

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

**Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Val Valentine	At-Large Member
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	Chuck Wanner	At-Large Member
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Mely Whiting	Environmental Rep.
Ann Oliver	At-Large Member	Ed Zink	La Plata County
John Porter	SW Water Conservation District		

**Liaisons Present:**

Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board)

**Public:**

Bob Becker (Mancos Conservation District), Marcie Bidwell (Mountain Studies Institute), Esme Cadiente (Mountain Studies Institute), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Travis Custer (Mancos Conservation District), Pam Dollar (San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council), Jeff Derry (Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies), Christy Duran (Pine River Irrigation District), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Judy Garrigues (High Desert Conservation District), Celene Hawkins (The Nature Conservancy), Vern Harrell (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Walter Henes (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Jessica Hernreich (Columbia University), Eric Hjermstad (Western Weather Consultants), Glen Humiston (Bauer Lake Water Company), Gerald Koppenhafer (Montezuma Valley Irrigation District), Eric Kuhn (Colorado River Water Conservation District), Ed Millard (Farmer), Steve Miles (High Desert Conservation District), Goodwin Oliver (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Emily Olson (Chama-Peak Land Alliance), Allan Pfister (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Doug Pickering (Division of Water Resources), Don Rjanz (Bauer Lake Water Company), Denise Rue-Pastin (Water Information Program), George San Miguel (Mesa Verde National Park), Bruce Smart (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Aaron Somogy (Florida Water Conservancy District), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Amanda Wallace (Bauer Lake Water Company), Jay Wilks (Bauer Lake Water Company)

**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 October 14, 2015 were approved. Roundtable meeting documents and other files for reference will be housed online for public and Roundtable use at <http://swwcd.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable>.

**WSRA Basin Roundtable Fund Balance**

Craig Godbout reported that the fund balance was \$782,849. Due to a decrease in severance tax dollars collected, the next installment of Basin funds will be \$60,000-\$100,000 rather than \$120,000. There will be a similar decrease in the installment of Statewide funds.

**Officer and IBCC Representative Reports**

There were none.

## **2. Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study**

Eric Kuhn, Colorado River Water Conservation District, summarized the need for technical data expressed by the Four West Slope Basin Roundtables to better discuss issues surrounding future Colorado River development and the risk to current water users. This need also came up in each Basin Implementation Plan, and as part of the IBCC conceptual agreement for trans-mountain diversions. The Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study will address the need for technical data so that the Roundtables—and all of Colorado—can better discuss issues surrounding future Colorado River development, potential curtailment, and the risk to current water users. SWCD has committed \$10,000 to this study, along with \$10,000 from the River District, and requests for \$8,000 are coming before each West Slope Roundtables for a total of \$52,000 in funding. It is anticipated the first phase of the study would provoke questions to be further researched.

## **3. WSRA Application: Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study**

Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$8,000 from the Basin Account. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **4. Proposed Bylaws Changes**

After receiving written notice two weeks before the meeting, Roundtable members considered the following two proposed bylaws amendments:

Article IV (Roundtable Membership), Section 1, No. 9 “The member of the Water Quality Control Commission who resides within the borders of the basin Roundtable shall act as the Commission’s liaison to the basin Roundtable, and shall be a member of the round table. If the closest west slope Commission member does not live in the basin the member is invited to attend and to participate, but will not be a voting member of the roundtable.”

Chuck Wanner will continue as a voting member of the Roundtable serving in the Water Quality Control Commission seat, which creates an open at-large seat. There was significant discussion. Ed Zink moved to approve the bylaws amendment to Article IV, Section 1, No. 9. There was discussion. Mely Whiting seconded. Several members expressed objections. The motion was brought to a vote, and passed 18 to 3.

Article VI (Decision-making), Section 2. “Roundtable Members or Members Organizations Receiving WSRA Funds. Roundtable members who receive or the organization they work for receives Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) funds can continue to be Roundtable members but shall recuse themselves from the Roundtable approval of said funding.”

