

Interbasin Compact Committee  
**Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting**  
Dolores Water Conservancy District  
Cortez, Colorado  
July 12, 2017

**Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	At Large Member	Ann Oliver	At Large Member
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Mike Preston	At Large Member
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Celene Hawkins	At-Large Member	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Megan Holcomb	CWCB Representative	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	Ed Tolen	At Large Member
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Eric Kuhn	River District	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Mely Whiting	At Large Member
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Bob Wolff	SW Conservation District

**Public:**

Steve Anders (US Geological Survey), Russ Anderson (Michael Baker International), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program), Hilary Cooper (San Miguel County Commissioner), Kimberly Crower (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Matt Currey (Mays Construction Specialties), Ken Curtis (Dolores WCD), Jordan Dimick (SGM, Inc), Steve Fearn (Colorado Water Congress), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Jennifer Moore (John McConnell Math and Science Center), Peter Ortego (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Recorder), Todd Street (WW Wheeler & Associates), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Aaron Wynhausen (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe)

**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 April 12, 2017 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**

No IBCC meetings have been held since April, and there were no updates since the last meeting. The IBCC focus continues to be funding water plan implementation and the use of those funds. Celene Hawkins was recently appointed to represent the San Juan and Dolores river basin on the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and she welcomed input and would be reaching out to local entities in her new role. Steve Fearn, Colorado Water Congress, invited Roundtable members to the Summer Conference in Steamboat Springs on August 22-24.

**Basin WSRF Fund Balance**

The fund balance was approximately \$168,386.

**2. Basin Plan Implementation**

Megan Holcomb announced the appointment of Rebecca Mitchell as CWCB Executive Director. Development of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative update is behind schedule; draft methodologies will be reviewed at July CWCB board meeting and, once finalized, will be reviewed by technical advisory groups (TAG). Mike Preston also summarized the study conducted by a doctoral student at the University of Colorado based on surveys of Roundtable members statewide on the water plan process.

### **New WSFR Funding**

Included in the 2017 CWCB Projects Bill, \$10 million was allocated to the Water Supply Reserve Fund with 40% of Statewide and Basin funds available July 1. The Southwest Basin WSRF has received \$160,000 for the first installment and will receive another \$120,000 January 1 and \$120,000 April 1, for a total of \$400,000 in total Basin installments in FY 2018.

### **New Water Plan Implementation Grant Fund**

In addition, \$10 million was allocated for a new water plan implementation grant program, and broken down by project area as follows: \$2 million to addressing the water supply/demand gap, \$3 million to new storage, \$1 million to land use, conservation, drought, \$1 million to education, outreach, innovation, \$1 million to agriculture grants, \$1 million to non-consumptive, and \$1 million to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative update. If a project spans multiple categories, projects may be able to tap various resources. Projects that may not be shovel ready are still encouraged to reach out to CWCB, so that demand for the grant program categories can be evaluated. Megan directed Roundtable members to the Colorado Water Plan Grant application, FAQs and other information on the CWCB website. Guidelines for each grant can inform which program is most appropriate for specific funding requests, Questions can be directed to CWCB staff person listed on the application form for each category.

Water Plan Implementation Grant Program applications from our basin do not require Roundtable support to be considered by CWCB. However, there was general consensus that applicants be encouraged to seek a letter of support from the Roundtable. Applicants can submit a letter to Mike requesting that support and summarizing their project, which will then be distributed to the Roundtable members via email. Any objections or comments would be emailed back to Mike. If there is general consensus for the application being submitted, Mike will generate and submit a letter of support from the SW Basin Roundtable.

### **West Slope Risk Study Update**

Eric Kuhn requested that the Roundtable set aside 30 minutes at the October meeting for a presentation and update on the West Slope Risk Assessment Study from Eric and the consultant, now in Phase II. Additional modeling has begun, including use of the Colorado River Simulation System and Colorado State Modeling.

### **Update on BIP Implementation Actions and Strategies**

Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver have been working with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance, which will be conducting two ag-related workshops in southwestern Colorado on topics on the use-it-or-lose-it, stream management plans to cover all uses, and ag efficiencies. Gary Kennedy, Mike Preston, Al Pfister, Ed Zink and Tim Hunter volunteered to provide input on the workshop agendas. Previously the Water Information Program conducted a water and land use workshop in Durango, which was well-received. The Sonoran Institute is holding a similar event this year, and applications are due on Friday, July 14. The implementation team is also working on a Roundtable handbook, and will solicit feedback in late September on the draft. Public outreach on the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) continues, with the team presenting to Animas River Community Forum and other entities in the basin. The team also offered technical support for funding applications as needed. There was consensus to work to update the BIP, as an annual review, by the January 2018 meeting.

## **3. Sharing Success Stories – Completed Projects with WSRA Funding**

San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper described the completed first phase of the Telluride Valley Floor Restoration Project, and shared a short educational video. The project was supported in part by \$45,000 from the Basin WSRF and \$399,021 from the Statewide WSRF.

## **4. Update San Miguel Stream Management Plan**

Mely Whiting summarized the San Miguel Stream Management Pilot Plan, which has now been completed and is moving into a public outreach phase in order to address the gaps identified in a cooperative manner with a broad group of stakeholders and water users. A public meeting on the plan will be held at the Moose Lodge in Nucla on September 8 at 6:30pm.

## **5. Colorado Foundation for Water Education, San Miguel Basin Tour**

Mike Preston summarized the Colorado Foundation for Water Education Basin Tour conducted along the San Miguel River in June. Among the participants, legislators on the Water Resources Review Committee were present to learn about current water use and projects in southwestern Colorado.

## **6. Review of WSRF Applications and Concept Proposals**

### **WSRF Application: Advancing K-12 Water Education in Western Colorado**

Jennifer Moore presented the application for \$10,000 to support the creation of a water exhibit at the newly renovated John McConnell Math and Science Center in Grand Junction. Students from southwestern Colorado will be attending the summer camps and visiting the center. Funding partners include the Colorado River Water Conservation District, Ute Water Conservancy District, as well as the three other western slope Roundtables. The hydrology exhibit would receive more than 17,000 visitors per year, and would demonstrate principles of hydrology, river dynamics, water cycle, agriculture and municipal use, conservation and water law for kids and parents of all ages to enjoy and learn.

Brandon Johnson moved to approve the WSRF request of \$10,000 from the Basin Account. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **7. Upcoming Events**

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 11	Durango	Durango Public Library
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	January 10	Cortez	Dolores WCD

Tim Hunter directed the Roundtable to a Durango Herald article outlining the economic and labor impacts of recreation in southwestern Colorado.

Elaine Chick invited members to the Water 101 seminar will be held in Pagosa Springs on October 5-6.

## **8. Adjournment**

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