

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
December 4, 2017**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Barbara Bynum	Montrose Municipalities
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
Henry LeValley	Crawford WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Rufus Wilderson	Gunnison County

**Voting Members Absent:**

Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

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

**Public:** Randy Griffin (Weststar Development, LLC), Steve Anders (USGS), Jack Brungardt (Sampson Frasier Ditch), Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited), Luke Gingerich and Bret Guillory (J-U-B Engineers), Ken Lipton (Shavano CD CSCB), Mendy Stewart (Shavano Conservation District), Paul Mandlin (DCD), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA Legal Counsel), Eric Krch (SGM), Richard Vangytenbeek (Trout Unlimited), Orla Bannan (Western Resource Advocates), Beth Karberg (CDA-Salinity), Michael Murphy (Hinsdale County).

### **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Acting Chair and Recorder Mike Berry.

### **Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

### **Approve Agenda**

John McCloy requested to amend the agenda to include a report from the IBCC as item 6a. Allen Distel moved to approve the agenda as amended. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approve August 7, 2017 and October 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Tom Alvey moved to approve the August 7, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tom Alvey requested a change to the October 2, 2017 meeting minutes to reflect the correct name as Turner and Lone Cabin Ditch. Tom Alvey moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Welcome to Mark Ritterbush, Mesa County Municipalities Representative and Barbara Bynum, Montrose County Municipalities Representative**

Mike Berry introduced Mark Ritterbush and Barbara Bynum.

Mark Ritterbush is replacing Rick Brinkman as the Mesa Municipalities representative. Mark works for the City of Grand Junction and is acting for Rick Brinkman at the City until they fill Rick's position.

Barbara Bynum is the new Montrose Municipalities representative. Barbara is a new City Councilor for the City of Montrose. She also serves as Commissioner with the Colorado State Land Board.

### **Election of New Vice-Chair**

Mike Berry asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Tom Alvey nominated Austin Keiser. Dixie Luke seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Bill Nesbitt moved to elect Austin Keiser by acclamation. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the IBCC Representative**

Joanne Fagan reported on the IBCC meeting. The group discussed where they have been and what they have accomplished. There were presentations of various projects, including a good presentation on compact compliance study. There was an update by Eric Kuhn on the Colorado River Risk Study, and how they are looking at impacts of demand management on individual reservoirs and systems. The South Platte gave an update on their storage study, where they have identified 29 options of storage on the South Platte, which they have refined to 8 viable options, and hope to soon have enough information to make some decisions going forward.

The bulk of the afternoon was devoted to the future work plan of the IBCC. They split up into groups and identified their top 3 options. There was consensus in developing a briefing paper about the Colorado Water Plan and what were the top priorities. The other two options were to work more on fleshing out the framework and funding. They discussed funding strategies. They decided they will need to meet more often and sooner to get the briefing paper out before the 2018 primary elections if possible.

Tom Alvey moved to ratify the IBCC representative's report. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the Educational Committee**

Marti Whitmore reported the Educational Committee has earmarked approximately \$4,950 of the educational budget for the website, leaving about \$1,500 available for educational trips to help schools get students to events, the Water Center, etc., on a case by case basis. A proposed budget has been prepared, which Marti will be sending to Mara MacKillop with the CWCBC tomorrow.

David Kanzer encouraged people to continue to provide feedback about the website. Information about the Gunnison Basin Roundtable meetings will be included on the website in the future. They are increasing automated emails to encourage people to visit the website.

### **Report from the Basin Implementation Plan Committee**

Frank Kugel said the committee had met via teleconference last month to discuss the current BIP. The committee specifically addressed the projects list, IP&P, and made several updates. The document was sent out in the packet. If anyone has more information, including any goals those projects would address in the water plan, please let him know as soon as possible.

### **Report from the CWCB Representative**

John McCloy reported the CWCB board met last month in Broomfield. There was a report from staff regarding the implementation of the Colorado Water Plan. This report is supposed to go on the website today giving an update on all activities which have occurred in implementing the water plan.

The Instream Flow Section stated they would like to initiate a pilot program for acquisition of instream flow water rights. The Board agreed to allow them to move forward for the next year to experiment with the process on a pilot program level.

There was a 4 hour executive session addressing different legal issues confronting the board, about half of which was about Colorado River issues and educating the board members on those issues.