This change is in recognition that Roundtable members and their affiliated organizations are eligible for, and do receive, Roundtable funding in the form of WSRA grants and contracts. Ed Zink moved to approve the bylaws amendment to Article VI, Section 2. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Later on in the meeting, there was additional discussion regarding potential bylaw changes to add other voting seats. No decisions were made and the topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Steve Harris moved to fill the vacancy with the runner-up in the last election. Phil Johnson seconded. There was not enough support to pass the motion by consensus. Steve Harris moved to advertise the open at-large position. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **5. WSRA Application: SW Basin Roundtable Implementation and Outreach (Phase 3)**

Carrie Lile, Ann Oliver and Denise Rue-Pastin presented the application for \$81,562 from the Basin Account and \$43,781 from the Statewide Account in support of Phase 3 of the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan, which will build on work completed during the first two phases of the Colorado Water Plan development. The objectives of Phase 3 are to provide education and implement actions identified in the BIP while working towards the BIP goals. The first objective is to participate and support implementation of the CWP and BIP at a sub-basin and statewide level. The second objective is to provide technical support for the Roundtable. Roundtable members asked questions. Ed Zink moved to approve the WSRA application for \$81,562 from the Basin Account and \$43,781 from the Statewide

Account, subject to full utilization of the available PEPO funds. Bruce Whitehead seconded. Ann Oliver and Carrie Lile recused themselves. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

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

### **WSRA Application: SW Colorado Weather Modification Strategic Plan**

Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District, presented the request for \$55,620 from the Basin Account in support of the establishment of a local oversight group including the local funding participants that can actively assist and support the cloud seeding program development and improvements. The WSRA funds will be used to contract with an appropriate independent professional to provide technical assistance and some modeling and application ideas for the group in support of a strategic plan. The plan will focus on program improvements and efficiencies. Roundtable members asked questions. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$55,620 from the Basin Account. Ken Beegles seconded. Mike Preston and Don Schwindt recused themselves. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **WSRA Application: Mancos River Habitat Diversion Project, Phase III**

Bob Becker (Mancos Conservation District) and Esme Cariente (Mountain Studies Institute) presented the request for \$59,000 from the Basin Account in support of the Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project –Phase III. The objective is to decrease the time and costs incurred in diverting water at three diversions, while also improving channel function and fish passage on the reach of the lower East Mancos River stretching from the West Fork upstream to just above the Middle Fork. Roundtable members asked questions. Tim Hunter moved to approve the WSRA application for \$59,000 from the Basin Account. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **WSRA Application: Animas River Community Forum**

Marcie Bidwell, Mountain Studies Institute, presented the request for \$37,850 from the Basin Account in support of the Animas River Community Forum, a community group formed in responses to the Gold King Mine release in August to address concerns regarding response, recovering and cohesive solutions for water quality in the Animas River. The WSRA funds will be used to fund hiring a coordinator, purchase materials and supplies, project management, hosting events/conferences, supporting speaker travel, and fiscal administration services. Roundtable members asked questions. Ed Zink moved to approve the WSRA application for \$37,850 from the Basin Account. Steve Harris seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

### **Concept Proposal: San Juan Basin Watershed Irrigation Efficiency Program**

Judy Garrigues, Travis Custer, and Steve Miles (High Desert Conservation District) presented the concept proposal for a three-phased, multi-year project to increase on-farm agricultural water efficiencies and help to maximize the water holding capacity of soils through soil health practices. Phase I would be estimated at \$50,000 and the funds would be utilized to cover administrative, staffing, project materials, equipment, travel, and education events. Roundtable members expressed support for additional agricultural water efficiency work and suggested other funding sources. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration.

### **Concept Proposal: Bauer Lake Water Company**

Glen Humiston, Don Janz, Amanda Wallace, and Jay Wilks resented the concept proposal for upgrades to the ditch from Jackson Lake to Bauer Lake #2. This project will incorporate several segments requiring repair work and upgrade improvements in order to achieve water transfer efficiency at an estimated cost of \$75,000. Bauer Lake Water Company plans to request \$60,000 from the Roundtable and \$15,000 from the SW Water Conservation District. Roundtable members asked questions. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration.

## **7. Upcoming Events**

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

## **8. Adjournment**

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