

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Durango Public Library
Durango, Colorado
October 11, 2017

Members Present:

Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Sarah Pisano	Montrose County
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Mike Preston	At Large Member
Celene Hawkins	At-Large Member	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
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	Val Valentine	At Large Member
Eric Kuhn	River District	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Ann Oliver	At Large Member	Mely Whiting	At Large Member
Carrie Padgett	Domestic Water Representative	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Public:

Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Page Buono (Mountain Studies Institute), Kari Distefaro (Town of Rico), Steve Fearn (Colorado Water Congress), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Mark Garcia (Town of Ignacio), Megan Holcomb (CWCB Liaison), Glen Humiston (Root & Ratliff Ditch Company), Peter Ortego (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Oren Pilcher (Webber Ditch), Pete Nylander (Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Water Resources), Justin Ramsey (Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District), Scott Roberts (Mountain Studies Institute), Jonathan Romeo (Durango Herald), Jeremy Schulz (Town of Ignacio), Buck Skillen (Five Rivers Trout Unlimited), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Recorder), Jean Taylor (Public), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Tom Weaver (Root & Ratliff Ditch Company), 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 July 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

The next IBCC meeting is scheduled for November 30, at which representatives will discuss the best role of the IBCC in supporting water plan implementation.

Open At Large Seat

Once Celene Hawkins' position on the CWCB Board is confirmed by the Colorado legislature in early 2018, Celene will become the CWCB Representative to the Southwest Basin Roundtable, and will no longer be an At-Large member. Therefore, her At Large seat will be vacant. Public notices soliciting interested applicants will likely be published in area newspapers in early March, with applications due the first week of April.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The fund balance was approximately \$361,617.

2. Update on West Slope Risk Assessment

Eric Kuhn provided background on the "Law of the River" and Colorado River hydrology as context for progress on the Colorado River Risk Assessment Study. Eric highlighted the following conclusions of Phase I of the study: 1) the higher the consumptive use in the Upper Basin, the greater the risk to all users; 2) contingency planning is essential: extended reservoir drought operations reduces the risk, but in more severe droughts, demand management is also

required; and 3) some of the demand management volumes we are seeing in the model are very large and may not be feasible, so we need to consider the “trade-offs” and alternative strategies.

The objectives of Phase II of the study are: 1) expand on the work completed in Phase I, 2) explore the use of “reserve” storage to manage demand management, 3) explore the joint use of Colorado River Storage System (USBR) and State-mod (a detailed sub-basin scale model), and 4) make recommendations to CWCB on improving state-mod for demand management. Specific results of demand management’s modeled impact on sub-basins in southwestern Colorado will be presented to the Roundtable at their January meeting. The Phase II results will also be coordinated with the SWSI update, potentially with a joint West Slope Roundtables meeting to further review the results. Front Range entities may be pursuing a similar assessment independent of west slope efforts. Phase III of the risk assessment effort could include where augmented water might be stored.

5. Update on SWSI Process

SWBRT Technical Advisory Group (TAG) representatives

Megan Holcomb reported that several technical advisory groups (TAGs) met in September to provide feedback on the methodologies used to study planning scenarios, municipal and industrial, agriculture, and environmental and recreation as part of the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update. Representatives to the SWSI technical advisory groups from Southwestern Colorado were Steve Harris, Ed Tolen, Tim Hunter, and Ken Curtis. Steve Harris described the use of state-mod and interacting variables in providing scenario planning as part of the SWSI update. A water project “costing tool” will be one outcome of the SWSI update, to allow project sponsors to estimate costs associated with Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs). Roundtable members may be invited to review the tool in its beta version before it goes live. CWCB does not view the results of the SWSI update as competing with local stream planning efforts as it is a different methodology. The SWSI update will be completed in the first quarter of 2018, with results presented to the Roundtables likely by the April 2018 meeting.

3. Update on San Miguel Environmental and Recreational Needs Assessment

A public meeting was held in Nucla on the San Miguel Environmental and Recreational Needs Assessment, at which more than 60 irrigators and other members of the public were in attendance. Seth Mason, Lotic Hydrologic, presented on the environmental and recreation needs assessment conducted in the San Miguel basin. Several attendees provided useful updates to the IPP list. The impending closure of the power plant, and questions regarding the use of the significant and senior water right held by Tri-State, were discussed. More individual outreach will be conducted in the coming months to advance communication up and down the San Miguel basin. Phase II of the project will be to pursue opportunities as they arise to meet those environmental and recreation needs.

4. Basin Plan Implementation

Implementation Grants Requesting Roundtable Letter of Support

For the CWCB’s new Water Plan Implementation Grant Program, formal Roundtable approval is not required; however, letters of support for local applications are encouraged. With this Program’s deadlines occurring prior to the meeting, Roundtable letters of support were submitted by Mike for several applications from southwestern Colorado. An application was granted Roundtable support if it aligned with criteria outlined in the Basin Implementation Plan or was on the IPP list.

