

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
March 18, 2019**

Voting Members Present:

Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
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
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
Greg Peterson	Saguache County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier

Voting Members Absent:

Patrice Alonzo	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees, CWCB Liaison
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Dave Kanzer (CRD Liaison), Bob Hurford (CDWR Liaison).

Public: Val Pratico (Ouray Silver Mines), Briana Greer (Solid Solution Geosciences/OSM), Randy Sackett (SGM), Brent Newman (CWCB), Paul Kehmeier (Colorado Dept of Ag), Hannah Holm (Hutchins Water Center at CMU), Aaron Derwingson (TNC), Heather Scott (Student, Western University), Steve Anders (USGS), Michael Dale (NPS), Ashley Bembenek and Scott Williams? (UWP), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA), Luke Gingerich and Nick Emmendorfer (J-U-B Engineers), John Currier (CRWCD).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call it was declared a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

Kathleen Curry requested an amendment to the Agenda to add citizen comments either after Other Business or after Item #10. She also suggested for Item #6 CWCB Representation, Brent Newman give an update on demand management and drought contingency planning status.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the Agenda as revised. Cary Denison seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approve January 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Frank Kugel moved to approve the January 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from Educational Committee

Dave Kanzer reported the newsletter is now coming out around the second week of every month. If there are any water events going on let them know so they can include it. The website content manager, Cindy McKee, wants to interview and profile Roundtable members, starting with officers. Also, in addition to the Twitter feed, they are launching a Facebook page to reach out to younger people.

There was a statewide PEPO meeting (public education/public outreach) that took place in Westminster as part of the Water Congress. They got to hear from all roundtables what they are doing for public outreach. Almost every roundtable has a website.

Austin Keiser discussed a series of 4 classes, or informational meetings, they are giving called Water 101. The first meeting was a week ago. There will be one meeting per month. He thanked Division Engineer's office, which did the main part of the introductory meeting on water rights. The remaining meetings are about flood water or free water, ditches and decrees, and reservoirs. Other presenters are coming from the Conservancy District and the Water Users Association. So far they have had great attendance.

Dave Kanzer introduced Paul Kehmeier. Mr. Kehmeier works for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, and his main responsibility is to help ditch companies put together funding packages to pipe their ditches. Mr. Kehmeier spoke about funding opportunities. He has an office at the NRCS in Delta.

Report from the IBCC Representative

Joanne Fagan reported the IBCC met at the end of February. They were introduced to Dan Gibbs, the new Executive Director for the Department of Natural Resources. Other staff updates were Russell George is now taking over for John Stulp at the IBCC.

The technical working groups are working on an update of SWSI. They have a good chunk done. They are using 5 scenarios and are trying to drill down into each of the basins. They think the report will be out in July.

There is a group from the CWCB working with other people on smart cities and water efficiencies. They are trying to get water planning and land use planning to work together. The water plan included conservation for about 400,000 acre feet of M&I water. They are putting together guidance documents, best management practices on the CWCB website, and free workshops for municipalities. The Water Audit workshop for Montrose is the 23rd of March, where they will try to help identify water losses and improve efficiencies.

There were discussions on funding. A new person has been hired to work specifically to find ways to fund water projects. The CWCB has requested extra funding from the legislature projects bill for planning projects.

The final discussion item was the role of the IBCC. They spent 30 minutes coming up with things they thought they could focus on and make the most difference. They narrowed it down to about 2 or 3 things, which they will review at the next meeting.

Report from the CWCB Representative

Steve Anderson reported the CWCB had their meeting the days prior to Water Congress in Denver in January. Updates to Colorado Water Plan, are moving forward. The BIPs will come with funding and loose guidance on how to create that document again. The details are significantly greater than in past, and the effort is well worth the time in his opinion. They spent a considerable amount of time with demand management issues.

The group discussed land use planning coupling with water plans. These are thorny issues as they are two different property rights. They spent the afternoon with County Commissioners and were well received by Montrose County.

In his last report he spoke of his calculations for demand management and has concluded it is probably something more like half of what he came up with. It is different for annual and perennial crops. There needs to be compensation for more than just one year for perennial crops. It is going to be a difficult issue to ever come to a consensus.

Steve and Frank Kugel discussed the Basin account, which has about a \$427,000 balance. The applications that were approved are \$177,000, leaving \$250,000 in Basin funds. On April 1st the account will receive another \$40,000.

Brent Newman gave an overview on demand management and drought contingency planning (DCP). He discussed two agreements, the Drought Response Operations Agreement and the Demand Management Storage Agreement, and the purpose of these documents. The Board developed a draft policy statement that supported the draft DCP documents, and pursuit of federal legislation to implement them, as well as a method to investigate a demand management program. A draft work plan was presented to the board for how to investigate demand management, ultimately to decide whether demand management is a feasible thing to do. They will be looking at identifying the priority issues for demand management and are creating technical work groups to look into these issues. There will also be regional workshops.

Implementation Working Group Report – Frank Kugel

Cary Denison discussed the Implementation Working Group and explained its purpose. The group has met twice and will meet again tomorrow to evaluate what the next SWSI process will look like, including how the funding is going to go to the roundtables and what will be accomplished in the BIPs.

The Basin will select a contractor by November of this year. This Roundtable will have to decide what part of our BIP to work on and the scope of work. The BIPs are scheduled to be finalized in November of 2021.

