

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
February 6, 2017**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Rick Brinkman	Mesa Municipalities
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
John Justman	Mesa County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McCLOW	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
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:

Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
Hugh Sanburg	Industrial
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), David Graf (CPW Liaison).

Public: Brent Gardner-Smith (Aspen Journalism), David Harold (Farmer – Olathe Area), Aaron Derwingson (The Nature Conservancy), Tanya Ishikawa (UWP), Beth Karberg (CO Dept Ag Salinity), Sonja Chavez (CO River District), Jim Pokrandt (Colorado Basin RT), Ken Spann (Spann Ranches, Inc.), Eric Kuhn (CRWCD), Craig Godbout (CWCB), Torie Jarvis (NWCCOG/QQ), Brian Domonkos (NRCS CO Snow Study), Camille Richard and Jessica Noelke (Lake Fork Valley Conservancy), Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited).

Welcome

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

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

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

Approve December 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Bill Trampe requested a typographical correction on page 5.

Tom Alvey moved to approve the December 5, 2016 meeting minutes as corrected. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

Bill Trampe stated there has been no meeting since the last Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting in December. He hasn't had much communication with the IBCC. Bill asked the Roundtable members if they have any input or ideas for the IBCC representatives to take to the IBCC. It is supposed to be a grassroots operation and Bill feels we have been operating from the "top down" for the past 2 or 3 years.

Kathleen Curry said she had spoken to John Stulp at the Water Congress meeting and a discussion came up about how roundtables might communicate with the legislature, even if it is just to say we exist and what we're doing. She had assumed the IBCC was a line of communication between the roundtables and the legislature, but was told that really wasn't a focus of the IBCC per se. There are at least the two Ag committees which meet jointly between the Senate and the House every week, and they ask for presentations. Bill Trampe added the House and Senate Ag Committees aren't present on the IBCC.

Marti Whitmore moved to ratify the IBCC representative's report. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the Educational Committee

Marti Whitmore reported there was one funding request for WSRA funding. She has passed it to the Project Screening Committee, and it will be presented at the next meeting.

Sonja Chavez, Water Resource Specialist from the Colorado River District, updated the Roundtable on the website. Sonja has been working with Dave Kanzer on education and outreach. Phase I of the website project was funded by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. They hired a developer to custom build the backbone of the website. They did not want to use a canned product.

They are currently in Phase II, which is being funded by the Nature Conservancy who provided \$10,000 for the project. They are now working on populating the website, and will be hiring Hannah Holm from CMU to help manage the website. Hannah will be working with the Executive Website Committee to oversee and approve content.

Sonja went over the budget and costs. A couple of additional desires to add to the website would be a blogging component and to hire a writer to develop some additional articles about the basin.

Members should send a request to gunnisonbasin.org to request to be put on the email distribution list.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow reported the CWCB met in Denver in January. The Confluence Newsletter gives a comprehensive report on the CWCB.

Discussion about conflict of interest issues was stricken from the agenda. All the roundtables are addressing it in their own way to come into compliance. The prevailing question was related to the definition of “influence”. Kathleen Curry said it is on our agenda tonight to adopt the changes, and asked if it was still okay to do that. John McClow stated there was no problem.

John also reported there will be 3 new board members at the next CWCB meeting due to terms which have expired. Funding plans have not changed.

1. Colorado River Risk Assessment, Phase II Update – John McClow

John McClow reported the Phase II Colorado Risk Assessment scope of work received negative feedback from the Front Range. They had a number of concerns and went to the CWCB to say they didn't feel it should be funding this kind of work. Eric Kuhn and John went to the CWCB and asked for their help to bring all the roundtables together. There was a webinar and all roundtable chairs were encouraged to participate. Hugh Sanburg attended the webinar but was not able to report due to his absence so John did.

In the webinar they heard many concerns. The action item from that webinar was to have John Carron and CWCB staff to edit the scope of work to be more palatable for everyone. There was a follow-up webinar, and John's impression was they had a consensus among roundtable chairs that the edited scope of work was acceptable.

Eric Kuhn discussed how we got here and the purpose of the study, which is to provide additional information with modeling tools. He thinks all the roundtables may have bought in to the SOW for Phase II. The CWCB agrees with most of what we want to do. It doesn't get all of what we wanted, but gets us about 90%. Eric hopes that the timeline to complete this phase will be 4 -5 months.

There was concern among the Roundtable members about the process, and how Front Range roundtables can object to a west slope project. John McClow's response was that as long as we are using reserve account funds we have to be transparent and allow all comments. Marti Whitmore suggested since there is concern about how the SOW is worded, can the Roundtable tweak it. John McClow stated that was the purpose of the discussion tonight. Kathleen added there is a deadline of February 16 for this Roundtable to weigh in with specific comments. Comments are due to Kathleen Curry by the end of the day on February 9, 2017.

