

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
March 19, 2018**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Barbara Bynum	Montrose Municipalities
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Cindy Dozier	Hinsdale County
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
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
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Dave Kanzer (CRD Liaison), Bob Hurford (DWR Liaison), Craig Godbout (CWCB Liaison), Jedd Sondergard (BLM Liaison).

**Public:** Luke Gingerich (J-U-B Engineers), Aaron Derwingson (The Nature Conservancy), Steve Anders (Public), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA), Brent Newman (CWCB), Hannah Holm (Hutchins Water Center at CMU), Randy Sackett (SGM), Andy Mueller and Eric Kuhn (CRWCD).

**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.

**Approve Agenda**

Kathleen Curry stated the agenda was amended and sent to members. Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the amended Agenda. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approve January 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Michael Murphy requested a change to the minutes where he was listed as the wrong representative.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the January 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion carried.

**Welcome to Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Representative**

Kathleen Curry introduced member Jonathan Houck, the new Gunnison County Representative replacing Rufus Wilderson.

**Introduction and Welcome to Andy Mueller**

Tom Alvey introduced Andy Mueller, the new General Manager/Secretary of the River District. Mr. Mueller has recently replaced Eric Kuhn.

**Report from Educational Committee**

Marti Whitmore said the River District is co-sponsoring an experiential learning experience for Junior and Senior high school students at the Keystone Science School on April 18-20, 2018. There is more information on the Colorado River District website.

The Rio Grande Roundtable is thinking about planning a field trip to other parts of the state. They are looking for information on completed projects, which are on our BIP list, for their field trips. Let Marti know of any projects to propose as soon as possible.

Marti said there have been many member changes on the educational committee and asked if anyone else would like to be on the committee. Currently the committee consists of Joanne Fagan, John McClow, Mark Roeber, Marti Whitmore and Hannah Holm. Bruce Bair volunteered. Any other volunteers should let Marti or Kathleen know.

Hannah Holm announced the Mesa County State of the River is planned for May 8, 2018 at CMU.

Dixie Luke announced the Black Mesa Cattle Women in the North Fork are sponsoring an Ag Day tomorrow (March 20, 2018). Several federal agencies are participating. If successful, next year she would like to see a water feature discussing water issues added to the program.

Dixie mentioned Hannah Holm's article about the North Fork Valley and how it was well received.

### **Report from the Basin Implementation Plan Committee**

Frank Kugel said they are working on updating the Tier 1 projects list. Tom Alvey said he has a list of all projects approved and which ones have been completed, and there are a lot of projects. There are a few gaps in the record and Tom will work with Craig to update. Tom will forward the completed list to Kathleen to send to the Roundtable.

### **Report from the IBCC Representative**

Joanne Fagan reported on the IBCC meeting in February. The meeting covered a number of topics including the candidate letter, an update on South Platte storage, the conceptual framework, and a way to fund water projects and whether to do a ballot question in fall of 2019.

The Roundtable members discussed the topic of the candidate letter. The purpose of the letter is a first step to educating candidates running locally and statewide for political office about the IBCC and Roundtables. The IBCC has drafted the letter and would like it to be sent addressed from the Roundtables to candidates in their areas. Each Roundtable needs to provide a little feedback before the IBCC meeting in May, preferably by mid-April. It was suggested to use back page for a map to provide some framework, add some language about what the Roundtable is, and add a contact person and Roundtable information at the bottom.

The Roundtable members discussed how to find out whom to send the letter to. The candidates won't be known until after the convention in May. The committee's idea would be to send the letter to those people planning to run. John McClow added it would be appropriate to include incumbents. The decision was made to have one representative from each county help track down local candidates. CWCB will find the statewide candidates. Kathleen will collect the list of names and send it to John Stulp. The CWCB will mail the letter.

Barbara Bynum suggested using a Google Docs spreadsheet and have everyone fill out what people they know of in their area. Mike Berry offered to help coordinate this effort if necessary.

