

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
February 1, 2016**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Harris	Montrose Municipalities
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

Voting Members Absent:

Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Cindy Dozier	Hinsdale County
John Justman	Mesa County
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Pending	Delta Municipalities

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison), David Graf (CPW Liaison), Bob Hurford (DNR Liaison).

Public: Eric Kuhn (CRWCD), Melvin Woody and Beta Anderson (GMUG NF), Camille Richard (LFVC), Mendy Steward (Shavano Conservation District), Hannah Holm (Hutchinson Water Center at CMU), Maureen Briggs (Montrose Resident, Retired NPS), Bret Guillory and Slade Connell (City of Grand Junction), Nancy Hovde (Candidate Delta County Commissioners), Marley Duclo (Duke Ditch Rep.), Beth Karberg (CO Dept Ag), Dan Quigley and Jason Thom (DOWL Engineering), Pam Motley (Uncompahgre Partnership), Tanya Ishikawa (UWP), Jason Ullmann (DNR), Brent Newman (CWCB), Raymond F. Hanson (Trustee Town of Cedaredge).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Hugh Sanburg.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Approve Agenda

Tom Alvey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Nesbitt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approve November 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

After a question of who had seconded a vote, it was requested to change “unnamed suspect” to Bill Nesbitt.

Marti Whitmore moved to approve the November 2, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. Ron Shaver seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Rick Brinkman stated the IBCC had not met and there was no report. The IBCC is scheduled to meet again at the end of February.

Report from the Educational Committee

Marti Whitmore stated the Education Committee met by phone. Hannah Holm has been wonderful in taking on the roles of Secretary and general get it done person. They have invited other “non-Gunnison” roundtable people to the Education Committee with the understanding only Gunnison Basin Roundtable members would actually vote on action items. She is trying to expand and get more Gunnison Basin Roundtable members to participate on the Education Committee and asked for other participants. Volunteers are: John McClow, Rufus Wilderson, Joanne Fagan, and Mike Berry.

Hannah sent around a report showing the funds allotted to the roundtable that can be spent on educational projects. Hannah has written a draft letter to CWCB allowing some flexibility in spending the money without having specific proposals approved. The letter and a document called the Education Action Plan or EAP were circulated to the Roundtable members.

Marti Whitmore moved to accept the proposed budget and the current EAP for submission to the CWCB, with the understanding one of the tasks of the committee will be to update the EAP. Dixie Luke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tom Alvey asked for the budget amount. Marti responded the budget is \$6,500 and there are no specific proposals at this time. The letter states the funds will be used for educational purposes. We are not required to use the money if we don't have projects.

Marti Whitmore discussed two proposals she said need more time for consideration and asked the members if they feel the proposals are worth pursuing. The first item is a website. There are a lot of questions, i.e. costs, long-term costs, management and content. The Roundtable generally agreed this project was worth pursuing. The committee will bring it back at the April meeting. The second item is for money for the San Juan Mining and Reclamation conference in Durango. It is not necessarily pertinent to the Gunnison Basin. The conference is put on by the Mountain Study Institute and Uncompahgre Water Partnership. This conference has been in Ouray and Telluride in the past. Traditionally it includes a tour up to the Silverton area. There did not appear to be too much interest from the Roundtable.

Hannah Holm announced the 3-day water course at the Water Center at CMU is coming up. It will be held on 2/18, 2/25 and 3/3. It is possible they will be able to live stream the course.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow was not present at the meeting and no report was presented.

1. Phreatophyte Grant Letter of Support Request – Pam Motley

Pam Motley is a grant writer for the Uncompahgre Partnership or UP. They have been working on projects for improving ecosystem health. They are working on a grant opportunity through the CWCB for an invasive phreatophyte program.

There have been discussions with the BLM on the potential to do a project through this grant program. They have identified two priority areas to eliminate Russian Olive as well as Russian Knapweed on both public and private lands. It is an 18-month program where they will be able to go back and retreat the second year, and then restore vegetation to the areas. They will be asking for a cost share for the private lands. They are asking for a grant letter of support from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. They have received a \$65,000 grant contingent on the letter.

Cary Denison moved to provide a letter of support to the Uncompahgre Partnership for their grant request through the CWCB. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. **CFWE 2016 River Basin Tour** – Kristin Maharg

Kristin Maharg was not able to attend the meeting due to the weather conditions. At Ms. Maharg's request, Frank Kugel discussed the Water Education Foundation's annual tour. This year the tour is in the Gunnison Basin and will be on Monday and Tuesday of the same week as the Western Water Workshop and the Gunnison River Festival in June. It will start in the lower basin and conclude in the upper. The tour is in the early stages of planning.

3. **West Slope Basin Roundtable Grant Request** – Eric Kuhn

Eric Kuhn with the Colorado River Water Conservation District discussed their request for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's participation on a grant they are calling the Four West Slope Roundtable Technical Effort. The purpose is to seek more technical information on additional development and additional risk in the Colorado River Basin, using modeling software developed for large reservoir management.

