

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
January 11, 2017

Members Present:

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| Ken Beegles | Industrial Representative | April Montgomery | CWCB Representative |
| Steve Fearn | San Juan County | Ann Oliver | At Large Member |
| Sonny Frasier | Dolores Municipalities | Mike Preston | At Large Member |
| Karen Guglielmon | San Miguel Municipalities | Jenny Russell | San Miguel County |
| Steve Harris | Legislative Appointee | Don Schwindt | Dolores WCD |
| Celene Hawkins | At-Large Member | Doug Stowe | Dolores County |
| Tim Hunter | Recreational Representative | Ed Tolen | At Large Member |
| Phil Johnson | Montezuma Municipalities | Chuck Wanner | Co Water Quality Control Commission |
| Gary Kennedy | Mancos WCD | Jim Wells | San Miguel WCD |
| James Lambert | Montezuma County | Bruce Whitehead | Animas-La Plata WCD |
| Carrie Lile | Domestic Water Representative | Ed Zink | La Plata County |

Liaisons Present:

Vern Harrell (US Bureau of Reclamation)

Public:

Russ Anderson (Michael Baker International), Scotty Cox (Mancos Water Conservancy District), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Travis Custer (Mancos & High Desert Conservation Districts), Lizzie Dickerson by phone (Little Blanco Highline Ditch), Jordan Dimick (SGM), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Jessica Hernreich (Public), Brandon Johnson (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company), Laverne Lambert (Public), Louis Meyer (SGM, Inc), Emily Olson (Chama Peak Land Alliance), Doug Pickering (Colorado Division of Water Resources), Warren Rider (Rider Resources), Ellen Roberts by phone (Former State Senator Ellen Roberts), Scott Savy (Public), Laura Spann (Recorder), Linda Towle (Montezuma County)

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 12, 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

Bruce Whitehead reported that the November IBCC meeting was combined with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance seminar focused on alternative transfer methods. Discussions continued on funding water plan implementation. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

April Montgomery, CWCB representative, thanked Ken Curtis (DWCD) for his letter in support of increased state weather modification funding. The CWCB board increased the FY2018 proposed budget for cloud seeding to \$500,000, which will go to the legislature for approval as part of the CWCB Projects Bill. CWCB is beginning the process for an update to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative, with the target end date of December 2017. Roundtable members thanked April Montgomery for her service on the CWCB board, as her term ends January 2017.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The fund balance was approximately \$314,805.

2. Election of At Large Agricultural Representative

The At-Large Agricultural Seat was vacant, with Brian Sheffield's departure from Pine River Irrigation District. A second round of public notices soliciting interested applicants were published in area newspapers in early December, with applications due on January 4. Four applications were received: Scotty Cox, Travis Custer, Jessica Hernreich, and Brandon Johnson. Each applicant presented to the Roundtable. Votes were cast by secret ballot, and Brandon Johnson was elected to serve as the At-Large Agricultural Representative.

3. Report from Weather Modification Workshop

Ken Curtis reported on the weather modification strategic planning workshop held prior to the meeting. The group discussed two topics: 1) contracting and process questions, and 2) possible options for a study to be funded by the \$52,000 WSRF grant. Ken provided background on the relevance of weather modification in broader Colorado River contingency planning as a source to augment water supplies. Joe Busto (CWCB) presented on other weather modification studies in Colorado as examples for how to evaluate southwestern Colorado programs. Roundtable members provided suggestions.

4. Report from Public Outreach and Education Workshop

Ed Tolen (PEPO Liaison), Carrie Lile, Ann Oliver and Celene Hawkins met to discuss priorities for public outreach. Ed provided background on the role of PEPO liaison as communicating with the Roundtable and CWCB on public education. Carrie and Ann have been contracted to work under a WSRF grant to implement the Basin Implementation Plan, including public outreach. At the workshop, the following four priority topics and related tools for public outreach were established: 1) Roundtable and water 101: a handbook and Roundtable member attendance at other public meetings; 2) agricultural water use: workshops by CAWA and High Desert Conservation District; 3) water bank efforts: GVWUA pilot project tour and presentation to DARCA annual meeting; and 4) stream management planning: a local workshop. Roundtable members provided ideas and input.

5. Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study

Mike Preston reported on Phase I of the Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study, which has been completed and is being communicated broadly. Front Range entities expressed concerns to the CWCB regarding the results of Phase I, and requested the CWCB not fund Phase II without a more statewide approach. A webinar was held before today's meeting with representatives from CWCB, the Front Range and Western Slope Roundtable Chairs, Southwestern Water Conservation District and the Colorado River District. The State expressed interest in leading or guiding Phase II of the study with a revised scope of work, coordinated with representatives statewide. There are concerns about the precedent set by entities submitting opposition to WSRF applications in other basins, as well as the impact these studies might have on compact discussions among states. CWCB consideration of the WSRF grant request to fund the study has been tabled until the March meeting, once the scope of work has been revised to address all stakeholder concerns. Roundtable members and the public provided input, including the suggestion to add a public dissemination component to the Phase II scope of work.