The Implementation Working Group Report will be a regular agenda item.

Phase 3 Risk Study Presentation – John Currier, Colorado River District

John Currier gave an update on Phase 3 of the Risk Study. He discussed the history of the Risk Study and the Phase 3 scope of work to put sideboard on our risk profile at Lake Powell. Currently the study is in the modeling phase, looking at difference scenarios of what it would look like if there was a mandatory curtailment.

Gunnison County Shady Island Project Support Letter

Kathleen Curry said this is another request for a project support letter for a water plan grant application. Information regarding the project was emailed to the members. These letters are not required but are helpful for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to support. She asked the applicant requesting the letter to provide information materials, a draft letter, and for someone to attend the meeting to be able to answer questions. There is no one in attendance for this support letter, and she asked members how they want to proceed. Frank Kugel said he has been involved in the planning effort for this. It is a community effort. He thinks they have done a great job reaching out and it was unfortunate the representative had something else come up. Frank feels it is a great project.

Frank Kugel moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable approve the support letter.

Frank commented as a general policy the Roundtable should support any Gunnison Basin request for State water plan funds unless there is something really wrong with the application.

Neal Schwieterman seconded.

Frank described the project. It is to develop a public campground right outside of the City of Gunnison, just north of Garlic Mike's. Right now it is a problem to put in boats in a very narrow highway right of way. They have purchased 10 acres and turn it into a county park, with picnic tables and campsites. They are asking for a letter of support for a Water Plan fund grant.

Greg Peterson stated he also supports it. However he feels proponents should have a representative in attendance at the meeting in order to obtain Roundtable approval. In the future it should be made clear that if they do not attend they should not expect the letter to be approved.

The motion passed. Kathleen will submit the letter and will let the applicant know.

Kathleen said she had to rewrite the letter. She spends a significant amount of time on these each month. She asked if we should have stationary and a logo, and what should be a return address. Kathleen will work on a logo and will use her address as a return address for now.

WSRF Grant Requests – Frank Kugel and Cary Denison

Frank Kugel reported the Project Screening Committee met via conference call on March 5, 2019 to review the following two applications.

Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership - Governor Basin

The initial application was incomplete and needed more detail regarding funding sources, including technical support and dollar amounts from other entities. The screening committee would particularly like to see some contribution from local groups-Ouray County/City, the UWP itself and any others. This information was provided by Cary Denison and Ashley Bembenek.

The screening committee has a concern with funding mining reclamation projects as the scope of the problem is huge. The Project Screening Committee recommends funding of \$20,000 in Basin funds and requests they seek the remaining \$13,300 from WSRF funding.

Ashley Bembenek discussed the project and other funding sources. They are requesting the money for engineering to start the process, since this is not covered by other funding sources. There are two mines. The project scope is to push neutral material from the upper mine onto the lower mine acidic material to prevent acidic water from entering the watershed.

Dixie Luke stated she shares the concerns of committee that funding this project may set a precedent. There are probably hundreds of other mines that have tailings we could get involved in cleaning up. She supports the concept of this project. However, it is her understanding the mining companies have to bond the project to help with reclamation. Ms. Bembenek replied this mine is an historic site. All the mining that occurred was done prior to the laws requiring bonding. There is no potentially responsible party.

Neal Schwieterman stated he understands the concerns of the screening committee, but what they are asking for is engineering funds to jump start the cleanup, which would be covered in our BIP for water quality. He supports the project.

Neal moved to approve \$20,000 in basin funds for the Governor Basin project. Frank Kugel seconded.

Cary Denison recused from the vote. Trout Unlimited is a partner on the project and will be involved in engineering and design.

The motion passed.

Cimarron Canal Automated Gate - Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District

This project aligns well with Basin objectives and benefits both consumptive agricultural uses and non-consumptive recreational/environmental uses. It also leverages federal money from a WaterSmart grant. The Project Screening Committee recommends funding of \$11,500 from the Basin fund.

The project is to replace and automate the headgate to keep the creek from drying out. It will benefit both agriculture and fishery. It is well funded compared to the modest request.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve \$11,500 in basin funds for the Cimarron Canal Automated Gate. Frank Kugel seconded. Allen Distel and Cary Denison recused from the vote.

The motion passed.

Comments from Audience

Luke Gingerich asked about a couple of letters requested at the last meeting. They will return to the next meeting to discuss the projects.

Other Business

Kathleen said she would like to have a presentation on forest health in the basin and asked if there were any objections to have the Forest Service give a presentation. There were no objections.

Kathleen asked if members would like an update on hydrology on the Agenda. There were no responses, however, Cary said he would like a funded project update. Frank offered for the Project Screening Committee could reach out to the project applicants for these updates.

Kathleen said she would like some guidance for the West Slope roundtable meeting as to what the agenda should include. The statewide roundtable meeting will be on September 25 and 26. She may be asked to comment on behalf of the Gunnison Roundtable at the West Slope meeting.

Future Meetings

The Four Basin Roundtable meeting will be on May 2.

The State Roundtable meeting will be September 25 and 26.

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting will be on May 20, 2019.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MB', is written above a horizontal line.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Kathleen Curry will work on a logo for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable

Project Screening Committee to reach out to the applicants for project updates

Frank Kugel and Project Screening Committee will reach out to the project applicants for progress reports

Kathleen Curry to email members before May 2 and let everyone know about the agenda and try to get input