

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
March 2, 2015**

Voting Members Present:

Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
David Harold	Montrose Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
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
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
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Voting Members Absent:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Stan Whinnery	Hinsdale County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), David Kanzer (Non-Voting Liaison), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison), Tim Stroope (USFS Liaison).

Public: Jason Ullmann (DWR), Hannah Holm (Water Center @ CMU), Richard Vangytenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Milan Armstrong (Marcot Ditch & Reservoir), Brent Newman (CWCB), Bill Tiedje (Ouray County Plaindealer), Julie Nania (High Country Conservation Advocates), Rodney Due (Town of Crested Butte), David Brown (USGS).

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.

Michelle welcomed Jay Jutten, the new Montrose County representative to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

Michelle Pierce announced Mike Berry would like to have a short meeting after tonight's roundtable meeting to discuss an opportunity for an educational meeting in the Uncompahgre Basin area. Michelle asked Cary Denison, David Harold, Jay Jutten, Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber, Marti Whitmore, Steve Fletcher, Steve Shea and Ken Spann to join the meeting.

Approve Agenda

Michelle Pierce said the first agenda item has been postponed due to weather. She would also like to add an item at the end of the agenda to discuss the roundtable summit and travel reimbursements.

Frank Kugel moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by several members and carried unanimously.

Approve February 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Marti Whitmore moved to accept the February 2, 2015 minutes as circulated. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Bill Trampe stated there has not been an IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting. He will be attending the statewide roundtable meeting next week in Westminster. Everyone is welcome and hopefully has registered for the meeting.

Bill mentioned the four committees established at the last IBCC meeting will continue to work on specific areas of the water plan. Each one of those committees has probably had a telephone conference by this point in time, and to his knowledge each of those committees are going to meet on the day following the roundtable summit. Bill said he was appointed to the Ag Viability Committee. Members of this committee and others in agriculture have much concern about how agriculture is treated in the state water plan and how it is the source of water for everybody else.

Next week his committee will be meeting with members of a Colorado agricultural group, who have already started creating comments to CWCBC for the water plan.

Rick Brinkman said he is on the conservation subcommittee, which also had a short phone conference. They are scheduled to meet on the 4th before the summit. His subcommittee is trying to set the direction for the IBCC conservation dialogue for this year. There's a lot of discussion about water efficiency versus water conservation. He said he is in favor of becoming more efficient with the water we have and views cutting usage as more of a drought response kind of reaction.

John McClow said he is on the conceptual framework subcommittee. They had one telephone conference, which didn't go very well. One representative of the Front Range was adamantly opposed to any modifications to the existing conceptual framework or the staff report that accompanied it. Others were willing to wait and see what the west slope caucus consensus came up with. John said they're not as close as he thought they might be to some resolution in the committee. They will be meeting next in person on the 27th of March.

Neal Schwieterman moved to ratify the IBCC representatives' report. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Educational Committee

George Sibley sent everyone an email with a list of basic questions they're working on in the state and basin plans. George requested letters from the organizations represented at the Roundtable as well as county commissions and municipalities.

There were some concerns, one being whether comments are being incorporated without any discussion by the subcommittee and some of those comments are taking the basin implementation plan in a different direction than what we originally had. There was another concern over what is the current draft to be commented on. George stated they are working with the version on the website dated 7/31/2014, which does not have the comments incorporated. Frank Kugel added the committee is keeping a separate draft and tracking the comments, and the BIP committee will be vetting any changes to the final document. There will be a BIP committee meeting in the next couple of weeks to look at the draft before it's referred to the full Roundtable.

Bill Trampe reminded the Roundtable about past discussions regarding balance of uses and how each use is very dependent on each of the others, and how far we've come in the past 10 years. If we start pulling it apart, we will do more damage than good. We just need to think about it a little bit as we're trying to get our input into the BIP and be fair in our thinking. George agreed but added if there are concerns starting to arise and you don't like the way this is going, then the way to deal with it is to get it before the committee one way or another.

George brought a stack of the new Headwaters magazines, which are about the Colorado Water Plan, and suggested everyone take one. He said there is a nice foldout for charting your water future and it lays out the things we're going through in this planning process. George also sent out a quick guide to the water plan, stating people are not going to read a 300 page water plan before they come to a meeting, and the guide is meant to get them focused on the questions

we're trying to work with. Michelle Pierce said it's been suggested to print out some hard copies of the entire plan just to have one or two available at these public meetings as well. George said there were funds in the budget to make copies. He also asked for any feedback on the guide document.

Hannah Holm said she updated a version of a PowerPoint presentation that can be modified and used by presenters as a resource for these meetings. There is a short and a long version, and they're located on the CMU website along with George's handouts. She will send out the link to Michelle Pierce for circulation to the Roundtable members.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McCloy said the next CWCB meeting is in two weeks. He had no report.

Report from the BIP Committee

Frank Kugel had nothing additional to report for the BIP committee other than what will be discussed in item 4.

1. **Urban Landscapes, Reuse and Abstention Agreement** – Patty Wells, General Counsel for the Denver Water Board.

Patty Wells was not able to make it to the meeting due to the weather. This item is tentatively scheduled to be presented at the next meeting in April.

Ken Spann inquired if the abstention doctrine referenced in the agenda is the abstention provision in the Colorado River contract. When told yes, Ken asked if it would be useful to get something out to members beforehand so there is some level of informed participation on the Roundtable's part when Ms. Wells gives her presentation. John McCloy said he would ask her, but he is not sure if she intends to talk about it, or if she is just planning to inform people it exists.

2. **WSRA Project Proposal** – Marcot Park Ditch & Reservoir Co., \$25,000 from Basin Account Funds for an Engineering Review of the Marcot Dam Outlet Structure.