The Board looked at water plan funding grants, which is a 2-stage process; an initial review and a final review. They heard 45 different grant applications, including both initial and final reviews. There will be another round of applications to be presented on February 1<sup>st</sup>. John discussed the funding left in the different categories.

Tom Alvey asked if there was a plan for funding the \$10 million again for water plan grants. John replied yes, the plan the board initiated in 2016 was to fund it for 3 consecutive years. It will be in the projects bill, but what the General Assembly does remains to be seen.

### **WSRA Grant Request(s) – Tom Alvey (w/Jesse Kruthaupt)**

Tom Alvey announced there are 5 applications to consider.

Redlands Water and Power Company: Pump Plant Modernization Feasibility Study.

This application is for \$25,500 of Basin funds and \$37,500 State-wide funds for a total project cost of \$75,000. This is the first phase of the project. The company intends to complete a comprehensive alternatives analysis and feasibility study in order to initiate a design/build project for the upgrade of the hydropower generation capabilities of their diversion. The Redlands' water right is ~~the~~a senior right on the Gunnison and located near the confluence with the Colorado and as such is central to river management. The generation plant is aging and needs to be upgraded. The rehabilitation of the Redlands plant is identified as a Tier 1 project in the BIP. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the Grant.

Frank Kugel moved to approve the request from Redlands Water and Power Company for \$25,500 from Basin funds and \$37,500 from State-wide funds for a pump plant modernization feasibility study. Ron Shaver seconded. Chuck Mitisek abstained from voting. The motion carried

Cary Denison asked if the evaluation process was going to address efficiencies to irrigation systems. Luke Gingerich answered they are aware some significant efficiency upgrades are possible and are hoping to set the system up so there are significant efficiencies in the delivery systems. However, they are not looking at those details during this feasibility process.

### Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan.

This project, identified as a Tier 1 project in the BIP, also fulfills the State Water Plan goal of completing Stream Management Plans for 80% of Colorado streams. The request is for \$25,000 from Basin funds of a total project cost of \$142,000. The balance of the funding comes from the applicants (25%) and an additional grant from the CWCB Stream Management Plan grant program. This study will build on the previously WSRF funded study of water supply gaps in the Upper Uncompahgre and attempts to identify solutions to meet the water needs of irrigators, municipalities and non-consumptive water users in Ouray County. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the grant request with the conditions that the application be redone in a more readable form and the applicant supply letters of support and letters of commitment from funding sources.

Ron Shaver moved to approve the Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan for \$25,000 from Basin funds with conditions as outlined. Bruce Bair seconded. Marti Whitmore abstained from voting. The motion carried.

### Tourney Highline Ditch Diversion Repair

This request for \$17,000 of Basin funds (of a total project cost of \$41,000) is for the replacement of an existing diversion on Quartz Creek east of Gunnison. This grant would meet Basin goals for improving aging infrastructure, maintaining existing water uses, protecting pre-1922 water rights and improving recreational/environmental conditions. Both Trout Unlimited and the applicants are supporting the application with in-kind contributions. The project would improve the safety and reliability of the diversion as well as removing a barrier to fish movement.

There is a pending request for matching funds from the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the Grant with the applicants making a greater contribution and the total grant being \$15,000 with a letter of commitment.

Greg Peterson moved to approve the grant request for the Tourney Highline Ditch Diversion Repair in the amount of \$15,000 from Basin Funds with conditions as outlined. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### CEB Lateral Piping Project

This application is for \$25,324 from Basin funds to purchase pipe for the CEB lateral on the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users' system. UVWUA will do the installation. This project would further the goal of improving irrigation efficiency and maintaining aging infrastructure. The Screening Committee recommends approval with the following conditions: 1) proper application is completed, and 2) the irrigation beneficiaries provide some cash contribution.

Cary Denison asked how piping will change delivery for this lateral. Steve Anderson replied it would reduce infiltration and also the ditch is a weedy maintenance problem. They do expect a water savings. The ditch is located on the north side of the Cobble Creek golf course and subdivision.

Allen Distel moved to approve the application for the CEB Lateral Piping Project in the amount of \$25,324 from Basin funds with conditions as outlined. Bill Nesbitt seconded. Steve Anderson and Steve Shea abstained from voting. The motion carried.

