

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
January 21, 2019**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
John Justman	Mesa County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
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
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier

Voting Members Absent:

Patrice Alonzo	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John McCLOW	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Craig Godbout (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Dave Kanzer (CRD Liaison).

Public: Jake Hartter (Western Slope Conservation Center), Cindy McKee (Gunnisonbasin.org), Shellie Gies (Overland Ditch and Reservoir), Briana Greer (Solid Solution Geosciences), Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center), Jason MacMillan (Western Colorado University), Chris Caskey (Delta Brick and Climate Company), Michael Oapi (Farmers Ditch-Lateral Res.), JoAnn Kalenak (Delta County Citizen Report), Natasha Leger and Andrew Forkes-Gudmundson (Citizens for a Healthy Community), Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited), Mark Smith (Leroux Creek Water Users Association), Katie Sickles (City of Ouray), Ralph D'Alessandro (Western Slope Conservation Center), Paul Maudlin (Delta Conservation District), Eric Krch (SGM), Stephanie Campbell (Public), Jack Brungardt (Shavano Conservation District), Jerry Adams and Debbie Gray (Overland Ditch and Reservoir Company), Bruce Marvin (Western Engineers), David Kuntz (Overland Ditch and Reservoir Company).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

Kathleen Curry asked to amend the Agenda to add election of officers.

Tom Alvey moved to approve the Agenda as revised. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Kathleen Curry asked for nominations for Chairperson. Bill Nesbitt moved for all existing officers to retain their positions and for nominations to cease. Ron Shaver seconded. The current officers are: Kathleen Curry, Chair; Austin Keiser, Vice-Chair; and Mike Berry, Recorder. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve November 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Cary Denison moved to approve the November 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes as presented. Greg Peterson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from Educational Committee

Kathleen Curry announced she received an email from Marti Whitmore stating Marti can no longer serve as Chairperson for the committee and a new Chair needs to be found.

Dave Kanzer reported on the Educational Committee outreach activities. He introduced Cindy McKee, Key Communications, as the new content manager working on the website. Cindy is contracted to work 10-12 hours per month making sure the content is fresh and fixing broken links. Kathleen Curry said she will send out Cindy's email address. Cindy can also be contacted through the info@ link on the website. Dave Kanzer will continue to be involved with the website content.

Frank Kugel nominated Dave Kanzer as Chairperson for the Educational Committee. When asked, Craig Godbout replied the committee Chairperson does not have to be a voting Roundtable member. Cary Denison seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave stated he would like to have an active committee, which is not just about the website but other activities as well. The \$6,500 yearly budget does not carry over, and the funds are not all spent on the website. The other members of the committee are Mark Roeber, John McCLOW, Marti Whitmore and Joanne Fagan. An email will be circulated around asking for other committee member volunteers.

Report from the IBCC Representative

Joanne Fagan said the IBCC has not met since the previous GBRT meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28(?).

Kathleen Curry said the minutes mentioned a funding options letter which was supposed to go to Roundtable members. Joanne replied the letter was about funding options for the water plan and it came a day or two after the last meeting. Kathleen said she will get it out to the Roundtable members.

Kathleen updated the Roundtable on water plan funding. The previous administration had requested to appropriate \$30M in general funds for water plan grants from the joint budget committee at the legislature, of which \$10M would be for grants, and \$20M would be for demand management. This request is still before the committee, and to her knowledge they have not voted yet. This is water plan grant money, not WSRF money.

Craig Godbout updated the Roundtable on WSRF funding. Some WSRF money was taken back and there is expected to be no severance money for at least the next year. There is still some money from the last appropriation. The Basin and Statewide accounts both recently received \$40,000. On April 1 the Basin account is scheduled to receive another \$40,000 and the statewide account should get another \$640,000.

Report from the CWCB Representative

Steve Anderson said there has not been a CWCB meeting since the last GBRT meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28 and 29, two days prior to the Colorado Water Congress annual conference. The agenda is out for the meeting, and the demand management discussion will be Tuesday afternoon at 1:25 for half an hour.

