

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Durango Public Library
Durango, Colorado
October 14, 2015

Members Present:

John Ey	Florida WCD	Ann Oliver	At-Large Member
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	John Porter	SW Water Conservation District
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Karen Guglielmono	San Miguel Municipalities	Rod Proffitt	San Juan WCD
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Tami Sheldon	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative	Mely Whiting	Environmental Rep.

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board), David Graf (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), Kelly Palmer (U.S. Bureau of Land Management)

Public:

Jimbo Buickerood (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Hilary Cooper (Town of Telluride/Valley Floor Preservation Partners), Brian Devine (San Juan Basin Health Department/University of Colorado), Deanna Drew (San Miguel Watershed Coalition), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Judy Garrigues (High Desert Conservation District), Logan Hartle (Animas Water Company), Jim Horn (Russell Planning & Engineering), Rege Leach (Retired Division Engineer), Sean Mason (Lotic Hydrological), Lance McDonald (Town of Telluride), Pat Pfaltzgraff (Co. Department of Public Health and Environment), Paul Roithmayr (At-Large Applicant), Robin Schmittle (Town of Mancos), Brian Sheffield (Pine River Irrigation District), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Jim Wells (Norwood Water Commission)

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 July 8, 2015 were approved.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

Steve Harris reported that no IBCC meetings had been scheduled. While the seven-point conceptual framework regarding transmountain diversions was submitted with the IBCC's approval to the CWCB for inclusion in the water plan, discussion will likely continue on several specific points of the document.

April Montgomery, CWCB, reported that the following local WSRA Statewide Account requests were approved at the September CWCB board meeting: Florida Consolidated Ditch Company (\$736,250), La Plata West Water Authority (\$500,000), and Montrose County (\$250,000). CWCB staff indicated that the State is moving into a more fiscally austere environment due to declining severance tax revenues and an increasing number of WSRA requests. As a result, CWCB is encouraging WSRA applicants to seek more funding from the Basin Accounts.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance

Craig Godbout reported that the fund balance was \$757,849.

2. Roundtable Election for Designated and At-Large Seats

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

Public notices soliciting interested applicants were published in area newspapers in late August; applications were due on September 30.

There was consensus to elect by acclamation the following applicants for at-large seats representing specific interests:

Industrial: Ken Beegles	Recreational: Tim Hunter (WR)
Agricultural: Brian Sheffield (WR)	Domestic Water: Carrie Lile

The following individuals submitted a letter of interest in the four general at-large seats, and those present made a short statement before the Roundtable.

Jimbo Buickerood (WR)	Logan Hartle	Gerald Koppenhafer (not present) (WR)	Rege Leach (WR)
Ann Oliver (WR)	Mike Preston (WR)	Harry Riegle (not present)	Paul Roithmayr
Val Valentine (WR)	Chuck Wanner (WR)	Jim Wells	

The following members were reelected to at-large seats: Mike Preston, Ann Oliver, Val Valentine, and Chuck Wanner.

There was general consensus to consider an amendment to the bylaws to add a seat for the southwestern representative to the Water Quality Control Commission. If said amendment were approved at the January 2016 meeting (after it is noticed in writing to all Roundtable members two weeks beforehand), Chuck Wanner would fill the newly created seat. In that case, the runner up in the at large election would fill Chuck's at-large seat.

3. Roundtable Workshop Comments on Statewide Plan

Mike summarized the Roundtable's final comments on the water plan, which were submitted to the CWCB after an afternoon comment workshop in Cortez on September 1. He highlighted some specific areas addressed below:

State commitment to fund technical assistance and cost share incentives for irrigation efficiency

At the workshop, Marc Catlin sparked a discussion of state support for irrigation efficiency, which resulted in the following comment submitted to the CWCB: "the Plan should address and include as an action item a stronger commitment at the state level to funding and supporting the technology and technical assistance necessary to help Colorado's farmers move quickly toward higher water use efficiency (including on farm and delivery system efficiencies)." There was general support for this position, and acknowledgement of the complexities associated with increased agricultural efficiency such as the potential impacts on return flow patterns and related water rights.

