

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
May 21, 2018**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Cary Denison	Environmental
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Voting Members Absent:

Patrice Alonzo	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Barbara Bynum	Montrose Municipalities
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Greg Peterson	Saguache County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Public: Les Mergelman (Club 20), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA), Ben Tisder (Ouray County), Ryan Christianson (Reclamation), Alex Funk (CWCB), Jake Hartter and Chris Caskey (Western Slope Conservation Center), Scott Murphy (City of Montrose), Jim Willey (Dallas Creek Water Co.), Sonja Chavez (Colorado River District), Jason Ullman (DNR), Andy Mueller (CRWCD), Ken Spann (public).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

Dave Kanzer announced the State of the River meeting will take place after the Roundtable meeting.

Approve Agenda

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Ron Shaver seconded. Tom Alvey requested the addition of the IBCC report to the Agenda. The report will be added between items 5 and 6. The original motion was modified by Bill Nesbitt to approve the amended agenda, Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approve March 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Neal Schwieterman requested a change to page 7. Tom Alvey moved to approve the March 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from Educational Committee

Marti Whitmore reported the education fund will receive another \$6,500 for 2018-19 and asked how the Roundtable would like to use those funds. This past year about \$5,000 was used for the website. The website could use the same funding again, but the question has been raised about the usefulness of the website and how many people are looking at it. Dave Kanzer said he needs to look at how many hits the website is getting. Tom Alvey would like to see the website continue and suggested they may be able to get some part of the funding from WSRF. Money was also spent last year funding the CMU Water Center, but there were concerns about how many kids in the basin didn't have easy access to it due to the distance to travel.

Suggestions for use of the education money included participation in the water festival day, a book written primarily for first graders and another activity book geared toward 5-6 graders. If the website were not funded other possible uses for those funds would be to get more involved in the Shavano Conservation District projects, put together a field trip for elected officials, and help school districts with transportation to the CMU Water Center. Bill Nesbitt reminded the Roundtable of when the motion was made to help fund the CMU Water Center there was negotiation for a discount for students of the basin.

The committee is planning to meet again and will try to bring recommendations to the next Roundtable meeting.

Report from the Basin Implementation Plan Committee

Frank Kugel was not present at the meeting to give his report. John McClow reported the updated project list the committee put together in December was included in the packet. He suggested those listed as sponsors take a look at the list and see if it is accurate. John said we need to get serious about the list, prioritize and come up with a game plan to move projects forward if we were to get funding. If everyone could report to the BIP Committee, then in 2 meetings the Roundtable can have a serious discussion about how we are going to move forward if we are going to implement any of these projects.

Tom Alvey suggested not limiting those projects which are not feasible to fund entirely, a lot of times all they need is seed money to help get the project going or help them along. Also it is still possible to add projects at this point.

Craig Godbout said they will be wrapping up SWSI in a little over a year. After SWSI will be an update to the BIP and the Roundtables need to decide how it will be done.

Report from the IBCC Representative

Joanne Fagan reported at the last IBCC meeting they spent a lot of time listening to the South Platte talk about a regional project to consider if 7 points are useful in evaluating the project. She felt they didn't want to use it. Steve Anderson said the project is extensive with 3 reservoirs and pumping stations and it will take some consensus from the entire state. Bill Trampe said no one was ready to have a discussion on the conceptual framework and 7 points. He appreciates the South Platte with what they have done but he is a little frustrated with the process and doesn't feel much was accomplished.

Joanne said the conversation about funding went about the same way. They also discussed the campaign letters. Kathleen Curry said the email to her on candidates had not made a whole lot of headway, but it is early in process. She will send another email to ask for help.

Report from the CWCB Representative

John McClow was at the CWCB meeting, which will be his last one. It was a routine meeting. They approved grants. Some environmental groups came up with an idea for legislation for operation of the water plan, but they got a chilly reception and withdrew their proposal. A thorough briefing was given on the financial situation, which is not rosy.

The next meeting is the day after tomorrow in Salida. Steve Anderson will be reporting to Roundtable in July.

