

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
December 5, 2016**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Cindy Dozier	Hinsdale County
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
John McCloy	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Steve Shea	Agricultural

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), Dave Kanzer (At-Large, CRD Liaison)

**Public:** Eric Kuhn (CRWCD/IBCC), Tom Browning and Russ Anderson (Michael Baker International), Les Mergelman (Club 20), Steve Anders (USGS), Michael Dale (NPS), Richard Vangytenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Craig Godbout (CWCB), Brad Johnson (CSU/JEC)

### **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Frank Kugel.

### **Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call it was declared a quorum was not present. Ultimately enough members arrived to make a quorum.

### **Approve Agenda**

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

### **Approve August 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the August 1, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Greg Peterson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the IBCC Representatives**

Bill Trampe reported there have been two IBCC meetings since the last Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting; one in late August and the other on November 29.

The August meeting was about Water Supply Reserve Account regulations and the funding mechanisms going forward.

The November meeting was in conjunction with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) in a panel discussion about how different entities look at the use of Alternative Agricultural Transfer Methods (ATMs). The West Slope does not have a lot of interest in ATMs except for water banking.

Tom Alvey moved to ratify the IBCC representative's report. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the Educational Committee**

Marti Whitmore stated that Dave Kanzer will give presentation on the website later in the agenda. The website has been the extent of their work and she had nothing else to report.

John McCLOW reported Public Information and Public Outreach (PEPO) had a workshop that took place a couple of months ago. The State coordinator brought all the committees together to get better organized and put more resources together. A report will go out to all the committees.

## **Report from the CWCB Representative**

John McClow reported the CWCB had two meetings since the last Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting.

The September meeting provided more updates on implementation of the water plan. There has been some pretty significant progress. They looked at some wild and scenic suitability designations. There are 3 remote wildernesses, high altitude segments in the Gunnison Basin that are being considered for suitability.

Two Gunnison Basin water supply reserve account applications were approved; the Fire Mountain Canal and the Orchard Ranch Ditch Company.

The Board adopted the new criteria guideline for water supply reserve fund applications. They discussed the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's concern about matching requirements. The compromise the Board came to is a possible waiver of the match. If the Roundtable accepts the hardship statement from the applicant, it can request the CWCB grant a waiver and the board will consider the request. John sent everyone the list of new requirements as well as the explanation of the conflict of interest requirement, which will be discussed later.

John said the CWCB Confluence Newsletter has the best description of what happened at the November meeting. It is his understanding everyone got the newsletter by email.

Kathleen Curry asked about the criteria for determining whether a waiver can be granted. John replied there is a process and the CWCB has the process detailed on its website.

Tom Alvey asked about funding for the water supply reserve account going forward. John stated at this time we are being told there will be no Tier 2 severance tax available for the next 2 fiscal years. They have come up with a plan using construction fund money we already have to fund \$10 million a year for the next 3 years, if approved by the general assembly. The details are summarized in the Confluence Newsletter.

### **1. Rocky Mountain Fen Research – Brad Johnson**

Brad Johnson presented a draft film created by the Colorado Mountain College on fen restoration. Fens are ancient wetlands systems made of peat and are found at high elevations in Colorado.

The purpose of the fen restoration research project is to determine if it is possible to recreate the habitat once damaged, or to salvage and relocate an existing fen if the area is to be developed. The film showed a fen being recreated in a location where a fen previously existed by salvaging peat from another fen wetland.

2. **Gunnison Basin RT Website Update** – Dave Kanzer

Dave Kanzer gave a demonstration of the new Gunnison Basin website. There has been a soft launch of the website and it has been live since October. Dave covered features built into the website. It is a platform for all sorts of information. The address of the website is [gunnisonbasin.org](http://gunnisonbasin.org) or [gunnisonriverbasin.org](http://gunnisonriverbasin.org), either will work.

The project has been a team effort. The current committee members are Marti Whitmore, David Kanzer, John McCloy, Rufus Wilderson, Mark Roeber and Joanne Fagan. They will be working with Hannah Holm and the Water Center to help populate the site. George Sibley has offered to provide some content. They are looking for more volunteers to help.

