

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
October 2, 2017**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
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
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier

Voting Members Absent:

Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County
Vacant	Montrose Municipalities

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Public: Terry O'Brien (Roatcap Cattle Company), Paul J. Mandlin (Delta Conservation District). Randy Sackett and Eric Krch (SGM), Chris Landry (public), Hannah Holm (Hutchins Water Center at CMU), Pat Willits (Trust for Land Restoration).

Welcome

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

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call, with only 20 members in attendance, it was declared a quorum was not present.

Approve Agenda

There was not a quorum present to approve the Agenda.

Approve August 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum present to approve the August 7, 2017 meeting minutes. John McClow stated he had some minor changes to the minutes and would send them to Mike Berry.

Rick Brinkman's Retirement and Welcome to Mark Ritterbush

Kathleen Curry announced Rick Brinkman's retirement and announced Mark Ritterbush as the new Mesa Municipalities representative.

Election of New Vice-Chair

Rick Brinkman's retirement and resignation leaves an opening for Vice-Chair. Since there is not a quorum no nominations can be taken for the position. Kathleen Curry stated she will not be at the meeting in December. With no Vice-Chair, it will fall to Mike Berry, Recorder, to run the meeting in December.

Report from the IBCC Representatives

There was no IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting in August. Bill Trampe, Joanne Fagan, John McClow and all other IBCC representatives were interviewed by CWCB staff about what they feel the IBCC should be doing. Staff has not yet commented, but will probably be in contact in the next few days. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30.

The Roundtable members discussed the topic of what the IBCC should be doing. Bill Trampe feels there has not been a focus since the water plan was completed and we need a new focus to move forward and keep the IBCC relevant. Several suggestions were made. Kathleen Curry requested everyone get their suggestions to Bill and Joanne to give them something to bring back to the CWCB. It was felt a formal letter from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable would be helpful but there was no quorum to vote on the item.

There was no quorum present to ratify the IBCC representatives' report.

Report from the Educational Committee

Marti Whitmore was not present to give a report on the Educational Committee. Hannah Holm stated she had communicated with Marti via email regarding expanding K-12 education training support at the Water Center. She sent a conceptual outline to Marti. They have no formal request at this time but may come to the Roundtable in the future for a letter of support and possibly a funding request.

Dave Kanzer reported the website is alive and well and updates are ongoing. They are looking for informal input about the website. They will be asking for future funding of about \$400 per month for content management and hosting. Hannah Holm asked for members to provide email addresses of people who would be interested getting newsletters. They also plan to utilize social media to reach new readers. This will not cost a lot, but requires more active content management. They are also links to agency websites listed.

John McClow brought up an email he received from Mara MacKillop who is head of the Public Education Public Outreach section of the CWCB, stating the Gunnison Basin Roundtable has \$6,500 in funding available for Fiscal Year 2017/18 and they have not received a budget from our Roundtable. Hannah Holm said she will get in touch with Marti to put a budget together to send to CWCB.

Report from the Basin Implementation Plan Committee

Frank Kugel reported the BIP Committee has not met in the last few months. They were going to meet regarding the endorsement letter for the American Whitewater proposal, but due to the Roundtable's discomfort with their proposal American Whitewater decided to withdraw their grant application.

Frank said he will be reaching out to the BIP members soon to update the Tier 1, 2, and 3 project lists and to see if there is anything to update on the basin plan. He would also like to make folks more aware of the Colorado Water Plan grant opportunities available through the CWCB. Kathleen Curry would like to put an update on these topics as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow reported there was a CWCB meeting in Walden 10 days ago. He included a summary of the water supply reserve fund status and activities in the meeting packet. John pointed out how much activity is going on in the water supply reserve account, and how not much of it is in the Gunnison Basin. Next year another \$20 million will be available and the Roundtable should look at projects to move forward.

The two water fund grants from the Gunnison Basin were approved. Kathleen Curry asked why the Stuart Ditch application had conditional approval. The response was because they were applying for funding from the BLM.

Dave Kanzer stated the River District has put through several grant requests and the applications request a letter of support from the Roundtable. Cary Denison stated he would also like to have a letter of support for a project. Without a quorum the Roundtable could not approve the letters at the meeting. It was decided the topic would go out for an electronic vote from members. Cary and Dave will provide written summaries of the projects. Everyone will need to respond electronically.

John McCloy stated several Roundtables have hired coordinators to move projects through the process. Some are funded through basin accounts, another on a 1 year grant. It was suggested to get information from other Roundtables who are doing this. Kathleen Curry said she would add it to the next agenda.

SWSI Update – Craig Godbout and Frank Kugel

Craig Godbout did not make it to the meeting due to bad weather.