The other 3 west slope roundtables have already agreed to participate. There will be a small working group of about 3 or 4 people from each basin and there will be 3 or 4 meetings over 7 or 8 months. The meetings will be in person supplemented by webinar. The discussions will be open and transparent to east slope roundtables, and any roundtable members who want to participate will be welcome.

The screening committee recommends approval of the grant request.

4. **Project Screening Committee Grant Application Report**

Brent Newman, CWCB, discussed the funding of WSRA accounts. This year the severance tax collection is down and the funding will be reduced by 20 to 50 percent. The Gunnison Basin was given only \$84,000. This is not the first time funding has been cut. Brent's said projects tied to the basin or the state water plan will get precedence. There are more requests than funding at this time.

Tom Alvey stated there are 8 grant requests.

1. Colorado River Water Conservation District - Four West Slope Roundtable Technical Effort, \$8,000 from basin account funds.

The River District has requested \$8,000 to match an equal amount from the other three West Slope Basin Roundtables and \$10,000 each from the River District and the Southwestern Water Conservation District, to fund a technical study aimed at providing a common understanding of water supply and demand issues in the Colorado Basin. The study would provide a model to help each basin see the effects of changes in demands and operations of system reservoirs. The Screening Committee recommends approval of this grant request.

Marti Whitmore moved to approve the CRWCD's request for \$8,000 from basin account funds for the Four West Slope Roundtable Technical Effort. Ron Shaver seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Eric Kuhn asked who would be on the technical team. Volunteers were Frank Kugel, Tom Alvey, John McClow, Cary Denison, Bill Trampe, Hugh Sanburg, and Kathleen Curry who said she will help where she can. Mike Berry will poll the domestic water representatives to determine interest.

2. Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District - Cloud seeding near Lake Irwin and Irwin Lodge. Requesting \$25,000 from basin account funds.

The Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District has requested \$25,000 to match \$40,000 in other funding for a new Cloud Seeder for the Lake Irwin area. This would fill in a gap in their existing cloud seeding program for the upper Gunnison basin. Cloud seeding was identified in the BIP as a Tier 1 project. The Screening Committee is recommending approval.

Allen Distel moved to approve Upper Gunnison's request for \$25,000 from basin account funds for a new Cloud Seeder for the Lake Irwin area. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Duke Ditch Company - Duke Ditch Piping. Requesting \$47,000 each from state and basin account funds.

The Duke Ditch Company has requested \$47,237 from state funds and \$47,237 from basin funds to pipe 2.7 miles of the Duke Ditch to serve about 300 acres, for both agricultural land and a subdivision irrigation water supply. The shareholders will borrow \$95,000 as their share of the project. One of the positive features of this project is it leverages \$464,000 of Basin States Salinity money and \$100,910 of NRCS money for the project. Although the Duke Ditch was not specifically mentioned in the BIP, this piping project fits well with the basin goals of improving infrastructure and maintaining agricultural production.

Dixie Luke moved to approve the grant request from Duke Ditch Company for \$47,237 from state funds and \$47,237 from basin account funds to pipe 2.7 miles of the Duke Ditch. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Cary Denison asked what might be done with the gained water. One suggestion would be to put it back into the river. The applicant was interested and had some suggestions for the extra saved water.

4. Blanchard Reservoir. The owners of Blanchard Reservoir are requesting \$47,000 from basin funds to install a liner to repair the outlet pipe.

This small reservoir (136 acre feet) on Grand Mesa is under a fill restriction because of problems with the outlet works. The private owners request \$47,000 in basin account funds to help with the installation of a liner in the outlet pipe. The Division 4 Dam Safety engineer has approved the intended repairs and an access road has been built. Although not mentioned specifically in the BIP, this repair is part of the planned rehabilitation of reservoirs on Grand Mesa, a Tier 1 project. This project will preserve storage for agricultural use and is in line with BIP goals. The Screening Committee's only concern was there are only two beneficiaries of the project. The conclusion was the small amount of beneficiaries should not override the value of saving agricultural water storage. The Screening Committee is recommending approval.

Frank Kugel moved to approve a grant request for \$47,000 from Basin Account funds for Blanchard Reservoir repairs. Austin Keiser seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Young's Creek Reservoir. The owners of Young's Creek Reservoir are requesting \$75,000 from state, and \$60,000 from basin funds to install a blanket lining to repair a seepage problem.

Young's Creek is another small reservoir on the Grand Mesa (786 af). Young's Creek has had seepage problems for years and is under a partial fill restriction. The planned repair is to place a blanket lining over the problem area with appropriate preliminary excavation and backfill. The Division 4 Dam Safety Engineer has approved this plan. The Dam owners are requesting \$75,000 from state funds and \$60,000 from basin funds and are matching this with approximately \$33,000 of their own funds and a potential \$25,000 from the River District. The Dam owners already have a large loan with the CWCB and would have difficulty making more payments. The owners are primarily agricultural producers with the water serving orchards, hay and ranch land. The reservoir is the primary source of irrigation water for over 700 acres. Young's Creek Reservoir is specifically listed as a Tier 1 project in the BIP projects list.

Ron Shaver moved to approve the grant request for \$75,000 from state funds and \$60,000 from basin funds for the repair of Young's Creek Reservoir. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. City of Grand Junction - Purdy Mesa Reservoir. The City of Grand Junction is requesting \$75,000 from state funds and \$25,000 from basin account funds for the repair of a crack on the reservoir face.

