

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Montrose, Colorado  
September 16, 2019**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Kathleen Curry	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Frank Kugel	At-Large Member
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Julie Nania	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
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
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Cary Denison	Environmental
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Steve Shea	Agricultural

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

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Bob Hurford (CDWR Liaison)

**Public:**

Wendy Ryan (Colorado River Engineering), Chris Caskey (Delta Brick & Climate Company/Western Slope Conservation Center), Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Kyle Vanderberg (Redlands Water & Power), Nick Emmendorfer (J-U-B Engineers (Redlands)), Seth Cahalan (Yes on Prop DD), Michael Orpi (North Fork Farmers Sub Lateral Ditch), Mike Lane (Delta County), Gary Kraai

(Crawford Water Conservancy District), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW Liaison), Ken Dolezal (Interested Citizen), Tony LaGreca (Colorado Water Trust)

**Welcome**

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

**Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

**Approve Agenda**

Kathleen Curry asked if the Roundtable wanted to add an action item regarding the vacancy of the Chair of the BIP Committee, which was not yet formally noticed. It was agreed the item will be on the Agenda for the November meeting.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. John Justman seconded and the motion carried.

The process for election of an At-Large seat is to advertise in all local papers. Only appointed members can vote to make the appointment. John McCloy stated five of the At-Large members must own water rights. The appointment will be made at the November meeting. Kathleen and Mike Berry will work together to get the advertisement in all the papers.

**Approve July 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Neal Schwieterman requested a correction to the spelling of his name.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the July 15, 2019 Minutes as amended. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the CWCB Representative** – Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson reported the last meeting was on July 17 and 18 in Leadville.

The first afternoon they went out to the field. The first stop was the municipal water supply facility on the Arkansas, which they are rebuilding. The group also went to the Colorado Mountain College study area on “fen” research where they rejuvenated a high altitude marsh out of materials from an old “fen” that had been destroyed.

The draft of the Water Plan Technical Update, formerly SWSI, is available on the CWCB website. The Roundtable had little input; it was mostly done by 7 outside consultants with CWCB staff’s guidance. When we get into the Basin Implementation Plan we will be able to have some input.

The second day was a joint meeting of the IBCC and CWCB. They discussed the confidentiality agreements and it was decided not to have them. Steve hopes they can still have open discussions.

Steve had a couple of comments about demand management. Spreading pain or gain equally around the state is a huge issue even within our basin. We are better equipped in Montrose County than in the upper regions to help with demand management. He also feels some rule making is needed from the Division of Water Resources on how they would administer a compact call. Kathleen asked if that rule making action would be triggered from CWCB or the legislature. It could possibly take legislation but would be within Department of Natural Resources.

The next CWCB meeting starts tomorrow in Alamosa. The first day is the budget meeting, and then the regular meeting starts on the second day. There are 3 WSRF grant applications from this basin up for approval; Crawford Ditch Lining and Piping, Governor Basin Cleanup, and the Uncompahgre River Restoration.

The WSRF fund balance in May was \$309,238. Since then this board has approved \$29,500, leaving approximately \$279,000. There was a deposit in our account. His figure is \$182,000, which makes the current balance about \$462,000. After current grants are approved the balance will be about \$330,000.

Bill Trampe asked if there was any activity in the work groups on demand management. Steve replied about half the groups have met, and the hope is all the groups will have a meeting at least by the end of October.

#### **Colorado Water Plan Update** – Kathleen Curry

At the last GBRT meeting there was a discussion about a selection committee for hiring the general contractor. An RFP has gone out and the engineering firms are developing their proposals. The selection committee has been established and at least eight of the nine roundtable Chairs are on the committee. The committee will meet and go over the proposals at the C9 Summit meeting at Winter Park on September 25. The general contractor will be hired around mid-October.

The general contractor will have money in their budget to hire a local expert to be a liaison between the roundtables and the general contractor. The liaison will provide technical expertise to the Roundtable and their focus will be to work on the BIP update.

The CWCB is looking for the Roundtable's recommendation as to whom it would like the general contractor to hire as the local expert. A list of potential liaisons should be provided after the general contractor is selected. The Roundtable will need to weigh in by the end of year to hire our liaison in January.

Members agreed to have this as an agenda item at the November meeting. Hopefully a list of possible liaisons will be available and these people can talk at the meeting, depending on how many there are, and possibly a selection could be made at that meeting. A resume provided for each potential applicant before the meeting was also suggested. If any Roundtable member has someone they would like to suggest adding to the list, that person should be interviewed as well.

It was suggested the BIP committee work with the liaison to make sure they have the information they need. The BIP committee needs a new chairperson and anyone else who would like to join. Ron Shaver, Kathleen Curry and Allen Distel volunteered to join the BIP committee.

**IBCC Activities and Discussion** – Joanne Fagan, Bill Trampe

Joanne Fagan reported the IBCC met and discussed the contingency plan, demand management and technical update. There was a lot of discussion about the demand management process.

Bill Trampe reported they met with the CWCB. There was a lot of discussion about the water plan update. It was a good meeting for discussion, for staff in particular.

The next IBCC meeting will be around mid-October. No date has been set.

**Report from the Educational Committee** – Dave Kanzer, Colorado River Water Conservation District and Neal Schwieterman

Dave Kanzer was not at the meeting.

Neal Schwieterman reported he has contacted Gunnison County and Hinsdale County schools about the cost to bus kids to the CMU Water Center. He is still waiting to hear from Ridgway and Ouray school districts. He has asked and is waiting for information about free admission for these kids. Bill Nesbitt stated he has also asked the question and was told they thought the admission was free. Neal added the Mesa County kids get in free and said he will continue to pursue the answer.

