

Interbasin Compact Committee  
**Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting**  
Dolores Water Conservancy District  
Cortez, Colorado  
July 8, 2015

**Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	John Porter	SW Water Conservation District
Mike Canterbury	Agricultural Representative	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Dan Huntington	La Plata WCD	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Mely Whiting	Environmental Rep.
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative		

**Liaisons Present:**

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

**Public:**

Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Sheila Berger (Wright Water Engineers), Joe Busto (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Esme Cadiente (Mountain Studies Institute), Justin Catalano (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), J. Roger Cole (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Travis Custer (High Desert Conservation District), Pete Foster (Wright Water Engineers), Mardi Gebhardt (La Plata West Water Authority), Paul Gray (La Plata West Water Authority), Vernon Harrell (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Alton Hess (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Lee-Ann Hill (Dolores River Boating Advocates), Roy Horvath (La Plata West Water Authority), Alisa Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Eric Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Larry Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Mike Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), Chuck Lawler (SGM Consulting Engineers), Barry Lawrence (Wyoming Water Development Office), Dennis Miller (AECOM), Jim Mimiaga (Cortez Journal), Jodee Pring (River Basin Planner for Wyoming), Jan Quinn (Public), Marty Robbins (Co. Division of Water Resources), Denise Rue-Pastin (PEPO Liaison, Water Information Program), Brian Sheffield (Pine River Irrigation District), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Todd Street (Leonard Rice Engineering), Deborah Uroda (Durango TV)

**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 April 8, 2015 were approved.

**Officer and IBCC Representative Reports**

The Water Resources Review Committee of the Colorado General Assembly will meet on Monday, July 20 at the Holiday Inn Suites in Durango. At 2 pm, the Committee will hear testimony and then at 6 pm will be the SB 115 State Water Plan Hearing.

April Montgomery announced that the CWCB will be meeting in Ignacio on July 15 and 16. All Roundtable members are invited to attend. April thanked Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver for presenting the final draft Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) to the CWCB board at their May meeting. The second final draft plan is available for review on the [coloradowaterplan.com](http://coloradowaterplan.com). The public comment period on the water plan closes on September 17. April asked Roundtable members to refocus their thinking from planning to implementation.

Craig Godbout, CWCBLiaison, announced that the Colorado Foundation for Water Education will host a water plan webinar on July 21 from 9-10 a.m.

### **WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance**

Craig Godbout reported that the fund balance was \$850,916.

## **2. Roundtable At-Large Elections at the October 14 Roundtable Meeting.**

Laura Spann announced that terms are up for eight at-large Roundtable seats:

Industrial: Ken Beegles	Recreational: Tim Hunter
Agricultural: Mike Canterbury	Domestic Water: Carrie Lile
At Large Seat: Ann Oliver	At Large Seat: Mike Preston
At Large Seat: Val Valentine	At Large Seat: Chuck Wanner

All of these representatives were elected in 2010. Environmental Representative Mely Whiting and At Large Representative Ed Tolen were elected in 2013 and their terms are up in 2017. Elections will be held at the next Roundtable meeting on October 14, with applications due in late September. Newspaper announcements will be made in late August. At least five of the 10 at-large representatives must own adjudicated water rights and reside within the borders of the Roundtable.

## **3. Moving from Planning to Implementation and Community Education**

Mike Preston recommended that the Roundtable consider allocating WSRA funding to continue services offered by Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver as the water plan process moves to implementation. Carrie Lile reported that there are about \$5,000 in remaining funds from the BIP Phase II grant funding to use toward reviewing and providing comments on the second final draft water plan, providing assistance at the SB 115 meeting, and creating a master file with GIS data for the BIP. For implementation, the Roundtable should consider periodic updates for the BIP and IPP lists, additional education and outreach with the final water plan, and technical support for SWSI 2016 development. Roundtable members expressed concern regarding a long-term contract with Carrie and Ann as current Roundtable members. Roundtable members asked how the quantification of environmental and recreational needs will be addressed as part of SWSI 2016. There was consensus to discuss the quantification concept with specific ideas regarding implementation of the water plan at the October meeting.

### **Education & Outreach**

Denise Rue-Pastin, PEPO Liaison, reported that the Education Action Plan is updated and available on [coloradowaterplan.com](http://coloradowaterplan.com). As part of the Education Action Plan, the Water Information Program (WIP) will be hosting the first water and land use planning session on October 23 in Durango. PEPO funding has increased from \$2,500 to \$6,500 annually. Denise predicts she will have fewer hours available in 2016 as WIP Program Coordinator, and thus fewer hours to support the Roundtable as PEPO Liaison. Roundtable members suggested some strategic thinking about using the additional PEPO funds through the implementation phase.