2. NRCS Colorado Snow Survey – Brian Domonkos

Brian Domonkos with the NRCS Colorado Snow Survey gave an update on some of the projects they have going on. They are considering a new Snotel site on Kebler Pass or in the West Elks. One of the largest data voids is in the West Elks. The Red Mountain Snotel site has to be moved due to a landowner request. The data from a potential new site 200 feet away may not be consistent and he feels it will have significant impact on stream flow forecasting.

The NRCS currently has a staffing shortage issue. They are 2 FTEs short and there is a hiring freeze, and he is personally filling the void to collect Snotel data.

The snow pack as of February 1st is very good. This is an amazing year. There has been an unprecedented snow accumulation. We only need 6% more to reach the average annual peak.

3. Northwest Colorado Council of Government's Water Quality and Quantity (QQ) Committee – Torie Jarvis

Torie Jarvis is from NWCCOG QQ Committee, and is 1 of 3 contract staff. Torie gave a presentation on the mission and projects of her organization. The purpose of the group is to protect and enhance the region's water.

4. Lake Fork Improvement Project Update – Camille Richard

Camille Richard, Executive Director of the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District, gave an update on their River Enhancement Project.

The background to this project is the river system running through the Town of Lake City has been heavily impacted by physical and chemical elements. There have been 2 tailings dam failures in the last 50 years that have dumped significant amounts of cobble and gravel which is still working its way through the system. There are also chemical impacts from mine waste. They have also had rapid river front development which has effectively channelized the river through town.

The project is currently in Phase 2. Camille described the improvements and success of the project. She also shared the budget and costs of the project. The majority of the funds have been spent on river channel reconstruction and vegetation. The project should be completed within a year. They will monitor and then turn in a final report.

Phase 3 will be the river section in town, which is roughly 3100 feet. Their intent is to improve the river and make it more accessible and useable. They are also working on a river trail system, and a river/lake corridor for recreational use in Lake City.

5. WSRA Grant Request – Tom Alvey

Tom Alvey reported there was one request from Surface Creek Valley Historical Society in Cedaredge, who operates the Pioneer Town Museum and the Welcome Center. They have requested \$18,000 to drill a well for the purpose of getting off of Cedaredge's domestic water system for their irrigation.

The Project Screening Committee thinks it is a great project, but it did not fit with the goals of the grant program. Their recommendation is to not approve this grant request. Ron Shaver was one dissenting vote.

Austin Keiser commented the project is simply an effort to substitute town domestic water with well water. There is no need, the town has adequate water in the system.

The Roundtable consensus was to decline the request.

6. Bylaws Amendment Vote

This item is to propose language to Section 4 of the Bylaws regarding conflict of interest. Kathleen Curry asked if we should still amend our bylaws tonight as planned. John McClow stated we have to incorporate the conflict of interest language into our Bylaws in order to meet the criteria that are now in place for the water supply reserve funds. The question that has come up is what constitutes "influence", which we could work on in the future and maybe come up with some criteria. However we can put this into our bylaws, it is the same language as was discussed at the last meeting. John recommended the Roundtable adopt the language.

Rufus Wilderson moved to adopt the conflict of interest language change to the Bylaws. Bill Nesbitt seconded.

Dixie Luke asked about the word “influence”, and confirmation that providing information is not trying to “influence”. John McClow concurred, information is not influence.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Future Roundtable Activities – John McClow

John McClow suggested the roundtable come up with some next steps of what our future activities will look like. Suggestions were:

- Update Roundtable goals
- Implement the Gunnison BIP
- Risk Study
 - Input and monitoring
- Ongoing distribution of funds
- Another SWSI
 - Gather information from our constituency
- Update the BIP
- Disseminate information to water users

Craig Godbout commented the BIP, SWSI, and Water Plan are in 2 year increments on a 6 year cycle.

Some roundtables have hired a Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator, which they have funded through the WSRF. Roundtable members discussed the possibility of hiring someone to advance Roundtable goals. Some members felt it was a good idea to contract this work as everyone is already very busy. Other members were concerned about the cost. Craig Godbout said he could provide a job description. Sonja Chavez was asked, if there was support, if the River District has the staff to do this. Sonja replied they may be able to help with the effort and will check with the River District. Tom Alvey suggested the Roundtable revisit this topic at the next meeting. Craig Godbout said he could provide some examples of scope of works from other roundtables. The BIP committee was asked to look at the scope of work from Craig Godbout and report at the next meeting.

Other Business

John McClow stated the State of Colorado has a finance committee, headed by Kirk Russell, which meets periodically to review opportunities for funding for advancing Colorado’s water plan. There is no representative from the Gunnison Basin on that committee and it would be valuable to have a Gunnison Basin representative on the committee.

Mike Berry asked for a current list of BIP committee members for the roster.

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Cary Denison announced the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, along with Trout Unlimited, is having a Film Night in Ridgway on March 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sherbenou Theatre. The proceeds are to go to a project for water quality improvement.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MB', is written above a horizontal line.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

The BIP Committee will look at the Scope of Work documents for a contract Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator, provided by Craig Godbout, and report to the Roundtable at the next meeting.