**Demand Management Roundtable Subcommittee Discussion** – Kathleen Curry

Kathleen Curry said this topic was discussed at the last meeting and was asked to discuss it further at this meeting. She has drafted a memo. The idea is if there is a way to tackle the demand management issue within our Roundtable structure and what would it look like, i.e., a subcommittee or the whole group. Some roundtables have hired a consultant; another roundtable has appointed a person to head the demand management group and has developed a policy statement.

Tom Alvey said he favors a committee to discuss ideas to bring back to the Roundtable and suggested the BIP committee may be the easiest because it will be an integral part of the BIP. The job of the committee would be to air the Gunnison Basin's concerns with the idea of demand management and how it might work or not work. There was further discussion on how the Roundtable is not well represented in the workgroups.

Roundtable members generally agreed to expand the BIP committee instead of forming an additional committee. Allen Distel expressed his concern the committee should cover all aspects and each group needs to be represented.

The members agreed to have a meeting of the expanded committee in October. It was suggested the group may appoint a chairman and will create a meeting schedule. The meeting will be publicly noticed. Interested members need to email Kathleen or Mike with their preferences.

### **Phase III Risk Study Gunnison Basin Depletion Analysis** – Kathleen Curry

As a follow-up to the Risk Study, Kathleen Curry asked if the Gunnison Basin might want more information as to how our pre- and post-compact depletions would look basin-wide. John McClow is currently working on a more in-depth study exclusively for the Upper Gunnison basin. Kathleen's idea would be to have more expansive information, capturing all tributaries basin-wide.

Gunnison Basin water supply reserve funds are available. A sponsor would have to serve as the applicant. Members suggested either the North Fork or the Grand Mesa Water Conservancy Districts could be the sponsor. Deadlines for CWCB are coming up and the application will need to get to the Screening Committee by October 1. The application would come before the Roundtable at the November meeting, and the CWCB will take action in January.

Marti Whitmore made a motion to move forward with a grant application for basin only funds to pursue a more detailed analysis of depletions in the Gunnison Basin. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen will coordinate with John McClow and Tom Alvey.

### **WSRF Grant Applications** – Tom Alvey

Kathleen Curry said there would be enough time for an update report on the Paonia Reservoir Sediment Utilization Project and to discuss a support letter for the Crystal River Augmentation Feasibility Study.

Tom Alvey presented the following project request:

### **Redlands Water and Power Company (RWPC) Pumphline Replacement Project**

The request is for implementation of an identified need. The feasibility study was funded by a previous GBRT grant request. The original request for this application was \$75,000 from Basin funds and \$50,000 from State funds. The Screening Committee recommended they switch it to \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$75,000 from State funds. The project description is to replace an irrigation line which takes water from diversion up on the Redlands for irrigation purposes. This is part of a Tier 1 project as identified in the BIP for rehabilitation for Redlands power diversion. This is part of what the feasibility study identified as Phase I. The Screening Committee recommends approval. The only caveat is there is a lot more to this project and a lot more money to get this done. It will be beyond the Roundtable.

Nick Emmendorfer of J-U-B Engineers gave a description of the project and the funding sources. Overall this request is about 10% of the cost. They are looking for a variety of funding for the remainder of the project. This part is critical.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the request from Redlands Water and Power Company for \$50,000 from Basin funds and \$75,000 from State funds for their Pumphline Replacement Project. John Justman seconded and the motion passed. Kathleen abstained because she works with Redlands.

### **Crystal River Augmentation Feasibility Study – Wendy Ryan**

Kathleen Curry said this project is in the beginning phases. The applicant is seeking a letter of support. This will be a water supply reserve fund grant application in another basin. However, some of the feasibility study could be in Gunnison County in the Town of Marble.

Wendy Ryan, on behalf of the West Divide Water Conservancy District, came to answer any questions about the Crystal River Augmentation Feasibility Study grant request. Wendy described their project. They will be submitting their application to the Colorado Basin Roundtable in November. Ron Shaver suggested the Roundtable not make a decision until we see the final grant application. Tom Alvey said if the groups involved cannot come together and agree the plan is vitally necessary and support it, it will be hard for him to support.

Kathleen Curry stated the Roundtable will readdress the topic at the next meeting. Jonathan Houck agreed he would draft comment letter on behalf of the roundtable. He will be visiting the area and will report back on the perspective of the community.

### **Delta Brick and Climate Company – Chris Caskey**

Chris Caskey gave an update on his project. His project is to take sediment out of Paonia Reservoir and convert it into useful building materials in the form of brick and patio pavers. They are not yet operating, but everything else is going great. They have received some support from the Office of Economic Development and have some private money coming in. He expects to be building the pilot plant soon.

### **Comments from Audience**

Seth Cahalan came to ask for support on Referendum DD. The Proposition is for a 10% tax on gambling and sports betting. Ninety-three percent of the tax collected will go to Colorado water plan. The estimated revenue will be approximately \$29M. Any individual or group support is asked for as well. The election is this November and the tax will begin in May 2020. Kathleen Curry said if we want to take a position we will have to do it now. There was no motion and no action taken.

### **Other Business**

None.

**Action Items**

Kathleen Curry and Mike Berry to advertise for At Large seat in local newspapers.

Kathleen will let Roundtable members know who the General Contractor will be and provide a list of potential liaisons.

Members interested in participating in the expanded BIP Committee should email Kathleen or Mike with their preferences for meeting place, date and schedule. Kathleen will set up the meeting in October.

Kathleen will coordinate with John McCLOW and Tom Alvey to submit a grant application for basin only funds for a more detailed study on the Gunnison Basin's pre- and post-compact depletions.

**Future Meetings**

The C9-Summit Meeting will be September 25-26 in Winter Park. There is information online on the CWCB website.

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting is November 18, 2019.

The River District meeting will be on September 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.



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Mike Berry, Recorder