## **4. Wyoming Weather Modification Pilot Program – Level II Study**

Jodee Pring, River Basin Planner for Wyoming, provided background on the Wyoming Water Development Commission's structure and purpose, and explained Wyoming's state water planning process.

Barry Lawrence, Wyoming Water Development Office, summarized the \$14 million Wyoming Weather Modification Pilot Program (WWMP) conducted over nine years to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of cloud seeding in two comparable target areas (the Medicine Bow Range and Sierra Madre Range). The study concluded that 1) weather modification results in a 5 to 15% increase in snow when conditions are seedable, 2) 30% of wintertime precipitation is from seedable storms, and 3) cloud seeding's environmental and downwind impacts are negligible. Overall, the study recommended that weather modification in Wyoming continue, so the Pilot Program is pursuing operations in other Wyoming mountain ranges. Barry responded to various questions.

Roundtable members proposed pursuing a joint application with other Roundtables for state WSRA account funds to purchase or lease a few radiometers. There may be an opportunity for matching funds from the Lower Basin. There was consensus to further discuss a concept proposal in October and then consider a full application at the January meeting.

## **5. Statewide Issues and Colorado Water Plan**

### **7-Point Conceptual Framework for Evaluating TMDs**

Bruce summarized discussions with the IBCC subcommittee on the seven-point conceptual framework. Changes were made to Principle 4, as follows: “A collaborative program that protects against involuntary curtailment is needed for existing uses and some reasonable increment of future development in the Colorado River System, but it will not cover a new transmountain diversion (TMD).” The document further explains that, “Some basins, such as the less-developed Southwest and Yampa/White/Green, anticipate the need for future development and will seek terms to accommodate it in the collaborative program.” West Slope growth is also addressed in Principle 5: “Future West Slope needs should be accommodated as part of a new TMD.” There was additional discussion of the definition of environmental resiliency as part of Principle 7. As to the first principle regarding East Slope water providers, there was discussion regarding the definition of “firm yield.” On July 13, the IBCC will review the draft conceptual framework developed by the subcommittee, after which it will be presented to the CWCB board at their July 15-16 meeting. Bruce solicited Roundtable comments on the draft via email.

### **Municipal & Industrial Water Conservation**

Steve Harris reported that he held an event at which he dug out his lawn. The Fall *Headwaters* issue will focus on water and land use planning.

### **Data Gaps Subcommittee**

Mely Whiting provided background on the impetus for the Data Gaps subcommittee. Two IPPs were created to encourage cooperative processes to address the lack of data around the basin environmental and recreational needs. There was consensus to pursue a pilot project on the San Miguel River led by the San Miguel Watershed Coalition to gather data regarding environmental and recreational needs. There may be funding available through the CWCB for stream management planning.

### **Alternative Water Supply**

Steve Harris reported that there will not be an action item in the water plan to study alternative water supplies. Steve will suggest the topic to the Water Resources Review Committee on July 20, as well as the IBCC. There was significant discussion regarding the intersection between alternative water supplies and a potential transmountain diversion.

## **6. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals**

### **WSRA Application: Hess Lateral Improvement Project, Florida Consolidated Ditch Company**

Pete Foster, Wright Water Engineers, presented the concept proposal for \$38,750 from the Basin Account and \$736,250 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 \$2,500,000. Colorado Department of Transportation has committed \$950,000, and the Ditch Company plans to request \$775,000 from the CWCB Water Project Loan Program. Roundtable members asked questions. Ed Tolen moved to approve the WSRA application for \$38,750 from the Basin Account and \$736,250 from the Statewide Account. Steve Fearn seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **WSRA Application: La Plata West Water Authority, Raw Water Pipeline Upgrade**

Roy Horvath presented the request for \$50,000 from the Basin Account and \$500,000 from the Statewide Account to support the increase in diameter of 2.33 miles of pipeline from 8” to 16” to leverage current project costs and minimize ongoing operating costs and future construction costs. In addition, LPWWA is requesting operating funds in the amount of \$50,000. Roy responded to various Roundtable member questions. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$50,000 from the Basin Account and \$500,000 from the Statewide Account. There was significant discussion. No Roundtable member objected to the motion, but several expressed concerns regarding the application. Dan Huntington seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **7. Upcoming Events**

CWCB Board Meeting	July 15-16	Ignacio	Sky Ute Casino
Water Resources Review Committee	July 20	Durango	Holiday Inn Express
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 14	Durango	Durango Public Library

## **8. Adjournment**

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