

Interbasin Compact Committee
Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable
MINUTES
October 11, 2016

Attending: *Nathan Coombs, Travis Smith, Rio de la Vista, Judy Lopez, Kevin Terry, Zeke Ward, Judi Perez, Cleave Simpson, Karla Shriver, Cindy Medina, Ruth Heidi, Don Thompson, May Enquist, Susan Wolfrey, Pete Strickler, Bob Getz, Mike Gibson, Dale Wiescamp, Peter Clark, Ed Nielsen, Craig Cotten, Jim Ehrlich, Helen Smith, Brenda Felmlee, Rick Basagoitia, Dale Pizel, James Henderson, Wayne Schwab, Cary Aloia, Nicole Langley, Marvin Reynolds, Bob Kirkham, Toner Mitchell, Bruce Halleron, Donald Valdez, Russ Plummer, Charles Spielman, Gene Farish, Keith Holland, Wayne Schwab, Charlotte Bobicki, Christi Bode, and Garret Hanks.*

Welcome and Introduction: Chair Nathan Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm at the offices of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, in Alamosa, CO. Nathan recognized Charlie Spielman for his 83rd birthday. The Roundtable members and public in attendance introduced themselves and all were welcomed.

Approve Meeting Agenda: Ed Nielsen moved to approve the meeting agenda. Karla Shriver seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approve August 9, 2016 Minutes: Judy Lopez moved to approve the minutes. Keith Holland seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Tour Announcement: Helen Smith informed the group about the upcoming tour of the Prairie Ditch to see the completed project on Wed, October 19th.

Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Guidelines: Nathan noted that the CWCB has approved new guidelines for grant applications. Matching requirements have changed slightly (25% for Basin funds - 50% for Statewide funds). Some disclosure requirements and conflict of interest forms will be coming. The Executive Committee will review and bring to whole RT for any updates to our Basin guidelines. Cleave noted that these are reviewed annually and can be modified as needed.

Public Comment:

Bob Getz noted that he met with Jeff Straub from the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies regarding their Dust on Snow monitoring. He wants to see some sites in the Rio Grande Basin that could be good for this research. They will be looking at possible locations in late January and invited interested people to contact him in order to join them for that. Some locations will be reached on skis and some on snow machines.

Keith Holland thanked Helen for new Rio Grande Basin Roundtable newsletter! She did a good job!

May Enquist recommended the book: **Water in Plain Sight** by Judith Schwartz

Susan Wolfrey spoke out against corporations hurting mankind and planet. She believes that this group is being used to privatize water. She prays that the truth will come out and we'll all become better citizens.

Travis Smith asked Mike Gibson to tell about the recent panel he spoke on at ASU. Mike briefly reported that the presentation was with Eugene Jaquez and Armando Valdez regarding water administration and the Rio Grande Compact.

Marvin Reynolds announced that CSU Extension is putting together the agenda for the 2017 Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference, and invited anyone with suggestions for speakers and topics to please let him know.

Magnetic Water: Bruce Halloran - Colorado Water Solutions

Contact info: 720-459-2282, brucehalloran@comcast.net, www.cowatersolutions.com

The powerpoint presentation with the content will be sent to the Roundtable outreach list.

Bruce presented information regarding the effect of magnetic fields on water productivity. He discussed the difference between the chemical composition and molecular structure of water, with the latter being more important, as it can form into a number of varying structures.

Possible Results: Bruce asserted that installing one unit on each center pivot in Colorado would solve the state's water supply gap. The cost per center pivot unit: \$8,000 -- pays back in 5 months. Guaranteed money-back for two years. Manufacturer guarantee for 8 years. They hope to be part of the solution! Currently 7-8 farmers in SLV, 50 in Colorado are using this technology

Judi Perez: Update on Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Plan Revision

The USFS is at the stage of "Proposed Action" which will take them into NEPA. Judi recommended that interested parties submit their comments in order to be part of process. Start now by commenting on the Proposed Action and continue throughout to final decisions. Their overall goal is to make the plan more flexible and adaptable—vs. the current plan which in many cases requires amendment to the plan that can take years to implement. Judi recommends tracking the process through the Forest Plan website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd517899>

Judi also noted that the RGNF has a new hydrologist, Ivan DeRoy.

Sportsmen's Vision for the Rio Grande Forest: Garrett Hanks – Trout Unlimited

Garret discussed TU's role in the planning process for public lands: Sportsman's Conservation Vision. See full explanation at their website:

<http://trout.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=ee32de170ad3433abd61485987a5ec09>

For more information contact ghanks@tu.org, 970-590-9367.

Their priorities are:

- Watershed approach
- Sustainable ecosystem – for fisheries and big game
- Connection to public lands

DWR Update: Craig Cotten

As we approach the end of the year, the Compact is looking good on both rivers. The Conejos is at 0% curtailment and forecasted to closely meet the Compact. The Rio Grande is delivering a small amount to the state line and is at 3-4% curtailment. The irrigation season generally ends on November 1 and DWR is talking with groups to discuss the precise date, depending on weather and other factors. Regarding the TX vs NM & CO court case, there is nothing new regarding the legal aspects and the states continue to be in dialogue. Regarding the Well Rules and Regulations, there are about 30 objectors. So far DWR has reached 1st stipulated agreement with the Confined Aquifer Sustainability Group, with 29 left to go! The NOAA Forecast has moved to predict more average precipitation for early winter with below average later in the season.

IBCC Update: Travis Smith/Cleave Simpson

Cleave: IBCC has not met since before the last Roundtable meeting. CWCB did adopt revised guidelines and criteria for WSRF grants as discussed. Travis: CWCB continues to discuss a funding

proposal for WSRF of \$10 million. Travis is anticipating approval by the legislature in 2017 Projects Bill - Funds would be available in July of 2017.

Ground Water Management Subdistrict Update: Cleave Simpson

Subdistrict #1 is nearing completion of their 5th year of operation. They replaced all injury to the river and for the 3rd year have seen a positive increase in the aquifer levels. Near average flows in the Rio Grande for the past 2 years has helped! Subdistrict #2 was approved by the court earlier this year. They are working on management plan to submit to RGWCD Board and then to the Court. Cleave expects the petition for Subdistrict #3 formation at the October 18, 2016 RGWCD Board meeting. After Board approval, it will then go to court. The RGWCD staff are still working with producers in the remaining areas: San Luis Creek, Saguache Creek, and Alamosa/La Jara. It's an on-going process that is advancing weekly!

Craig Cotten noted that late last week there was a ruling from Judge Swift allowing the Trinchera Irrigation Water Conservancy District to create a Subdistrict, so that allows them to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.

Next Roundtable Meeting: November 8, 2016 @ 2:00pm
Next Executive Committee Meeting: November 8, 2016 @ 1:00pm
Conference Room, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO 81101