#### Tomichi Water Conservation Project

This grant request is from Trout Unlimited for \$34,500 from Basin funds as part of a \$258,000 total project to compensate agricultural water users to reduce their diversions from Tomichi Creek in the 2018 water year. The project would also look at return flow effects and the possibility of storing saved water in Blue Mesa Reservoir. TU is looking at multiple other sources of funds to complete the project, including other CWCB grants (State Water Plan) and System Conservation Pilot Program money. This is an ambitious and experimental project which would provide information and experience about the possibility of a Water Bank type project in upper Basin settings. Water Banking is identified as a Tier 1 project in the BIP. The Screening Committee recommends approval with the suggestion the program concentrate on the return flow issue and look at the effects on following year production.

Marti Whitmore asked if this is a one year or multi-year payment. Jesse Kruthaupt replied it is a 3-year program, but only one year of conservation measures. Frank Kugel said this is a key component to water banking as long as it addresses return flow issues. If it can quantify accurately the amount of conserved consumptive use, it could give good information. John McClow added Mr. Kruthaupt got initial approval for a water plan grant for \$75,000 at the November CWCB board meeting.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the grant request from Trout Unlimited for \$34,500 from Basin funds for the Tomichi Water Conservation Project. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tom Alvey stated there will be a couple more projects coming in January. Craig Godbout verified the basin account would be getting more funds in January and again in April.

David Kanzer reported the River District grant funding is now open until end of January. They have about \$225,000 to grant. It is typically awarded for about 25% of the total cost of a project. Additional information is on their website at [coloradoriverdistrict.org](http://coloradoriverdistrict.org).

#### Red Mountain Snotel Site Update

Mike Berry gave a report on the Red Mountain Snotel site and progress toward purchase of the property. The site provides critical information about water available and snow pack in our basin. The site was put on private ground some 30 years ago. There is no easement for the site and the owner now wants to sell the property. Several entities are concerned about the site being left in place in order to continue critical data availability. Pat Willits with Trust for Land Restoration secured a purchase contract with the owner of the property. A group of entities have come together, have the money set aside, and are going to proceed with the purchase. Tri-County Water will collect the money and present the funds at closing, and the Southwestern Water Conservancy District will own the property. Mike thinks it will all happen before the next purchase contract deadline of February 15.

### **Follow-Up on Chris Landry Proposal**

At the last meeting Chris Landry came with a proposal to keep track of scientific research in the basin for the Basin Roundtable. Kathleen Curry and Mike Berry thought they should add a discussion to the agenda with the idea the Roundtable should give Mr. Landry some kind of response to his proposal.

The Roundtable discussed the proposal. They felt the information was essentially already covered by River District staff but on a broader scale, and if more information is needed, it could be acquired. They felt the information was valuable but not structured well enough. It could be valuable to other entities as well. If Mr. Landry comes forward with a much more structured proposal outlining specific tasks with deliverables, the Roundtable might be interested in contributing to such an effort, but the Roundtable does not want to administer such a consulting contract. Mike Berry and Kathleen Curry will write a follow up letter and forward it to Mr. Landry.

### **Other Business**

Craig Godbout gave a brief SWSI update. They have concluded 2 rounds of meetings for the methodologies for each of the 4 ~~tags~~ Technical Advisory Groups. They have received 200 written comments, and those comments and responses are available on the website. The methodologies portion is complete and now they need to crunch the numbers. Once complete they will come back to the Roundtables, which will take about six months, and then the reporting phase will start.

Greg Peterson asked if the Roundtable ever selected an alternate IBCC representative. Cary Denison is and has been the GBRT alternate.

Adam Turner asked about the 2 letters of support from the previous meeting and they were successfully followed up. The reply was yes, and the letters were in the packet. Those letters were signed and sent to Brent Newman by Kathleen Curry. Craig Godbout added, to clarify the process, applicants are not required to come before the Roundtable, but it is recommended to get the Roundtable's support. Once the Roundtable writes the letter it is the applicant's responsibility to get it to the CWCB.

### **Future Meetings**

As of the beginning of 2018 the Gunnison Basin Roundtable meetings will change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the odd months.

The next regular meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2018, at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

December 4, 2017

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Mike Berry, Recorder



**Action Items**

Marti Whitmore will send the GBRT website proposed budget to Mara MacKillop at CWCB.

Mike Berry and Kathleen Curry will write a follow up letter and forward it to Mr. Landry.