

Chairman Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Those signed in/present were:

Judy Lopez, Cindy Medina, Cleave Simpson, Emma Reesor, Nathan Coombs, Karla Shriver, Nicole Langley, Stan Moyer, Wayne Schwab, Steve Navratil, Pete Striffler, Bethany Howell, Gene Farish, Larry Brown, Virginia Christensen, Nikita Christensen, Mario Curto, Charles Spielman, Jen Livermore, Dave Stiller, Robert Getz, Tanner Bagwell, Tyson Bagwell, Keith Holland, Ruth Heide, Tyler Huffaker, Brad Anderson, Megan Holcomb, Heather Dutton, Kevin Terry, Greg Higel, Nancy Butler, Allen Law, Peter Wise, Cathy Morin, Lee Swenson, Ronda Lobato, Ann Bunting, Craig Cotten, Judi Perez, Eugene Jaquez, Don Thompson, James Henderson, Ryan Unterreiner, Sharon Vaughn, Martha Williamson, Rio de la Vista, Brenda Felmlee, Christi Bode and Helen Smith.

Approve Agenda

Two agenda item changes were proposed. Cleave Simpson and the IBCC Sub District update up to follow Public Comment along with Megan Holcomb and the CWCB update.

Keith Holland made a motion to approve the amended agenda and was seconded by Karla Shriver. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Nicole Langley asked for a correction on item 5b. Greg Higel made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction seconded by Mario Curto. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Rio de la Vista announced that The Nature Conservancy will host a Water Fund Workshop on February 23rd.

Judy Lopez asked Roundtable members to give consideration to adding one more at-large seat. The intent of this seat would be to include someone from the acequia community. Eugene Jaquez encouraged this also. The idea was accepted by acclamation.

Stan Moyer made an announcement about the release of the book, "The Village."

Chairman Coombs closed the public comment period.

Election of Officers

The meeting was turned over to Kevin Terry for the purpose of reorganization and election of officers.

All current officers expressed willingness to continue in their roles. With no other nominations, Karla Shriver made a motion to retain the current officers and was seconded by Charles Spielman. The motion carried by acclamation.

Chairman Coombs announced that Costilla County Conservancy District sent a letter approving Ronda Lobato as their new representative.

IBCC/Sub District Update: Cleave Simpson

The November 2017 IBCC meeting held in Golden was one of the most productive meetings to date.

Three goals were established:

1. Draft letters to all 2018 candidates about the importance of Colorado water
2. Identify next steps for a framework
3. Identify new funding concepts

Sub district 5 was officially formed in December by the Saguache District Court.

Sub district 4 had its first official meeting.

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District staff is now focused on the completion of Sub district 6.

The rules and regulations trial is set to begin on January 29th, 2018 at the RGWCD office.

CWCB Update: Megan Holcomb

The next CWCB meeting will in Denver on January 22nd and 23rd.

There will be 23 Colorado Water Plan Grant requests and 3 Water Supply Reserve Fund requests.

Mara Mackillop will be moving to part time.

Applications for the Tap-in Program which is an entrepreneur competition will be accepted through February 9th.

The 2 year update on critical actions has been released.

Funding in the next fiscal year will be heavily impacted due to the Severance Tax shortage because of the BP decision. The CWCB is working with the Department of Natural Resources to explore more options.

The Rio Grande Basin account is currently at \$383,887 and the Statewide balance is \$2,160.957.

Chairman Coombs read a thank you to the Roundtable from Travis Smith for his retirement gift.

Funding Request: RiGHT Paulson Ranch Easement: Allen Law

RiGHT is looking to conserve the 180 acre Paulson Ranch. Numerous Basin and CWP goals would be met through this project including assistance with the administration of the Rio Grande Compact.

The official request was made for \$18,000 with a 60% match already in place from the Gates Foundation.

Following discussion, Cleave Simpson made the motion to approve the request and was seconded by Kevin Terry. The motion carried.

Funding Request Trinchera Irrigation Company: Wayne Schwab and Nicole Langley

Trinchera Irrigation Company is looking to move to Phase 3 of the Mountain Home Reservoir Project. This is the implementation phase to repair the outlet gates at the reservoir which currently cannot meet the State Engineer's requirements.

The official request was made for \$662,438.

Judy Lopez made the motion to approve the request and was seconded by Keith Holland.

The motion carried on the condition that the 10% match will be in place.

Funding Request Ritchfield/ConConCo: Nathan Coombs

The purpose of this project is to

1. improve, replace, and/or install new diversion and sluice structures;
2. add automated control gates to each system; and
3. integrate each diversion into the District's Whole River water management strategy.

The fourth step is to solve a measurement problem at the ConConCo gauging station. Due to eroded river banks and unstable stream conditions, DWR is unable to get a viable discharge measurement during low flows at the "Conejos Station near Conejos." WSRF funds will be used to design and install additional automation and flow-management systems at the North Branch Diversion, upstream from the ConConCo gauge, improving the delivery of senior water rights in priority, enabling real-time management of Compact flows, and allowing Colorado to more accurately meet its obligations to the Rio Grande Compact.

The official request was made for \$387,280. Following discussion, Rio de la Vista made the motion to approve the request and was seconded by Keith Holland. The motion carried.

Funding Request Trout Unlimited/Spruce Lakes Project: Kevin Terry

The purpose of this project is to clear dead timber from the small reservoir at Spruce Lakes to maintain compliance with the State Engineer's order.

The official request was made for \$65,500.

Rio de la Vista made the motion to approve and was seconded by Eugene Jaquez.

The motion carried.

Funding Request Colorado Open Lands: Judy Lopez

Colorado Open Lands is looking to conserve the Lazy EA Ranch located just west of Del Norte.

This project meets both Basin and CWP goals and would protect prime wildlife corridors.

The official request was made for \$36,200 with a \$166,751 match in place.

Following discussion, Charles Spielman made the motion to approve and was seconded by Kevin Terry. The motion carried.

DWR Update: Craig Cotten

In 2017, the Rio Grande totaled 690,500 acre ft. and was 108% of average with 29% going to the compact.

The Conejos totaled 439,600 acre ft. and was 143% of average with 51% going to the compact.

Division 3 has a current compact debit of 3,050 acre ft.

Snowpack is currently at lower levels than 2002.

Rio Grande Forecast: 345,000 acre ft.

Conejos Forecast: 165,000 acre ft.

The Supreme Court case has heard Oral Arguments.

The meeting was adjourned.