Bill Nesbitt said he is concerned with the IBCC Conceptual Framework Task Group draft document. His concern is on page 2 item #3, last sentence, and whether it has to do with trans-mountain diversion. Joanne responded they are not asking for sign off, this is just an update on what they are doing. They will do #3 if the IBCC and the subcommittee decide it is a good idea. Eric Kuhn added there will be consultation with each of the Roundtables. He said the original idea had to do with a storage project.

Eric Kuhn discussed Andy Mueller's new role. Eric has been on the IBCC as a Governor's representative for some time. The goal is to transition Andy into Eric's position. It is the Governor's decision but he would like the Roundtable's support for Andy to take his place on the IBCC when he resigns.

Bill Nesbitt moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable support Andy Mueller's appointment to the IBCC and authorize the GBRT Chairperson to sign and send a letter to the CWCB. Marti Whitmore seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Report from the CWCB Representative**

John McCloy reported the CWCB met on January 22 and 23 at the Denver Tech Center. At the meeting they had a first glance at the 2018 projects bill, and the severance tax revenue picture is pretty bleak. Funding for the water supply reserve fund for next year will be \$2 million (state and basin), for the stream restoration \$2 million, and for the water plan grants \$7 million. This is down from \$5, \$10 and \$10 million, respectively.

The Board also looked at instream flow appropriations for 2018, the progress of the watershed restoration program grant funding, they got an excellent report on the South Platte storage study, and they looked at final approval of 16 water plan grants all of which were approved.

The next meeting will be March 21 in Broomfield. There will be an update on the projects bill and the financial situation at the meeting. The Board will be looking at making some changes to the water plan grant policies, they will be taking public comment on instream flow appropriations and also issuing notice of the 2019 instream flow appropriations, and there will be a presentation by Eric Kuhn and John Carron on the risk study. They will also be looking at water supply reserve fund applications.

Tom Alvey announced Steve Fletcher has asked for a letter of support from the Roundtable for their Fire Mountain Project water plan grant request. Dixie Luke explained the project will enable them to regulate inflows and is part of the long range water plan they have been working on. Frank Kugel said they are asking for a similar amount from the WaterSMART program at the BOR, and suggested a letter of support to them as well.

Cary Denison moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable send project letters of support for the Fire Mountain Project grant request to the CWCB and the WaterSMART Program. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried. Tom Alvey and Dixie Luke abstained.

Kathleen Curry said it is helpful if the applicant would send draft letters to her. John McCloy stated this item is on the CWCB agenda for Thursday afternoon.

### **Colorado River Issue Background (Eric Kuhn, John McClow)**

John McClow said he sent out a lot of background materials. There were no questions, and the meeting moved on to the presentation.

### **Drought Contingency Planning and Colorado River Risk Study (John Carron)**

John Carron gave a presentation via webinar titled Drought Contingency Planning and Colorado River Risk Study, an Overview and Status Report. The presentation discussed drought contingency planning and the West Slope BRTs' Colorado River Risk Study. The presentation is being given ahead of the West Slope Four Basin Roundtable meeting coming up in April.

Mike Berry will send slide presentation from the webinar to Roundtable members.

### **West Slope Four Basin Roundtable Meeting – Gunnison Position**

The members discussed the upcoming West Slope Four Basin Roundtable Meeting, and agreed to support going to Phase 3 for the Risk Study.

A number of people wanted to see more consideration of relative priorities of water rights rather than a proposal for curtailment across the board.

Bill Trampe suggested we find out what the demand management impact would be in the Gunnison Basin and if we are willing to accept any of it. Tom Alvey feels demand management is something we need to investigate and possibly support as a basin. It very likely will be the best of a bunch of bad options.

The Risk Study is designed to provide information, not make decisions on demand management in any basin. The basins need the information in order to discuss demand management.

### **WSRF Grant Requests – Tom Alvey**

Tom Alvey introduced the following three grant requests.

