

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
July 13, 2016

Members Present:

John Ey	Florida WCD	John Porter	Southwestern WCD
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Mike Preston	At Large Member
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Celene Hawkins	At Large Member	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At Large Member
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Chuck Wanner	Water Quality Control Commission
Eric Kuhn	Colorado River WCD	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Mely Whiting	Environmental Representative
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
April Montgomery	CWCB Representative	Val Valentine	At Large Member
Ann Oliver	At Large Member	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Leland Begay (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Travis Wheeler (Southern Ute Indian Tribe)

Public:

Theresa Ancell (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Ken Beck (Pine River Irrigation District), Eric Bikis (SGM-Bikis Water Consultants), Russell Burwell (Sullivan Ditch Company), Joe Busto (CWCB), Marc Catlin (Montrose County), Ken Curtis (Dolores WCD), Jeff Derry (Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies), Jim Fisher (Dolores WCD), John Fleck (Colorado River WCD), Pete Foster (Wright Water Engineers), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Kristin Green (New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission), Alexis Klein (AmeriCorps VISTA – Tri County Health), Mara MacKillop (CWCB), Kelly McCaw (King Consolidated Ditch Company), Ann McCoy-Harold (Senator Cory Gardner), Steve Miles (High Desert Conservation District), Caroline Munger (Sullivan Ditch Company), Denise Rue-Pastin (Water Information Program), Kirk Russell (CWCB), Gail Schwartz (Upper Gunnison River WCD), Eric Skeie (CWCB), Bruce Smart (Dolores WCD), Charlie Smith (Lake Durango Water Authority), Aaron Somogyi (Florida WCD), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Mark Williams (Spring Creek Ditch)

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 13, 2016 were approved. Roundtable meeting documents and other files for reference are housed online for public and Roundtable use at <http://swwcd.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable>.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

In response to reductions in severance tax revenue, at their May meeting the CWCB board directed staff to prepare a five-year funding plan for inclusion in the 2017 CWCB Projects Bill. CWCB plans to request appropriations of \$10 million annually to the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), \$5 million annually to the Watershed Restoration Grant Program, and \$50 million in one-time funding for development of a repayment guarantee fund through the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to subsidize loans for water projects.

CWCB is also updating guidelines for WSRA applications, which includes proposed requirements of a 25% match from the applicant for Basin WSRA funds and a 50% match from the applicant for Statewide WSRA funds. On behalf of the Southwest Basin Roundtable, Steve Harris would like to comment that there should be some flexibility regarding match requirements for entities which may not be able to meet the criteria. Final CWCB board approval of the proposed criteria update is expected by September. There was consensus for the WSRA criteria subcommittee to consider draft language that would reflect the Southwest Basin Roundtable's comments on the criteria being proposed to the CWCB board, to submit to the IBCC and CWCB as soon as possible. The next CWCB meeting is July 20-21, and the IBCC meeting is August 17.

At the last IBCC meeting, there was significant discussion about possible long-term funding sources for water plan implementation. At the IBCC, the primary discussion was a container fee on bottled beverages to support water projects, which is estimated to generate \$100 million per year—sufficient to move water plan projects forward. The container fee would need to be either a citizen's initiative or legislation.

There was also Roundtable discussion that the sideboards placed on the IBCC's conceptual agreement regarding transmountain diversions should begin to be discussed.

Basin WSRA Fund Balance

Craig Godbout reported that the fund balance was approximately \$490,000.

PEPO

Mara MacKillop introduced herself as the new CWCB Education and Public Engagement Coordinator and invited Roundtable members to reach out to her with comments.

2. Vacancy – At Large Seat

The At-Large Agricultural Seat is now vacant, with Brian Sheffield's departure from Pine River Irrigation District. Public notices soliciting interested applicants will be published in area newspapers in late August, with applications due on September 30.

3. Update: Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study

Eric Kuhn provided an update on the Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study. A series of webinars have been conducted to solicit comments and discussion on the data so far. Eric summarized how the Risk Study came about and described the contingency planning process from 2013 to present. The following are questions to be answered by Phase I: What are magnitude and duration of Powell shortages below elevation 3525 feet? How much of these shortages can be met by contributions from drought operations of CRSP reservoirs? How much consumptive use reduction ("demand management") would be needed by Upper Basin states - after use of stored CRSP water - in order to maintain Powell pool elevations? What are possible implications to Compact deliveries? What is the range of volumes that Colorado might need to conserve? He described the model assumptions used to answer these questions, and preliminary results and conclusions. Now the technical committee and consultant will evaluate different demand and hydrology data sets, and then draft a report for distribution to the Roundtables. Eric also outlined other possible questions to be answered by future phases of the Risk Study.

4. Report Out: Weather Modification Strategic Plan Work Session

Ken Curtis summarized the southwestern Colorado weather modification meeting held earlier in the day, at which the participating entities, CWCB staff, fiscal agent San Juan RC&D, and other interested parties kicked off the program's strategic planning process. There was significant discussion about how the program could be improved in light of the results of Wyoming's recent study on cloud seeding's efficacy, which indicated the importance of utilizing new technologies to better target storms and increase seeding efficiencies. Dolores Water Conservancy District was awarded a WSRA grant to hire a consultant to develop a strategic plan and answer technical questions. Today's meeting covered a summary of current operations, a presentation regarding the goals of the strategic planning grant, and an organization of the core planning group going forward.

5. Update: San Miguel Stream Management Pilot Project

Mely Whiting directed Roundtable members to a summary of the June meeting of the E&R subcommittee to discuss progress made thus far in development of the San Miguel Stream Management Pilot Project. The group discussed work done so far by the consultant, including identified attributes of the San Miguel basin, methodologies, hydrologic modeling, and public outreach. The consultant will be available to present to the full Roundtable at a future meeting, if requested.