6. Update: San Miguel Stream Management Plan Pilot

Jenny Russell updated the Roundtable on the ongoing work by Lotic Hydrologic, including two subcommittee meetings focused on recreation and environmental data needs, respectively. Recreation needs were evaluated in part by a current study being conducted by American Whitewater, and a representative was present at that meeting to discuss those results in detail. Some feedback from the subcommittee was that the data be more user friendly to begin public discussions of the stream management pilot plan. The next step will be to conduct several public meetings, and solicit ideas on management proposals to address the needs identified by the stream management plan.

7. Approval of WSRF Review Criteria

Carrie Lile summarized subcommittee review of the WSRF criteria, questionnaire, and flowchart. The most significant changes were the addition of an example table outlining total budget and matching funds and the deletion of our goals and objectives now addressed by reference to the BIP. CWCB added a question about the water plan for applicants, and corrected the name of the grant fund to WSRF (not WSRA). The revised WSRF criteria and related documents were adopted by consensus.

8. Review of WSRF Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRF Application: Little Blanco Highline Ditch

Lizzie Dickerson presented the application for \$11,598 from the Basin Account in support of rehabilitating the Little Blanco Highline Ditch, which serves five water rights holders. The ditch has historic significance as one of the oldest ditches in Archuleta County (circa 1894) and is located near the San Juan-Chama diversion. Roundtable members asked several questions and there was discussion. Chuck Wanner moved to approve the WSRA application for the reduced amount of \$7,500 from the Basin Account contingent upon 1) providing an estimate of operations and maintenance of the ditch and 2) the formation of a ditch company or maintenance agreement among ditch users to support ongoing maintenance. Doug Stowe seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF Application: McElmo Flume Rehabilitation

Linda Towle presented the application for \$20,000 in support of completing rehabilitation of the McElmo Creek Flume located east of Cortez—the only wooden flume remaining from the water delivery system built in the 1890s. The final phase of restoration is repairing the wooden trough of the flume at an estimated cost of \$241,472. Montezuma County has received a State Historical Fund grant for \$181,104, or 75% of the project cost and \$15,000 from the Southwestern Water Conservation District. Additional funds will be requested from the Ballantine Family Fund, the Montezuma County Historical Society, Montezuma County, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Roundtable members asked questions. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRA application for \$20,000 from the Basin Account. Ed Zink seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF Application: Town of Norwood Raw Water System

Jim Wells presented the application for \$50,000 in support of delivering a portion of current agricultural water shares untreated to Norwood water customers for lawn and garden irrigation purposes. This project is designed to increase Norwood's water security during draught, lessen demand upon the Norwood water treatment plant and defer the need for plant expansion, and to provide chloramine-free water for gardens, lawns, trees, shrubs and other irrigation needs. The Town's immediate goal is to complete construction of Phase 1 at an estimated cost of \$1.9 million, which consists of the full build-out of the Raw Water System within Norwood Town Boundaries, for water supplies to be provided at a raw water shack. The project has received approval for a \$175,000 grant from SW Water Conservation District. Roundtable members asked questions. Karen Guglielmone moved to approve the WSRA application for \$50,000 from the Basin Fund. Chuck Wanner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF Concept Proposal: Navajo River Restoration Project, Phase II

Emily Olson, Chama Peak Land Alliance, presented the concept proposal for approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 to support a second phase of river restoration for five miles of the Navajo river, previously altered by the installation of the Oso Diversion in the 1960s and subsequent sediment events. Restoration includes improving the depth to width ratio, stabilizing banks, in-stream channel shaping and induced meandering, planting and transplanting woody vegetation, and integrating other features to support aquatic life. Almost eight miles of restoration have already been completed as part of the first phase. The estimated budget for phase II, planned for completion over three years, is \$450,000-\$500,000. Other partners include the NRCS and San Juan Conservation District. Roundtable members provided feedback. There was consensus to recommend a full application be submitted at the next meeting.

9. Upcoming Events

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| SW Basin Roundtable Meeting | April 12 | Durango | <u>Durango Public Recreation Center</u> |
| SW Basin Roundtable Meeting | July 12 | Cortez | Dolores WCD |
| SW Basin Roundtable Meeting | October 11 | Durango | Durango Public Library |

10. Adjournment

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