

Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables

Rio Grande Basin Roundtables

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 2:00-5:00 p.m.

San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District

623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO 81101

Chairman Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Those present were: Nathan Coombs, Peter Wise, Christi Bode, Ruth Heide, Stan Moyer, Don Thompson, Larry Sveum, Chet Tokarsky, Jeff Derry, Helen Smith, Kevin Terry, Wayne Schwab, Emma Reesor, Heather Dutton, Judy Lopez, Cleave Simpson, Megan Holcomb, Ron Brink, Chuck Finnegan, Charles Spielman, Eugene Jaquez, Nicole Langley, Virginia Christensen, Robert Getz, Larry Brown, Michael Carson, John Noffske, Brenda Felmler, Cary Aloia, Brent Smith, Nancy Butler, Judi Perez and Bethany Howell.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Coombs proposed adding the approval of the amendment of the by-laws for the purpose of adding additional At-Large positions following the approval of the minutes. Charles Spielman made the motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Eugene Jaquez. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Bethany Howell asked for clarification on the language regarding the By-Law changes. There will be an At-Large seat added for Acequias that will be filled by David Marquez, an At-Large Seat for Conservation to be filled by Judy Lopez, and an additional At-Large seat to be filled by Virginia Christensen. This change would leave a Vacancy in the Education position which would be filled by Bethany Howell. With the clarified language, Kevin Terry made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Wayne Schwab and Ron Brink. The motion carried.

Amendment of By-Laws

Chairman Coombs presented the By-Laws change with the position to be filled by the individuals listed previously. Ron Brink made the motion to approve the change and was seconded by Cleave Simpson. The motion carried. Chairman Coombs also pointed out that a motion was needed to fill the Education

seat vacancy. Judy Lopez made the motion to name Bethany Howell as her replacement and was seconded by Emma Reesor. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Judy Lopez announced that Water Education Colorado will be holding their annual tour for 2018 in the Rio Grande Basin and the San Luis Valley on June 11th and 12th, 2018. This tour will also be counted as the June Roundtable meeting.

Megan Holcomb announced that the Colorado Water Trust is currently partnering with the CWCB on a pilot program known as the Request for Water Acquisitions.

Larry Brown announced that he has a pilot program for treated plants which could possibly reduce the amount of water needed for irrigation.

Nicole Langley announced that microgreens were available for sale to support Friends of Mountain Home Reservoir.

Charles Spielman encouraged those present to be aware of those who they were voting for in the upcoming election.

Chairman Coombs closed the Public Comment period.

Funding Preview: Sub district #1 Pressure Transducer Project- Chet Tokarsky, Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking funding to improve and update their well monitors within Subdistrict 1. This project would entail the installation, management and production of new automated well monitoring systems for the Unconfined Aquifer Storage Study Area. The request would be for 75% of the funding to come from the Rio Grande Roundtable for \$67,912.00. The official request will be made at the May meeting.

Dust on Snow and Snowpack and Snowpack Summary Presentation- Jeff Derry, Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies.

The Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies has been collecting a great deal of valuable data. This winter, the lowest moisture levels since the 1940s have been recorded as of April 1st, 2018. Trends are also showing less precipitation, warmer temperatures, and earlier spring flows. This trend appears to be continuing as the Rio Grande Basin and San Luis Valley is considered a Continental Radioactive Climate.

CWCB and IBCC Update-Megan Holcomb

The next IBCC meeting will be on May 2nd. The letter to 2018 candidates about the importance of water in Colorado has been circulated to all Roundtable chairs and is now being sent to candidates. The Framework and Funding workgroups continue to work on Statewide Solutions.

The CWCB has 3 new staff members including Russ Sands as the new Senior Water Planner and Brian McPherson as a specialist for the Decision Support System. The Water Availability Task Force has put up a drought response web portal. Also, 1051 reporting is due June 30th.

The Joint Budget Committee is working on a Bill to assist in funding DNR Programs. The outcome is pending, but it does have bi-partisan support. The Projects Bill provided 7 million in funding for the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program.

The fact sheets for SWASI are now available. The final report is expected by June of 2019.

DWR Update- Craig Cotten

The Rio Grande Compact meeting was held on March 29th.

The Rio Grande will have a 75,000 acre ft. obligation and is forecast to be at 300,000 acre ft. which is 46% of the long term average.

The Conejos forecast is 140,000 acre ft. with a 16,000 acre ft. obligation. There will 0 curtailment during irrigation season.

In the Supreme Court Lawsuit, there is a new Special Master who is a retired senior judge from Cedar Rapids Iowa.

The rules trial is complete and a ruling is expected by the end of 2018.

The meeting was adjourned.