6. Update: Montrose County San Miguel River Storage Project Feasibility

Marc Catlin reported on the results of the feasibility studies regarding two potential reservoir sites (Maverick and Big Bucktail draws) in the San Miguel Basin, as well as possible enlargement of Nucla Town Reservoir. Montrose County has contracted with Nathan Fey, American Whitewater, to develop a recreation review of proposed storage projects. Marc will meet with Jenny Russell on July 21 to further discuss the project.

7. WSRA Review Criteria Drafting Group

At the April Roundtable meeting, a sub-committee was formed to review the existing WSRA basin funding criteria. The sub-committee convened three times to review existing WSRA criteria, brainstormed recommendations to improve WSRA criteria and drafted possible language to be approved by the Roundtable to incorporate into the WSRA criteria. There was specific discussion of several suggested updates to the criteria, including 1) requiring applicants provide a 25% match, not to exceed 10% as in-kind, with a waiver to be provided on a case-by-case basis and 2) the role of the WSRA review subcommittee. There was consensus for Roundtable members to provide comments within 30 days, for the sub-committee to review in 60 days, for consideration by the full Roundtable at the October meeting. Steve Harris moved not to consider full WSRA applications at the October meeting (with the exception of the Morrison Ditch Company, whose application was tabled at the April meeting), but provide recommendations on concept proposals. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

8. Roundtable Member Project Preferences Survey

David Martin, former intern with The Nature Conservancy, conducted a survey of Roundtables across the State. He is sharing results with the Roundtables, and is not affiliated directly with the water plan process. Roundtable members were invited to provide comments on the survey directly to David.

9. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRA Application: Spring Creek Ditch Siphon Replacement

Mark Williams presented the application for \$29,000 from the Basin Account in support of the replacement of an existing inverted siphon that carries the East lateral of the Spring Creek Ditch under the Pine Valley Canal. The inverted siphon is a concrete pipe that is approximately 75 years old and has deteriorated to a point that a failure of the siphon is likely. Failure of the siphon during irrigation season would interrupt irrigation supplies to approximately 1,200 acres of land. The Company will request an additional \$29,000 from the SW Water Conservation District. Ditch shareholders have committed \$7,000. Roundtable members asked questions. Mely Whiting moved to approve the WSRA application for \$29,000 from the Basin Account. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: King Consolidated Ditch Company, Gaging Station with Telemetry

Kelly McCaw presented the application for \$12,100 from the Basin Account in support of the installation of two automated gauging stations with wireless satellite telemetry that also include the associated housing and wells at two separate locations. This will ensure efficiency and save labor by allowing the King Consolidated Ditch Company to monitor these locations remotely and adjust the flow of water only as needed and eliminate wasted, expensive trips to check these locations. The estimated project cost is \$17,100. Roundtable members asked questions. John Ey moved to approve the WSRA application for \$12,100 from the Basin Account. Ed Zink seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Wines Ditch Diversion Structure & Conveyance Improvements Phase I, TNC

Celene Hawkins presented the application for \$40,000 from the Basin Account and \$25,000 from Statewide Account in support of to evaluate the preliminary design, alternatives analysis, and construction cost opinions for the

reconstruction and improvements of the Wines Ditch No. 1 Diversion Structure and conveyance system located on the Dolores River. The project will address multiple consumptive and non-consumptive water interests, including water delivery improvement, sensitive species protection and enhancement, channel stabilization, and recreation improvement. Project partners include The Nature Conservancy, Western Sky Investment, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and American Whitewater. The total project cost is \$118,036.71. Roundtable members asked questions. Jenny Russell moved to approve the WSRA application for \$40,000 from the Basin Account and \$25,000 from Statewide Account. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Colorado Dust on Snow Project

Jeff Derry presented the application for \$2,500 from the Basin Account and \$150,000 from Statewide Account in support of monitoring and reporting statewide dust-on-snow conditions for a period of three years. This data provides the water community information as to the timing and rate of snowmelt that directly leads to improved management and efficient allocation of all water supplies in Colorado, both consumptive and non-consumptive. Funding is also being requested from three other Roundtables. Roundtable members asked questions. Ann Oliver moved to approve the WSRA application for \$2,500 from the Basin Account and \$150,000 from Statewide Account. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Sullivan Ditch Repair

Russell Burwell and Caroline Munger presented the application for \$27,298 from the Basin Account in support of piping and repairing at-risk sections of the Sullivan Ditch. Funding is also being requested from the SW Water Conservation District. The total cost is estimated at \$81,895. Roundtable members asked questions. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$27,298 from the Basin Account. Gary Kennedy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: La Plata WCD Freed and Red Mesa Ditch Headgate Automation

Eric Bikis presented the application for \$55,000 from the Basin Account in support of lining the Freed Ditch and Red Mesa Supply Ditch to help prevent seepage. Funding would also go to upgrade the existing Red Mesa Supply Ditch headgate by installing telemetric and automated equipment. The ditch lining would benefit irrigators by increasing water conservation and water-use efficiency as a result of significant reduction of seepage losses, and the State of Colorado by capturing diurnal fluctuations to improve the predictability of Compact deliveries. Total project costs are estimated at \$223,042. LPWCD will cover 50 percent of the project costs, with additional funding from the SW Water Conservation District. Roundtable members asked questions. Bruce Whitehead moved to approve the WSRA application for \$55,000 from the Basin Account. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

10. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 12	Durango	Durango Public Library
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11. Adjournment

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