Frank Kugel said the SWSI update is happening now and the first Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings took place last week. There are several technical advisory groups. He is on the Ag and Planning committees. Cary Denison attended the Environmental and Recreational TAG meeting. Greg Johnson with CWCB is organizing this effort. There are multiple engineering companies involved in the process. The effort is intended to take a new view of the surface water supply index for Colorado with the information gleaned from the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans and then use this new SWSI update to help Roundtables update their BIPs.

Kathleen said the Gunnison Basin Roundtable did not have representation at one of the Technical Advisory Group meetings because of Rick Brinkman's resignation and asked if anyone with municipal background would attend the meetings in Lakewood. Adam Turner said he would attend.

Red Mountain Snotel Site – Frank Kugel and Mike Berry

Frank Kugel gave a quick update on the Red Mountain Snotel site, which is a key component in the Gunnison Basin for determining water supply. It is one of only two sites for the Uncompahgre Basin. The NRCS was notified by the landowner the property is being sold, and the Snotel site needs to move. A new site will require 10 years for calibration before the information can be used. This is an issue for many who use this information for required releases. It is a critical piece of information.

The discussion tonight is about the feasibility of getting entities together to purchase the property and leave the Red Mountain Snotel site where it is. Unfortunately the cost is steep at \$145,000 for a 10-acre parcel. Different entities have pledged some funding, but there is not yet enough to purchase the property. They are looking to see if the Roundtable has any interest to release some funding to help make this purchase happen.

Pat Willits, Trust for Land Restoration, was at the meeting to speak about his role. He stated they were asked to see if they could do the due diligence and put a contract on the property which would be amenable to all contributing entities. A deposit of \$3,000 has been put down as earnest money with a closing deadline on November 18. Another \$3,000 deposit can extend the deadline to February 15.

There was general consensus with Roundtable members to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Willits was asked to approach the landowner with a request to extend the contract.

Chris Landry Proposal

Chris Landry, former Director of the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies, is proposing to provide a service to the Roundtable to keep members up to speed on all the research and monitoring going on around the basin. He is proposing to provide continuous routine ongoing reporting of both short-term research efforts as well as long-term larger efforts underway. Mr. Landry proposes this information will benefit the Roundtable by having a dedicated liaison to those science efforts, as someone who can work on the GBRT's behalf to engage them and get them engaged with us. Mike Berry stated he has been working with Chris for 10 years and feels he is dedicated and persistent and does an outstanding job.

WSRA Grant Request(s) – Tom Alvey

Tom Alvey gave a brief update on a couple of grant requests which are in the works. Redlands Water and Power Company are planning to submit an application. It will not be a large dollar amount because it is only for a study at this point, but after the study they will probably come back for project funding. We will also probably see an application from Stewart and Lone Cabin Ditches. Both projects will be high dollar projects.

Other Business

Bill Nesbitt said he had a request from John Coffman to make a presentation to the group about a new water supply. There was consensus was to put the presentation on the agenda for 15 minutes at the December meeting.

Kathleen Curry said Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) was supposed to come to this meeting, but the date did not work for them. It was agreed to put them on the December meeting agenda.

The River District has announced that Andy Mueller has been selected be the next General Manager. Kathleen Curry stated she would like to go to Glenwood Springs to meet him, and invite him to a future GBRT meeting. His official start date is December 4, 2017.

Future Meetings

Members discussed the meeting schedule. The current schedule causes conflicts with CWCB for timely approval of grant requests. The schedule will change in January 2018 to the 3rd Monday of every odd month.

There was discussion about the frequency of the meetings. Several members feel the Roundtable should go back to a monthly meeting schedule, stating we struggle with an every other month meeting schedule. They feel there is more continuity when meeting monthly and a fair amount of momentum is lost with the infrequent meeting schedule.

Some concerns with more frequent meetings are it is a bigger task for those who are further away to attend meetings in Montrose, the repercussions of missing meetings, and the high percentage requirement for a quorum. In addition, Kathleen said it is difficult right now to have a full and meaningful agenda. The Roundtable needs to get involved with more issues and maybe meet with other Roundtables. She also feels if we go to monthly meetings there will need to be a paid administrative person due to the amount of work for everybody. Kathleen sees a need for this Roundtable to step up, but will have to stick with the current meeting frequency until there is a quorum present to discuss it.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Roundtable members need to get their suggestions to the IBCC Representatives on what they think the IBCC should be doing.

Dave Kanzer is requesting informal input from Roundtable members about the website.

Hannah Holm is asking for email addresses of people who would be interested getting newsletters.

Hannah Holm will contact Marti Whitmore to put together a budget to send to CWCB for \$6,500 available funds from PEPO.

Dave Kanzer and Cary Denison will provide written summaries on projects for which they are requesting letters of support. All Gunnison Basin Roundtable members need to respond to an electronic vote regarding support of these letters.