#### **Nellie Creek Toilet Retrofit**

This request, from the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, is for \$11,000 from the Basin Account to remove and retrofit an existing toilet at the Nellie Creek Trailhead (starting point for Uncompahgre Peak climbs). The Forest Service toilet has failed and has been closed for several years, leading to use of surrounding woods as a bathroom. The existing vault is cracked and leaking into the creek. As a result, the creek is being polluted by human waste and the Forest Service wants to retrofit the toilet to return it to use. The Forest Service will contribute both cash and in-kind to the repair. The committee was concerned this use of basin funds was slightly outside the normal water supply intention of the grant program, but as Craig Godbout pointed out environmental and recreational projects are approved uses of WSRF money and this project would fit the bill. After consideration the committee recommended approval of this request.

There was some concern among Roundtable members about funding projects owned by the federal government. Cary Denison pointed out they have been putting in a lot of effort. They are putting in some cash and a significant amount of in-kind. The federal government is not funding what the Forest Service needs.

Ron Shaver moved to approve the request from the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy for \$11,000 from basin account funds for the Nellie Creek Toilet Retrofit. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The project is approved.

#### Kehmeier Reservoir Riprap

This is a request from the Keh - Land Company for \$5,000 from basin account funds for placement of riprap on the upstream face of Kehmeier Reservoir, a small privately owned reservoir on Grand Mesa. The reservoir is experiencing some cutting of the face by wave action and the dam safety inspector recommends riprapping to maintain the reservoir. This fits with the Basin goals of preserving our existing uses, maintaining agriculture and repairing aging infrastructure. The committee recommended approval of the grant.

Marti Whitmore moved to approve the request from Keh - Land Company for \$5,000 from basin account funds for the Kehmeier Reservoir riprap project. Greg Peterson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The project is approved.

#### Deep Ward Dam Rehabilitation

This is a large project requesting \$50,000 basin and \$190,000 state funding for the rehabilitation of the outlet works of Deep Ward Reservoir. The project requires a partial breach of the dam and replacement of the outlet pipe. The reservoir is an important part of the Surface Creek Ditch and Reservoir Company system which supplies irrigation water to farms in the Cedaredge area. It is currently under a no fill restriction from the State Engineers office. The reservoir (1710 AF) comprises 19% of the company's stored water. The project would start this summer with test holes and design work probably going to construction next year. This project is part of the BIP Tier 1 Grand Mesa Reservoir rehabilitation inventory and supports preserving our existing uses, continued agricultural use and rehab of aging infrastructure. There is also a small M&I use with the reservoir. The Screening Committee suggested some reductions in the original request and now recommends approval of the grant.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the request from Surface Creek Ditch and Reservoir Company for \$50,000 basin and \$190,000 state funding for the rehabilitation of the outlet works of Deep Ward Reservoir. Frank Kugel seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The project is approved.

Craig Godbout said funding at the state is dismal and there may not be enough funds. Ron Shaver said they will increase shares to help cover this. The project will probably be finished in 2020.

### Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan

The Gunnison Basin Roundtable has approved a grant for the Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan for \$25,000. At the time it was intended there would be an additional grant from stream management, but they declined to fund it. The only solution to get this moving forward is to add money from the state fund. The request is for \$82,300 from state funds. It is on the agenda for next CWCB meeting.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve \$82,300 from state funds for the Upper Uncompahgre Stream Management Plan grant. Frank Kugel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Future Meetings**

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting will be on May 21, 2018, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The State of the River meeting will start shortly after the Roundtable meeting ends. The Four Basin Roundtable meeting will be held on April 25, 2018.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Roundtable members to suggest completed BIP projects for the Rio Grande Roundtable field trip. Forward those suggestions to Marti Whitmore as soon as possible.

Kathleen Curry to send project letters of support for the Fire Mountain Project grant request to the CWCB and the WaterSMART Program.

Tom Alvey to contact Craig Godbout and update Tier 1 projects list. Kathleen to send final list to the Roundtable.

If requested, Kathleen Curry will send a letter of support for Andy Mueller's appointment to the IBCC to the CWCB.

Mike Berry will send presentation slides from the webinar by John Carron to Roundtable members.