Frank Kugel introduced this project proposal for the Marcot Park Ditch and Reservoir Company. The Marcot Park reservoir is in need of some pipe rehabilitation. The original proposal was for \$25,000 for engineering work and investigation. There was concern raised during the project screening committee meeting about the cost of the study and the submittal was revised to \$10,000 for a more focused project, and the project screening committee then recommended approval of the grant request.

Marcot Park is on the Grand Mesa at 9600 feet in altitude, in an area that is very remote with difficult to access. A big part of the problem is the outlet conduit is corroded and has some bad joints in the pipe and the challenge is to figure out what type of repair is feasible at this location.

Hugh Sanburg moved to approve the grant request from Marcot Park Ditch & Reservoir Co. for \$10,000 from Basin Account Funds for an Engineering Review of the Marcot Dam Outlet Structure. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Kugel said the project screening committee discussed how there are potentially dozens of dams like this one on the Grand Mesa in need of a very similar engineering evaluation. In the BIP one of the projects identified is an overview of these dams in order to have an economy of scale moving forward. This overview project should be planned for the near future.

3. **WSRA Project Proposal** – High Country Conservation Advocates & Town of Crested Butte, \$46,816 from Basin Account Funds for the Municipal Outdoor Irrigation System-wide Improvements Project, Phase 1.

Frank Kugel introduced this project proposal for the High Country Conservation Advocates and Town of Crested Butte. Two representatives were present: Julia Nania from High Country Conservation Advocates, and Rodney Due the Public Works Director for the Town of Crested Butte.

This project is a second phase on a project approved by the Roundtable previously. The first project was to improve the diversion structure of Coal Creek, the stream that flows through the Town of Crested Butte. At this location the McCormick Ditch often dries up Coal Creek completely during the late summer months. It does have an instream flow right by the CWCB on that reach of stream, but is junior to the diversion. It's an identified area that needs more water in the stream.

Some concerns about the grant request raised by Roundtable members were:

- The significant cost involved for the actual water savings,
- The majority owner of the ditch is not contributing funds to the project,
- The largest benefit may be to the developer,
- The applicants also have a companion grant application in the Upper Gunnison grant process,
- If there is written authorization from all the owners of the ditch, and
- If there is guaranteed funding of the \$124,600 from the developer.

The benefits of the project are it could leave more water in the stream, provide an irrigation improvement, increased efficiency and decreased liability along the ditch, and it would take potable use component out of irrigating the ball field. The fact it happens to coincide with a developer needing to relocate this ditch provides an opportunity for getting funding for the project.

With all the questions and concerns, Michelle asked both Roundtable and applicants if it would cause a problem to delay taking action on this tonight to allow time to answer the questions. All parties agreed, and Michelle suggested another meeting with the project screening committee.

Ken Spann moved to table the discussion to the next meeting of the Roundtable, without prejudice to the application one way or another. Bill Nesbitt seconded.

Frank Kugel reiterated his understanding of the Roundtable's needs:

- We need letters from the ditch owners giving approval for the ditch relocation project;
- Find out the status of the Upper Gunnison Grant, if any, towards the project;
- Get a revised cost estimate for the use of HDPE and see if it could eliminate some of the manholes, or at least lower the cost of the pipe;
- Get certification public funds won't go towards private development;
- Provide more details on the potential lease of water towards the instream flow reach; and
- The certainty of the funds from the developer in a timely way.

It was also requested the applicant provide more information about the existing uses of water and what lands are over decreed, and outline a map where the ditch irrigates now to show what the changes will be to the infrastructure.

The motion carried with all but one in favor of the motion. John Justman voted against the motion. Michelle stated no minority report would be required on a motion to table an agenda item.

4. **Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan**– Updates.

Frank Kugel stated the meeting packet included a list of the proposed changes to the basin implementation plan. This list of changes is as of February 25th, and there have been a great deal more comments received since then. The members were asked for their questions or concerns regarding the comments compiled in the spreadsheet. A few things were discussed including some suggestions proposed by George Sibley for section 4.1, the introduction section. All comments will be discussed at the subcommittee meeting.

Bill Trampe expressed concern about looking at multi-purpose projects only. He feels this could be very detrimental to agriculture. He feels we can't make all our projects multi-purpose and said we need to be careful about how we word multi-purpose needs. After further discussion Michelle Pierce summed it up as we would not exclude a project solely on the basis that it is single purpose. Some projects will end up that way and it doesn't mean you don't take advantage of an opportunity.

There was also discussion about scenario planning, and George said we didn't clause it in our plan that scenario planning should be pursued in this process because of the uncertainty for the future.

The BIP subcommittee will be meeting sometime between March 16th and the 25th and they would like to get as many people to attend in person as possible. It helps a great deal. An email will be sent out about the meeting time.

5. **Roundtable Discussion** – Roundtable Summit and Scholarships Available.

Michelle Pierce asked for a show of hands as to how many people think they're going to attend the summit coming up next week in Denver. There were about 8 members who said they were planning to attend. Michelle said there are some scholarships available for those travelling who don't get their travel expenses reimbursed from their employer. The Gunnison basin has been given a total of \$1,300, and to take advantage of this scholarship just send her an email.

A note on the agenda for the meeting is there is a panel proposed to talk about the conceptual framework, which include the following people: Jim Young from the South Platte, Jim Broderick from the Arkansas, Michelle Pierce from the Gunnison, someone from the Colorado, and John McClow will be the moderator.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at about 5:45 p.m.

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

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Project Screening Committee will meet regarding the questions raised about the grant application from the High Country Conservation Advocates and Town of Crested Butte.

BIP subcommittee to meet sometime between the 16th and the 25th to discuss final comments to the draft BIP.