Update on WSRF funding – Craig Godbout, CWCB

Craig Godbout reported the balance in the basin account is about \$416,000. There are 2 proposals to review on Thursday, and if approved the balance will be about \$400,000. The current balance in the statewide account is about \$340,000.

Last year \$10 million was transferred to WSRF and so far \$7 million has been distributed to basin and statewide accounts. Some of the remaining funds may be needed to help meet the oil and gas tax refund. There will be \$60,000 distributed to the Roundtable on July 1.

Next year there will only be \$2 million instead of \$10 million to WSRF. The funds will be distributed in the same proportions and timetable as in the past. There will be \$80,000 for the entire year to the Roundtable. The statewide account will receive \$1.3 million. There will be \$2 million to the Watershed Health and Stream Management, and \$7 million to Colorado Water Plan Implementation.

There will be no severance tax monies for WSRF next year. The BIP will be helpful and timely in determining how to distribute the funds.

WSRF Grant Request – Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Project Screening Committee (PSC) met to consider one request for WSRF funding from Tri-County Water Conservancy District (TCD) and Dallas Creek Water Company (DCWC). The grant request is for \$25,000 in Basin funds and \$50,000 in State funds for a \$340,000 project to provide an interconnection between the two domestic water providers in the area north of Ridgeway. TCW is a primary domestic water supplier for much of Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties. DCWC serves an unincorporated area on Log Hill Mesa with 861 current taps and the potential to grow to 2000 taps over time. The project would establish an interconnection between the two systems by laying 5500 feet of pipe and upgrading 5 current pumping stations on the TCD system. By connecting the two water supplies both providers would gain security in the event of emergencies, drought, hazmat spills or wildfire.

The PSC recommends approval of the grant. It serves as an example of good proactive planning to protect the domestic water supplies of a developing area and a needed infrastructure improvement. As such it fulfills the goals of the BIP. In addition it has the support of Ouray county, neighborhood groups and both water suppliers.

Marti Whitmore moved to approve the grant request from Tri-County Water Conservancy District and Dallas Creek Water Company for \$25,000 in Basin funds and \$50,000 in State funds. Bill Nesbitt seconded the motion.

Kathleen Curry asked how feasible the \$50,000 from the state is. Tom Alvey said the applicants were aware there is a potential shortage. In the past the funds were distributed pro rata. It doesn't hurt to get in line.

Mike Berry added their strategy going forward is to get another grant through the WaterSMART program. They are hoping to get \$100,000. The balance of the project will be paid by the applicants. The total project cost is \$340,000.

Kathleen asked if the water users will pay part of the cost. Jim Willey owns Dallas Creek Water Company. When the amount of funding is known he will take it to the PUC. There is very strong support for this project. Marti added they already have county approval and platted lots.

Kathleen called for the vote. Mike Berry and Joanne Fagan abstained. The motion carried.

Draft Scope of Work: Risk Study, Phase III

Kathleen Curry stated based on last meeting it appeared everyone was willing to go forward with Phase III of the risk study. A useful outcome of this discussion would be if anyone has a problem with the scope.

Roundtable members discussed the scope of the Phase III study. The cost of the study will be similar to Phase II which is \$100,000, and like Phase II, Roundtables will contribute \$10,000 each with a WSRF grant request. The balance will be covered between the Colorado River Conservation District and the Southwest District. It is unclear if the State is supportive of this use of funds. There is a joint meeting this Wednesday at the Pavilion and funding of the study is on the agenda.

Marti Whitmore moved to provide support for Phase III using WSRF to the extent available without changes to the scope, at the level of \$10,000. If funds are not available, GBRT supports moving forward with whatever funds can be obtained. Mark Roeber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

There is a request to hear from Alex Funk, Ag Water Resources Specialist at CWCB.

Craig Godbout announced on Friday, June 13 in Parker is the Front Range joint roundtables meeting. RSVP for lunch to Viola. One subject will be education and outreach.

Future Meetings

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting will be on July 16, 2018.

Craig Godbout stated Brent Newman is willing to come give the presentation given at the 4 Basin Roundtables meeting on overall Colorado River issues and Central Arizona.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Action Items

The Education Committee to meet and try to bring recommendations to the next Roundtable meeting.