Keeping IPP List Current: New Projects, Update

Carrie Lile and Ann Oliver are continuing to update the IPP list with new and completed projects, especially as the list has been relevant in reviewing applications for Roundtable support.

Approved WRSF Projects –Per Recently Adopted Criteria

Celene Hawkins recommended increased Roundtable vetting and support for applications from southwestern Colorado, including guiding applicants to the best mix of funding to ensure that applications are competitive. Some Roundtables use a finance committee as a vehicle for this additional project support. Roundtable members hesitated to assume the responsibility of being experts in CWCB application processes, and recommended continuing to direct project sponsors to CWCB staff. However, the Roundtable could provide more general support in the form of a letter. Mike proposed further discussing the Roundtable’s role in funding applications in January.

Coordinating Funding Sources Workshop – January Meeting

Carrie and Ann provided a draft worksheet that outlines water grant program deadlines to assist applicants in timing their applications to ensure funding best fits with their project goals. Several Roundtable members provided suggestions of additional funding sources to add to the worksheet, as well as a diagram on which funds can be leveraged together for different types of projects. Also, in coordination with the January 10 Roundtable meeting in Cortez, there will be a Water Funding Sources Workshop for interested project stakeholders to walk through the various funding application processes with representatives from each organization. This would coordinate well with the new water plan implementation grant program, revised WSRF criteria and the updated SWCD grant requirements. Laura directed Roundtable members to a handout summarizing changes to SW Water Conservation District's grant program, including a switch to annual rather than bimonthly consideration.

6. Review of WSRF Applications and Concept Proposals

Concept Proposal: Town of Ignacio Raw Water Irrigation System

Mark Garcia presented the concept proposal for funding to improve the Town of Ignacio's raw water irrigation system with the completion of a water model and improvements plan. This water model will help the Town fully understand the system's capabilities and capacity, which is needed for potential improvements and future residential development. The improvements plan will be based on the water model, including some anticipated improved such as storage pond enhancements, system pressurization, pipeline looping improvements, and infiltration gallery improvements. The total project cost is anticipated to be \$100,000, with a \$34,000 request to the Roundtable, \$30,000 to SWCD, \$10,000 to the Colorado Division of Local Government, and \$26,000 from the Town itself. The project would be anticipated to be completed in spring 2018. Mark responded to Roundtable questions. There was consensus to encourage submittal of a full WSRF application in January.

Concept Proposal: San Juan Stream Management Plan

Page Buono and Mely Whiting presented the concept proposal for funding to begin formation of a workgroup in the Upper San Juan Basin. Phase I of the stream management plan project would be to bring together relevant stakeholders. This group, convened with the leadership of Mountain Studies Institute and Trout Unlimited, would develop an understanding of water needs, as well as identify and evaluate opportunities for cooperative management to meet the needs of diverse water community. Phase II would support a needs assessment related to the identified values and share outcomes with the watershed group. Phase III will identify projects and processes to support stream management with the watershed group and steering committee. The request would be for Phase I, with an estimated total project cost of \$135,000. There was consensus to submit a Roundtable letter of support for this application.

Concept Proposal: Root and Ratliff Ditch Piping Project

Glen Humiston and Tom Weaver presented the concept proposal for funding to improve the Root and Ratliff ditch by installing piping for the entire 29,000 feet of open ditch, installing a new inlet structure and perforated screen, and installing a Doppler-technology meter on the pipeline. The project would increase the measuring accuracy, control seepage, improve pressure, and address some ongoing DWR concerns with the ditch. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,326,762, with an initial Basin WSRF request for \$50,000, a State WSRF request for \$125,000, and SWCD request for \$25,000. Shareholders may also take on a loan. There was consensus to encourage submittal of a full grant/loan application in January.

Concept Proposal: Weber Ditch Piping Project

Oren Pilcher presented the concept proposal for funding to improve the Weber ditch by installing piping for the entire 24,173 feet of open ditch, installing a new inlet structure and perforated screen, and installing a Doppler-technology meter on the pipeline. The project would increase the measuring accuracy, control seepage, improve pressure, and address some ongoing DWR concerns with the ditch. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,567,621, with an initial Basin WSRF request for \$50,000, a State WSRF request for \$125,000, and SWCD request for \$50,000. Shareholders may also take on a loan. There was consensus to encourage submittal of a full grant/loan application in January.

Concept Proposal: Town of Rico

Kari Distefaro presented the concept proposal for funding an evaluation of the Town of Rico's water system, with the goal of increasing efficiency, quality and capacity. The evaluation would include a feasibility study to run both supply

systems (one is currently unavailable) and upgrade plan to address a 42% water loss from the well system. Other possible funding sources may include the Rico Center and the Telluride Foundation. There is no estimated project cost yet available. Kari responded to Roundtable questions. There was consensus to encourage submittal of a full application in January.

7. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	January 10	Cortez	Dolores WCD
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	April 11	Durango	Durango Recreation Center
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	July 11	Cortez	Dolores WCD
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 10	Durango	Durango Public Library

8. Adjournment

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