

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 who were present/signed in were: Judy Lopez, Ron Brink, Rio de la Vista, Mario Curto, Ed Nielsen, Alvin Rivera, Larry Crowder, Erin Minks, Bethany Howell, Ronda Lobato, Keith Holland, Wayne Schwab, Gene Farish, Eugene Jaquez, Brenda Anderson, Amy Osteniek, Brent Newman, Chuck Finnegan, Dwight Martin, Jim Erlich, Brendan Boepple, Steve Crosby, Leah Weaver, Tanner Dutton, Lindsey Goss, Donald Valdez, Daniel Boyes, Ann Bunting, Nathan Coombs, Travis Smith, Kevin Terry, Charles Spielman, Larry Brown, Ruth Heide, Greg Higley, Cleave Simpson, Heather Dutton, Brenda Felmlee, Emma Reesor, Patrick Ortiz, Christi Bode and Helen Smith

Wayne Schwab held a proxy for Nicole Langley and David Marquez had an excused absence.

**Approve Agenda**

Chairman Coombs proposed to add an update on the Spring Creek Fire from Ronda Lobato after Item 3. Charles Spielman made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition and was seconded by Judy Lopez. The motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

Ed Nielsen made the motion to approve the May 2018 minutes and was seconded by Dwight Martin. The motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Alvin Rivera, Candidate for CU Regent for District 3 addressed the group.

Judy Lopez recognized and thanked Helen Smith for her service as intern for the Rio Grande Roundtable. Lopez also announced upcoming Roundtable tours beginning July 29<sup>th</sup> with a trip to the Arkansas Basin and proposed the Roundtable do their own version of a Rio Grande Basin Tour. This idea was well received.

Bethany Howell gave an update on the progress of the new Roundtable website through the Media Grant awarded to the Roundtable. Proposals for contractors for the new website are being reviewed. Christi Bode is putting together vignettes as well. The next pieces to be released will be on the radar project and recreation. The idea of a drought response piece was also discussed.

Charles Spielman raised the issue of cloud seeding.

Senator Larry Crowder announced a forum the State Legislature will be holding on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Ehrlich thanked those who supported the CPAC Teachers' event.

Representative Donald Valdez commended Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their Hunter's Safety Education efforts.

Chairman Coombs closed public comment

#### **Spring Creek Fire Update: Ronda Lobato**

As County Assessor for Costilla County, Ronda Lobato has been working extensively on damage assessments in the aftermath of the Spring Creek Fire. The fire has now been called the worst disaster that the San Luis Valley has ever seen. The damage is extreme. The Red Cross and Rubicon have both been deployed. There is ongoing discussion on how to move forward with recovery efforts.

#### **Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan Update: Daniel Boyes, SMP Project Coordinator**

Work on the Stream Management Plan continues to move forward with riparian, vegetation, etc. The next steps are forthcoming.

#### **Colorado River Issues: Brent Newman CWCB**

Brent Newman and Amy Osteniek from the Colorado Attorney Generals' Office gave an overview on the work that is being done on the Colorado River and the legal framework that is over all of it. There is still much to be done to ensure a secure future for Colorado as well as its downstream neighbors as well as keeping consistent levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. All parties involved are working toward this end.

## **Drought Response related to agriculture operations in the Rio Grande Basin: Erin Minks-Senator Bennett's Office**

Senator Bennett's Office is working on a statewide drought response project in partnership with CSU. The goal is to gather information on responses to extreme weather. The group was presented with some test questions. Minks also requested names that would be relevant for the project and the group supplied her with some. This project will be presented across the State.

## **IBCC update Cleave Simpson**

The amount needed to support the Colorado Water Plan is \$20 billion. There are now 5 proposed outlets for funding in the document from the IBCC that was circulated via email to the Roundtable. Simpson asked for the Roundtable for thoughts and comments on the document in the days to come.

## **DWR Update Craig Cotten**

In the Supreme Court case, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico have agreed to limit what is brought up during the trial.

The Rio Grande is at 300,000 acre ft. and 46% of average. The 75,000 acre ft. downstream obligation is likely to be met this winter.

The Conejos is at 165,000 acre ft. with a 27,000 acre ft. downstream obligation.

## **CWCB Update: Russ Sands**

Drought has been declared for the southern half of the state. For the July meeting there are 2 WSRF requests and 0 CWP requests. There has been a funding approval of \$7 million. The discussions on SWSI continue with an emphasis on more attention to Ag modeling.

The meeting was adjourned.