Steve said he is looking at what the demand management program might look like in terms of wet water. According to his estimate about 6,000 acres would have to be fallowed. Cary Denison added it presumes an equitable breakdown will happen in a demand management scenario. Steve reiterated the estimate was his and not from the CWCB.

Steve thinks the CWCB is going to rely on the IBCC and other committees such as the River District to bring the issues to the forefront and what possible solutions there are. It is important the Roundtable address it in some way.

a. DCP/Demand Management Policy and GBRT Discussion

Tom Alvey stated the Roundtable will need the information from the risk study. There is a presentation scheduled for the March meeting. In addition, the River District is putting together an advisory group of west slope irrigators from the three basins in the River District. He is sure the CWCB will be requesting input from the Roundtables, and when that kind of negotiation begins is when we will want to be sure to be represented and be sure to have our interests focused. Steve thinks it will be like the development of the water plan where there will be a huge request for public input, at some point will reach something that everyone has confidence in, and then a statewide consensus.

Craig Godbout said the meeting of all the roundtables is scheduled for September 25 and 26 in the Winter Park area. The agenda is open, so let staff know if there are issues to be added. Craig added the drought contingency planning and demand management will be developed in coordination with the Upper Colorado River Commission and the lower basin. So it will not be just Colorado, there will be other partners.

Hannah Holm announced the Water Center is having their 3-day water course in February and the February 25th Session is going to be focused on drought contingency planning, from 6-9 at CMU.

Kathleen Curry wanted to circle back to what Steve said earlier about the Roundtable providing input to the CWCB regarding development of the demand management program. She would like to be proactive about things like equity with the Front Range, compensation for full damages of fallowing, funding by the state, and local conservancy districts handling demand management. She asked how the Roundtable would like to proceed. Tom Alvey stated he feels it is a little premature, and the Roundtable needs a little more focused response.

Tom Alvey asked Steve Anderson to request some clarity from the CWCB on funding and hopefully some financial help on the water supply reserve fund issue. We would like to support getting a more reliable funding source.

Risk Study – Phase 3 Update

Kathleen said she sent out a cover memo from John Currier written for the River District board meeting. She felt it was a great summary on the four major tasks. There was a scope of work attached, which she will also forward to the Roundtable.

Dave Kanzer announced there will be an online technical team meeting on Thursday, 1/24 at 10:30 a.m. to talk about some of the issues.

Project Screening Committee – Review of 7 Grant Applications – Tom Alvey

Kathleen Curry presented two draft letters. The entities are asking for Roundtable letters of support for grant applications. One is for a Lake Fork Ditch Piping/Salinity Reduction project, submitted by the Lake Fork Ditch Company. The other letter is for the Short Ditch in the North Fork. They are applying for water fund and salinity grants.

Dixie Luke moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable forward the letters in support of both projects. Greg Peterson seconded.

Kathleen Curry commented the letters were sent well in advance, but she would have liked to have more information. Other Roundtable members also felt more information should be provided and a representative should be at the meeting to discuss it. Craig Godbout commented some Roundtables are requiring full application packets. Dixie Luke stated they may not be eligible for the salinity grant without the buy down from the water fund grant, and they need to be ready when the money becomes available.

The motion passed with the 90% threshold. Kathleen will let them know, and will try to get more information on projects in the future. Greg Peterson stated a clear policy should be developed on what will be required in the future. Cary Denison suggested the project description from the water plan grant application and location be provided. A representative should be present at the meeting to explain and answer questions.

The current basin account balance is \$427,285. The recommended amounts requested are for \$176,000 basin funds, and about \$314,000 for statewide funds.