Events, content, etc., is needed from anywhere in the basin. They want provocative information and compelling fresh content to get people reading. They do not want to duplicate efforts (i.e., minutes, agendas, etc.) that can be found elsewhere. There is also a blog site which goes through filter. The best way to add information is through the web service provider. Contact Sonja Chavez or Dave Kanzer by email at [info@gunnisonbasin.org](mailto:info@gunnisonbasin.org).

3. **Joint West Slope Basin RT Risk Study Phase II** – Eric Kuhn

Eric Kuhn discussed the Joint West Slope Basin RT Risk Study Phase II and requested a matching contribution of \$10,000 from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable for the Phase II study. The study is a collaborative effort to develop more technical information to address concerns regarding aspects of the framework document and to develop a drought contingency plan. The three other west slope roundtables have already pledged their \$10,000 contributions.

Kathleen Curry moved to contribute \$10,000 in basin funds to the Joint West Slope Risk Study Phase II. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. **WSRA Grant Request** – Tom Alvey

Tom Alvey stated there are no new applications. However there is a change to previously approved project.

In January last year the Gunnison Basin Roundtable approved a stream management plan project for the North Fork to address two Tier 1 projects. One was the inventory of irrigation infrastructure improvement needs for the North Fork and the other was environmental/recreational project identification and inventory for the North Fork.

They were going to try to combine those two projects into one project and create a stream management plan. It was a project that met a lot of goals. Unfortunately, the project partners encountered a lot of unanticipated difficulties. Landowners are not allowing access to the river. They are reacting to fear and distrust. The landowners are willing, however, to participate in the inventory, which is still useful and is a Tier 1 project. The larger part of project will have to be cut back or abandoned. Tom said they were still having some discussion on what can be done, but he doesn't think it will be fruitful. He is okay with cutting project in half and moving forward with the inventory and infrastructure part of the project at a reduced budget. He feels they can do this part for approximately half of the original grant of \$57,000.

John McClow moved to approve the suggested modification to the North Fork Watershed Management Plan grant application. Ron Shaver seconded, and the motion passed. Roundtable members involved in the water in the North Fork area who abstained from the vote included Dixie Luke, Tom Alvey, Steve Fletcher, and Mark Roeber.

Ron Shaver gave an update on projects on the Grand Mesa. They have 5 projects that have been finished. They only have a short time period each year they can work on these projects. They have relined outlet pipes, and now they need water to fill the reservoirs. Ron thanked the Roundtable for funding the projects.

Austin Keiser gave an update on the Blanch Park Reservoir project. They have run into some delays because their Forest Service representative unexpectedly passed away. A new environmental assessment had to be done, and hopefully the project will be completed next year.

**5. Conflict of Interest Policy GBRT Bylaws – John McClow**

John McClow sent the summary of the new criteria guidelines that explain why the CWCB felt this conflict of interest policy was necessary. He proposed the amendment to the Bylaws, but Kathleen Curry has pointed out that changes to the Bylaws need two weeks advance notice of any amendments before they can be approved by the Roundtable. Since the material was only distributed late last week, we cannot comply with that requirement. Because we cannot advance applications for funding until this change to the Bylaws, he suggests by resolution to adopt the language tonight. The Roundtable can then vote the policy into the Bylaws at the next meeting

Tom Alvey moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest language as policy and vote in to the Roundtable's Bylaws at the February meeting. Bill Trampe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Assistant Secretary Salary for 2017 – Mike Berry**

Mike Berry moved to increase the salary for the Assistant Recorded from \$275.00 to \$300.00 per meeting attended. John McClow seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Election of Officers**

There are 3 positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recorder, which need to be nominated and voted into office. The Chair has said he was willing to continue, the current Vice-Chair, Frank Kugel, withdrew his name from consideration.

Tom Alvey moved to retain the present Chairperson. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion carried.

Cindy Dozier moved to nominate and elect Kathleen Curry as the Vice-Chairperson. Marti Whitmore seconded and the motion carried.

John McCloy moved to nominate and retain Mike Berry as the Recorder. Steve Fletcher seconded and the motion carried.

## **Other Business**

None

## **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

None.