Purdy Mesa Reservoir is another reservoir on the Tier 1 BIP list. This request is from the City of Grand Junction Water Enterprise Fund for \$75,000 from state funds and \$25,000 from basin funds to repair a crack on the reservoir face. The \$100,000 in WSRA funds will be matched by \$927,000 in money borrowed from the CWCB Water Supply Loan Account.

This reservoir is used for municipal water supply with any extra supply leased to ranchers. The slip on the downstream face occurred in 2014 and must be repaired to allow use of the reservoir. The Screening Committee is recommending approval of this project.

Joanne Fagan moved to approve the grant proposal request for \$75,000 from state, and \$25,000 from basin account funds for the repair of the Purdy Mesa Reservoir. Cary Denison seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Trout Unlimited and the North Fork Water Conservancy District – North Fork Stream Study. The request is for \$30,000 from state funds, and \$27,000 from basin account funds.

This grant request is for the North Fork of the Gunnison Environmental/Recreation and Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment. This planning study will combine two Tier 1 BIP projects; NF Irrigation Infrastructure Needs Inventory and Environmental/Recreation Project Identification and Inventory for the North Fork into one stream management document. The grant request is for \$30,000 from state funds and \$27,000 from basin account funds to be matched with \$27,500 from other state grants (SMP) and \$38,500 in cash and in kind (\$19,500) contributions. The study will look at the North Fork from Paonia Reservoir to the junction with the mainstem, by segments, to identify environmental/recreation needs and match this with an inventory of existing diversions and their problems and demands. The Screening Committee is recommending approval.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the request for \$30,000 from state funds and \$27,000 from basin account funds for the North Fork Stream Study. Dixie Luke seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Lake Fork Gunnison River Enhancement - River Restoration and Enhancement. This request is for \$209,653 from state funds and \$23,295 from basin account funds.

The Lake Fork of the Gunnison River Enhancement Project requests \$209,653 from State funds and \$23,295 from basin account funds for a river restoration and enhancement project. The overall project builds on a previously WSRA funded river restoration project at the confluence of Henson Creek and the Lake Fork. The area to be improved is in the Town of Lake City, below the Medical Center to below the sewage treatment plant. The application is for restoration and channel work to protect banks and riparian areas along with land acquisition for public use and a trail system. The work would improve aquatic habitat, reduce flooding, enhance public access and preserve riparian areas. The total project costs are \$499,000 without land acquisition (no WSRA funds would be used for land) to be made up with other cash and grant matches. The Lake Fork was designated with 6 attributes in the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's non-consumptive needs assessment and an Inventory of Environmental Needs was a Tier 1 project in the BIP. The Upper Gunnison WCD has supported the project. The Screening Committee is recommending approval.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve \$209,653 from state funds, and \$23,295 from basin account funds for the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River Enhancement Project. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Pro Rata Fund Cut Discussion

The Roundtable members discussed what do about the overrun on state funds with the approved projects and what direction to give to the roundtable's CWCB representative, John McClow. The suggestions were: 1) do nothing and pass requests to the state and see what happens, 2) do a pro rata percent cut on all projects or just projects requesting state funds, or 3) backfill with basin funds the projects receiving less funds than requested from the state.

The pro rata position was dismissed because it could be unfair as it is not known what the state shortfall will be, and also some proponents may not be able to move forward if they do not receive the total amount requested. The Roundtable generally felt the backfill position would work. The next question was given a CWCB decision would there still be time to consider backfilling projects with basin funds at the April Roundtable meeting? Brent Newman stated there may be an opportunity but he couldn't speak for the CWCB. He said the approved projects are good and in line with the BIP, and the amount requested from the state is well matched with funds from the basin, which is very favorable.

Ultimately the Roundtable asked John McClow to try and get flexibility from the CWCB board to offer the roundtables an opportunity to backfill or otherwise address shortfalls and not have to wait for the September CWCB meeting. The other question was whether to rank the projects? Bill Trampe suggested ranking projects by those protecting existing uses. There was a general agreement to this suggestion by the roundtable members.

5. State Water Plan, Measureable Objectives – Brent Newman

Brent Newman, CWCB, gave a short presentation on the State Water Plan's measureable objectives, which were established to determine what progress is being made on set goals. Brent described each objective and its critical actions.

Miscellaneous

Hugh Sanburg told members he is not always at a computer terminal and to feel free to contact Frank Kugel. Hugh said he will send bylaws out to new members. Some members have asked about printing of agendas and packets for meeting handouts, but no one seemed to feel it was necessary and electronic distribution would suffice.

Frank Kugel brought up the bylaws and the ability to do electronic voting. Frank suggested the Roundtable recommend to the Bylaws Committee to reconsider approval of some type of electronic voting and give recommendations for consideration at the next meeting. Hugh stated there were only two members of the Bylaws Committee left; him and John McClow. Hugh said he would contact John.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2016, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Bylaws Committee to discuss electronic voting and bring suggestions back to the Roundtable at the April meeting.