Delta Brick & Climate Company (DBCC)

This is a request for \$20,000 in basin funds of a total project cost of \$24,000 for one component of DBCC's brick making enterprise using Paonia Reservoir sediment. Chris Caskey has presented his plan to make commercial brick to the Roundtable previously and this request is for funds to proceed with a pilot project. Specifically, DBCC is asking for funds to purchase and install a condenser to produce a new water supply from burning vented methane. The amount produced would be small in the pilot stage (.28 af/yr) but could grow if successful. This would be an auxiliary project to the effort to fire bricks. The Screening Committee felt this was a reach for justifying funding but does favor support for this "outside-the-box" project. It supports the BIP identified project for Paonia sediment removal and state water plan goals for new water supplies. The Screening Committee recommends approval of \$18,000 in Basin funds.

Chris Caskey gave an overview of the project. They will have more natural gas than they need so they can use some of that excess energy to condense water. This grant application is to test the process.

Ron Shaver moved to approve \$18,000 from Basin funds for the Delta Brick and Climate Company pilot project, as recommended by the Screening Committee. Neal Schwieterman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cottonwood Toilet Sponsored by Trout Unlimited

This application was for \$15,000 in Basin funds for a total project cost of \$39,000. Cottonwood Pass has been resurfaced and will open this spring for vehicle travel with an expected increase in use. The area drains directly to the Taylor Reservoir and this toilet would help improve water quality. The project aligns with Gunnison Basin environmental and recreational goals as well as State Water Plan water quality goals. The Screening Committee recommends approving \$10,000 for the toilet with the message this is the last toilet request we will fund. The committee is concerned it is a stretch for the purpose of the Roundtable. The \$5,000 shortfall should be made up by other contributors, notably Gunnison County or other environmental groups.

Frank Kugel moved to approve \$10,000 from Basin funds, as recommended by the Screening Committee, for the Cottonwood Toilet sponsored by Trout Unlimited. Jonathan Houck seconded. Kathleen Curry asked for the Project Screening committee to bring any rejected applications to the Roundtable so members can have a chance to review it for water quality issues. The motion passed unanimously.

Overland Reservoir Gage Rod

This is a request for \$19,000 from Basin funds and \$19,238 from State funds for the construction of a stem wall with a permanent gage rod, of a total project cost of \$47,798 for Overland Reservoir, a 6,000+ acre foot reservoir north of Hotchkiss. The Overland Reservoir is noted in the BIP as a Tier 1 project for enlargement. The Division Engineer has made accurate gaging of reservoirs a priority after the drought year of 2018. The Overland Water Management Plan recognized the need for accurate water accounting. The existing gage rod has been damaged by continual freeze-thaw cycles and is not functional. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the request. This project supports BIP goals of preserving existing water rights and improving existing infrastructure.

Dixie Luke moved to approve \$19,000 from Basin funds and \$19,238 from State funds for the Overland Reservoir Gage Rod project. Steve Shea seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Integrated Water Management (IWM) In the North Fork Phase 2, Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC)

This is an application for \$18,547 from Basin funds and \$10,000 from State funds for Phase 2 of a BIP identified project to complete and act on an IWM in the North Fork. It is co-sponsored by the North Fork Water Conservancy District. The GBRT funded Phase 1 in 2015 and this project builds on that result. The total project cost for Phase 2 is \$132,094. Roundtable funds would be used for Phase 2, engineering and signage, to improve diversion efficiency and boater safety in Reach 4 of the North Fork and Phase 3 will develop analytic tools to better understand potential efficiency improvements on other reaches. Although the Screening Committee expressed concerns about doing further studies, it recommends approval for this grant since it furthers the BIP goals of protecting existing uses and preserving agricultural uses as well as enhancing recreational uses. The project will also advance the Stream Management Plan for the North Fork, as encouraged by the State Water Plan. Jake Hartter gave a brief overview of the project.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve Western Slope Conservation Center's request for \$18,547 from Basin funds and \$10,000 from State funds for Integrated Water Management (IWP) in the North Fork, Phase 2. Dixie Luke seconded and the motion passed. Tom Alvey abstained.

