

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
August 7, 2017**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
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
John Harris	Montrose Municipalities
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
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:

Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Steve Shea	Agricultural

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Public: Ryan Unterreiner (CPW, SW Region), Peter Fleming (Colo River Dist), Eric Kuhn (Colo River Dist/IBCC), Richard Vangyenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Matt Currey (Mays Construction Specialties), Kestrel Kunz (American Whitewater), Sonja Chavez (CO River Water Conservation District), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA), Doug Dillon (Land Owner), Beth Karberg (CO Dept Ag/Salinity Program), Becky Mitchell (CWCB)

Welcome

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

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

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

Approve June 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the June 5, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

There was no meeting of the IBCC since the previous Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting. There was no report or comments.

Report from the Educational Committee

There was no meeting of the Educational Committee since the previous Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting. Marti Whitmore stated there is a funding request pending to do more work on the website, but the request will be within the funding allocation from CWCB for education and outreach.

Sonja Chavez stated they are continuing with development of the website. They will need additional funding in 2018. They will be coming to the Roundtable with a proposal for about \$5,000 in order for Hannah Holm to continue updates and maintenance. She will also be overseeing an intern, which will leverage the funding further.

Report from the Basin Implementation Plan Committee

Frank Kugel reported there was no meeting of the Basin Implementation Planning Committee since the last Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting.

Frank said he had a contacted Greg Godbout at CWCB for information efforts of other roundtables. Frank received some information he was forwarding to other BIP members and they will hopefully have a meeting or conference call in the next few weeks to discuss the information.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McCloy introduced the new CWCB Director, Becky Mitchell. There was a CWCB meeting in Crested Butte on July 20. The next CWCB meeting is planned for September or October.

The CWCB has been working on updates for the Colorado Water Plan implementation. Information is on the CWCB website. There is also an update on the SWSI process on the website. Because of the complexity and the difficulty in assembling the advisory groups they have extended the deadline for completing the work to next year.

John reported the CWCB approved six water fund reserve account grants, including the Leon Lake application, and spent some time on the new water plan grant criteria guidelines. For the new program the Board has decided to take two rounds of applications, the first round is closed. The second round will be October 1st. It has been a very popular program with many applications. These grants require 50% match, and are very serious projects. There is a two-meeting process to approve grants.

Becky Mitchell reported the next CWCB meeting will be held in Walden where there is limited lodging, so if you have a grant request there is no need to be present. Becky gave details on the number of applications and the technical advisory groups for SWSI. The first set of meetings for these advisory groups are expected to be held on September 25. Any comments on the technical advisory methodologies can be sent to CWCB or the CWCB representative. They are looking for fatal flaws; is it sound science and could you endorse the methodology. They are asking for input on any recommended improvements and of those improvements which are critical and which would be enhancements.

Eric Kuhn gave a brief update of the Phase II Joint Roundtable Risk Study. They have had one outreach committee meeting and a second has been set for August 21. There won't be as many outreach meetings as in the past because it is much more of a technical process this time. In the next few months they will be scheduling the 4 west slope roundtables meeting with the consultant. Unlike the first phase this phase has a smaller technical group, which is meeting about every other week. Eric discussed the goals of using the Colorado River simulation system (CRSS) and the State Mod (CBSS) tools together to answer specific questions.

1. **Basin-Wide Funding Criteria** - Cary Denison

Cary Denison led a discussion on establishing criteria for funding to help guide projects to the screening committee to make sure we are effectively spending the funds and approving the best projects in the basin. Cary said the new CWCB guidelines and application do a good job of guiding applicants in the right direction for identifying goals in the Basin Implementation Plan and statewide goals in the State Water Plan. However, we are the only basin that does not have a screening matrix and feels with tight funding it might be a useful tool. One thing that is unclear to applicants is when to apply for basin or statewide funds.

Tom Alvey explained the time line for applying for funds. John McClow added because of our meeting schedule we have handicapped ourselves and we should give some thought to adjusting our meeting schedule so we can fit within the guidelines. The staff has given instructions to be firm on those deadlines. A discussion on the meeting schedule is on the agenda. Kathleen Curry said it may be a good idea to develop a document to guide applicants once we know what our adjusted schedule will be.

