways of modifying regulations that increase the costs for growers. Bill would appreciate any additional input as there is one more opportunity to make additions.

Bill added the IBCC has said there will not be another meeting until the conceptual framework subcommittee has made headway on a consensus they have asked for ideas for future role of the Roundtables.

Ron Shaver moved to ratify the IBCC representatives' report. Tom Alvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley said he will be meeting with Hannah Holm to start strategizing a WSRA grant for education depending on how the final water plan draft works out. They will probably have some information in the next couple of months.

George reminded everyone that the Annual Colorado Water Workshop will be held on June 24-26 in Gunnison at Western State College. It will be the 40th anniversary of the workshop. There are scholarships available for attendees.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow reported the CWCB met in Sterling on May 20-21. The meeting was mostly routine business, as well as approval of 10 reserve account grants and a number of loans. The Roundtables gave their Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) presentations which are in various stages of completion. It was a significant improvement from last year in terms of completeness, organization and detail.

The next Board meeting will be September 15-17 in Montrose.

Report from the BIP Committee

Frank Kugel followed up on the BIP Reports given at the CWCB meeting in Sterling on May 20. This completes our initial obligation for the BIP effort and the Colorado Water Plan. The next step will be the second draft of the Colorado Water Plan, which will be released for public comment on July 15. The public comment period closes September 17. The final Colorado Water Plan is due to the Governor by December 10.

- 1. Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects** – Bruce Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist for Western Water & Land, Inc.

Mr. Smith gave a presentation to the Roundtable concerning aquifer storage and recovery projects in Colorado and its potential for the Gunnison River Basin.

- 2. WSRA Project Report** –David Herz, President of the Steward Mesa Water Company and Mike Drake, Delta Conservation District and Steward Mesa Water Company.

Mr. Herz briefly described the history of the Steward Mesa Water Company and thanked the Roundtable for its support of the improvement project.

Mr. Drake gave a project report to the Roundtable members on the Stewart Mesa Water Company Improvement Project. This project improves water efficiency and reduces cost to 79 shareholders.

- 3. WSRA Project Report** – Ralph D’Alessandro, Vice President of the Board of Supervisors, Delta Conservation District.

Mr. D’Alessandro gave an update to the Roundtable members on the Somerset Diversion Improvement Study/North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project. They have issued a final report to the CWCB. The consumptive portion of the project involved the Somerset Domestic Water District and the Elk Creek Mine, and the water treatment plant that will provide water to the Town of Somerset. The non-consumptive portion of the project deals with improving the low flow problem for fish passage in the summer.

- 4. WSRA Project Proposal** – Ouray County, \$25,000 from Statewide Account Funds and \$25,000 from Basin Account Funds for the Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Projection & Enhancement Project..

Tom Alvey began by discussing a different project proposal for Young’s Creek Dam Rehabilitation. The Screening Committee is in favor of the project, but there were gaps in the information, and so it is postponed until the complete application is resubmitted.

Tom Alvey presented the project proposal from Ouray County for the Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Projection and Enhancement Project. The Screening Committee recommends approval. Frank Kugel stated he feels it meets many needs, and also recommends approval.

Frank Kugel moved to approve the proposal from Ouray County for \$25,000 from Statewide Account Funds and \$25,000 from Basin Account Funds for the Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Projection & Enhancement Project. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 5. WSRA Project Proposal** – Water Enhancement Authority, \$25,000 for Purchase of a Remote Grand Mesa Cloud Seeder.

Tom Alvey presented this project proposal for the Water Enhancement Authority for purchase of a cloud seeder. The Project Screening Committee is recommending approval. Tom Alvey stated he has some reservations about the benefits of cloud seeding, but there are other cloud seeders around Grand Mesa and the people involved have a lot of experience. In addition, there is \$38,000 in funding from the applicant.

Dixie Luke moved to approve the proposal from Water Enhancement Authority for \$25,000 for the Purchase of a Remote Grand Mesa Cloud Seeder. Austin Kaiser seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. IBCC Conceptual Framework – Review and Comment on Current Draft.

John McClow distributed the current draft of the Conceptual Framework and a proposal from the west slope roundtables caucus for revisions of points 1 through 4. Ultimately roundtables will have last word on how this goes to the IBCC and then ultimately into the water plan. The work group has had four meetings since January to try to resolve issues all the roundtables had with what was originally called Conceptual Agreement and is now called Conceptual Framework.

John will go to Denver tomorrow for another meeting of the work group to try to work through the proposal we submitted plus the remaining principles. He would like the Roundtable's feedback tonight. The purpose of this document is for evaluation of a potential new transmountain diversion. The idea is to agree statewide on principles that will guide that evaluation. He is feeling comfortable that we have an effective set of parameters that will protect the west slope and Colorado's compact entitlements.

Eric Kuhn added that inclusion of point #4, insurance project or collaborative project, is difficult, and it has been decided to include it as a separate issue.

Feedback and comments should be sent to John McClow. A more final form will be brought back to the Roundtable.

7. IBCC & Basin Roundtables – The Path Forward.

Roundtable members discussed the question posed by the IBCC: "Once Colorado's Water Plan is complete in December, 2015, what should the role of the Basin Roundtables and IBCC be in the future?" Members were told the Roundtable can determine its own destiny, and they are not talking about disbanding the roundtables.

Many members spoke up, and generally the feeling was the roundtables should continue doing what it has been doing. They were busy before the water plan and the water plan does not solve the issues. The roundtables should continue to process reserve account grants, and it was suggested to increase the funding. It might be possible to get funding to get staff for project management and project development. The Roundtable has a role in implementing the BIP. Education and outreach, conservation issues, and looming water shortage issues are all issues the roundtables should be involved in. Ken Spann suggested raising additional funds from entities represented at the Roundtable for the Roundtable to use.

State of the River Meeting

Gunnison Basin State of the River Meeting followed the Roundtable Meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', written in a cursive style.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

None.