Wilbur Ditch, Trout Unlimited

This is a request for \$10,500 from Basin funds and \$10,000 from State funds for a \$39,700 project to restore and improve a diversion on the North Fork of Escalante Creek. The repair will protect a population of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. In addition, it will allow for continued diversions for agricultural uses on the Escalante Ranch. This project supports BIP goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, helping agriculture, existing water use, aging infrastructure and environmental and recreational needs. The Screening Committee recommends approval.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve Trout Unlimited's request for \$10,500 from Basin funds and \$10,000 from State funds to restore and improve Wilbur Ditch, a diversion on the North Fork of Escalante Creek. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion passed. Cary Denison and Dixie Luke abstained.

Leroux Creek Reservoir System, Dam Outlet Rehabilitation, Leroux Creek Water Users Association

This is a request for \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$150,000 from State funds for a \$255,145 project to line the outlets of the Gray and Goodenough Reservoirs with a Cured-in-Place (CIP) liner. Both outlets have been designated for repair by the Division IV Dam Safety Engineer. Recent monitoring has indicated deterioration in the Gray outlet that needs immediate attention; the Goodenough has been noted for several years. Doing both rehabilitations at once will save significantly on mobilization costs. The Leroux Creek system of 28 small reservoirs is noted as a Tier 1 project in the BIP. Additionally, there are a number of statewide benefits to maintaining these reservoirs, including wildlife habitat, improved stream flow in the headwaters area, maintaining agricultural water use, improving aging infrastructure and preserving pre-1922 water rights. The Committee recommends approval of the grant.

Greg Peterson moved to approve Leroux Creek Water Users Association's request for \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$150,000 from State funds for the Leroux Creek Reservoir System, Dam Outlet Rehabilitation. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed. Tom Alvey abstained.

Turner Lone Cabin Ditch Combination Salinity Reduction Project, Turner Ditch Company

This is a request for \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$125,000 from State funds for a \$6,131,136 project. This application was approved last year but could not go forward because the BOR portion of the funds was not granted. The applicants believe they have improved the salinity portion of the grant and will be successful this time. This is a complicated project to abandon parts of two existing ditches, recombine and pipe the rest to provide pressurized and more efficient delivery with substantial water savings and salt reduction. WSRF funds would leverage several million in federal funds for the project. The Screening Committee recommends approval.

Paul Maudlin from the Delta Conservation District was present to represent the project. Mr. Maudlin explained the project was approved but pulled due to funding shortages.

Cary Denison moved to approve Turner Ditch Company's request for \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$125,000 from State funds for the Turner Lone Cabin Ditch Combination Salinity Reduction Project. Dixie Luke seconded and the motion passed. Mark Roeber abstained.

Comments from the Audience

A guest in the audience said he has been waiting 2.5 years for Farmers Ditch stating they have priority over Fire Mountain Ditch, and wanted to know why they have not been approved. Tom Alvey asked who they have applied to. Apparently the gentleman did not know he needed to submit an application. Tom Alvey stated the GBRT would welcome an application from Farmers Ditch.

Other Business

None.

Future Meetings

Kathleen Curry announced the following upcoming meetings:

- Club 20 is having their Rural Day at the Capitol on January 24-25.
- The Four West Slope Roundtables will meet on May 2 at Ute Water in Grand Junction.
- Colorado Water Congress Annual Conference, January 30 - February 1.
- CWCB Meeting January 28 and 29.
- Online call for the Technical Team on the Risk Study, January 24 at 10:30.
- Livestream at CMU, February 11 – Water Supply Use and Law, February 18 – Impacts of Drought, and February 25 – Drought Contingency Plan and Drought Management. Links will be added to the web site.

Dan Gibbs is the new DNR Director and Kate Greenberg was appointed Ag Commissioner (both need confirmation). John Stulp, special water advisor to the Governor and IBCC Director, has stepped down and his position is vacant.

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting will be on March 18, 2019.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Kathleen Curry to circulate email regarding the Educational Committee new Chair and asking for volunteers to work on the committee.

Kathleen Curry to circulate funding options letter to Roundtable members.

Kathleen Curry to circulate Scope of Work for the Phase 3 Risk Study to Roundtable members.