Tom said the committee members know what they like when they see it and having a detailed approach may actually make it more difficult. A very simple checklist for applicants that spells out the timing and reiterating what they need might be helpful. It was decided that the Project Screening Committee would meet and then give a presentation at the next meeting on how they determine grants and make a recommendation of what they think would be helpful to them.

2. **Roubideau Creek Project** – David Graf, CPW and Cary Denison, TU

David Graf of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife gave a presentation on the Roubideau Creek Project Tributary Spawning Study.

3. **Colorado BRT Integrated Water Management Plan** – David Graf, CPW

David Graf of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife gave a presentation on the Integrated Water Management Planning Framework Project.

4. **American Whitewater Support Request** – Kestrel Kunz

Kestrel Kunz, representing Colorado Stewardship for American Whitewater, discussed their request for a letter of support from the Roundtable for a state grant request of \$42,100. Ms. Kunz discussed key points in the project proposal, stating they would like to collaborate with the Roundtable on this project. The intent of the study is to determine existing boatable days and preferred and acceptable flow. The CWCB Board advised them there is still time to get a letter of support from the Roundtable before the grant review.

Roundtable members wanted to know how this study would be different from the 2013 flow study. There was some concern by members who felt the study to be subjective, it may “open a can of worms”, and the letter is incomplete.

Ms. Kunz said there is still time and she would be willing to provide supplemental information. She told the Roundtable members they could change the letter as they see fit. Becky Mitchell added the drop dead date is September 9. The next Roundtable meeting will not be until October 2.

Bill Nesbitt moved to table the topic until more information is available. Chuck Mitisek seconded. The motion failed with 5 for and 22 against.

Cary suggested Ms. Kunz redraft the letter with the comments from tonight and resubmit it, and then the Roundtable members would vote on it electronically. Frank Kugel recommended alternatively a larger Roundtable committee, such as the BIP committee, could carefully craft a support letter with a clear message of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's position, and the Roundtable could give the committee the authorization to submit the letter on its behalf.

Tom Alvey moved to authorize the BIP committee to rewrite the letter of support for American Whitewater and submit it on the Roundtable's behalf. John McCLOW seconded. Several members expressed their preference to see the letter before it is submitted. The motion failed with 17 for and 9 against.

Becky Mitchell suggested if the Roundtable could get something to them prior to November, they could incorporate it at that time. She said she would let the Board know about the complications.

Tom Alvey moved to have the BIP committee redraft the letter and bring it to the Roundtable for consideration at the October 2 Roundtable meeting. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. WSRA Grant Request(s) – Tom Alvey

Tom Alvey stated there were no grant requests for this meeting. There is a pending application from the Redlands Water and Power Company to fund a feasibility upgrade to modernize their pump facility. The application will come before the Roundtable either in October or December. Chuck Mitisek said this has been forthcoming for a long time. It is a Tier 1 project of the Gunnison Basin. The second part of the project is to look at the hydropower plant which is quite old. But the most needed part is the pumps themselves, some of which are 100 years old.

Other Business

Bill Nesbitt asked about minority reports. Kathleen Curry stated she emailed them to the Roundtable members today.

Sonja Chavez updated the Roundtable on what the River District has been doing with the Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance (CAWA). They put in an application to the Colorado Watershed Plan to do some education and outreach. The River District provided some in kind matching funds for the project, specifically targeted toward tours proposed in the Gunnison Basin. They think it would be worth the Roundtable considering collaborating with CAWA on the tours. Sonja asked if the Roundtable would like a presentation from CAWA to talk about their proposal and how to collaborate with them. She said she would provide a copy of their proposal to the Roundtable. The Roundtable agreed to put it on next the agenda.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

Future Meetings

Kathleen Curry asked if the members would like to change the regular meeting day. The Roundtable members discussed possible changes to the meeting dates to better coincide with the CWCB meetings. Ultimately it was decided the meetings would stay the same through the end of 2017. Starting in 2018 the meetings will move to the 3rd Monday of odd months. There will be no change in the frequency of the meetings.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

BIP Committee to meet to discuss the information received on current efforts of other Roundtables.

Project Screening Committee will meet and make a recommendation at the next meeting of what type of guidance document they think would be helpful to them and give a presentation on how they determine grants.

BIP Committee to redraft letter of support for American Whitewater to bring to Roundtable at October 2 meeting.