West Slope County Engagement on 7-Point Framework to Guide TMD Negotiations

James Lambert directed Roundtable members to the Resolution passed by the Montezuma Board of County Commissioners in support of the conceptual framework regarding transmountain diversions developed by the IBCC for incorporation in the water plan. The Resolution was the result of a meeting of 15 west slope counties that was hosted by Garfield County to discuss the water plan and the framework. The La Plata County Commissioners also submitted a water plan comment letter to the CWCB.

4. Strategic Discussion: Implementation of SW BIP and Community Outreach/Engagement

Mike Preston summarized the intention of the CWCB and the Roundtables to move to implementation of the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and continue community outreach.

WSRA Application: Phase 3 of SW BIP

Roundtable members discussed the concept proposal from Harris Water Engineering (Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver) for \$59,848 from the Basin Account and \$59,848 from the Statewide Account in support of water plan education and BIP

implementation. This work would be guided by the goals and measurable outcomes identified in the BIP to implement specific tasks, while providing education and outreach efforts regarding the BIP and water plan to best inform local residents of these planning and implementation efforts now and into the future.

There was general consensus to table the proposal for the January 2016 meeting to allow for further consideration of concerns regarding BIP consultants also serving as Roundtable members, and the broader discussion regarding the Roundtable's technical needs as implementation of the water plan begins.

5. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRA Application: San Miguel Stream Management Plan Pilot Project

Mely Whiting, Sean Mason, and Deanna Drew presented the concept proposal for \$32,138 from the Basin Account in support of an assessment of environmental and recreation water needs within the San Miguel River basin. The project consists of the following steps: 1) review E&R attributes within the San Miguel River basin identified in the BIP for completeness; 2) identify potential water gaps to support those attributes, 3) assist the project sponsors and other stakeholders in defining desired outcomes for E&R uses within the project area and identify projects to achieve the desired outcomes in a cooperative setting, and 4) evaluate effectiveness of implementation of said projects. Possible funding sources include the CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD), local governments and foundations, and in-kind contributions from the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Trout Unlimited, and American Whitewater. Roundtable members asked questions. Steve Fearn moved to approve the WSRA application for \$32,138 from the Basin Account. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Valley Floor Restoration, Reach One

Hilary Cooper and Lance McDonald presented the concept proposal for \$45,000 from the Basin Account and \$399,021 from the Statewide Account in support of creating a naturally functioning and sustainable river system and mitigating past impacts to the San Miguel River. This is a non-consumptive, environmental restoration project. The WSRA funding request will be applied directly towards new channel construction and revegetation, existing channel restoration, and tailings removal and remediation. Partners include the Town of Telluride, Telluride Open Space Commission, Valley Floor Preservation Partners, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, and Trout Unlimited. Roundtable members asked questions. Chuck Wanner moved to approve the WSRA application for \$45,000 from the Basin Account and \$399,021 from the Statewide Account. Ann Oliver seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Town of Mancos Raw Water Improvements

Bill Frownfelter, Jim Horn, and Robin Schmittel presented the request for \$81,765 from the Basin Account in support of upgrades to the Town of Mancos water system: 1) raw water intake system improvements, 2) pressure reducing valve (PRV) and vault replacement, and 3) replacement of water lines south of the Mancos River. These improvements tie to water loss and conservation, fire flow demand, reliability, and economic growth. The total project cost is estimated at \$538,858. The Town has been approved for a \$75,000 grant from SWCD, and will also seek funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The remainder of the costs will be provided from the Town of Mancos Water Fund budget. Bill responded to Roundtable member questions. Mely Whiting moved to approve the WSRA application for \$81,765 from the Basin Account. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	January 13	Cortez	Dolores Water Conservancy District
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	April 13	Durango	Durango Public Library
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	July 13	Cortez	Dolores Water Conservancy District
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 12	Durango	Durango Public Library

7. Adjournment

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