

IBCC call Colorado River Basin

1. January 23, 2020, CBRT Next Steps Committee Minutes.

1. Upcoming Meetings

- a. January 27, 2020: CBRT meeting Glenwood Springs Community Center.

- 2. Reporter: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, ken@kenransford.com.

- 3. **CBRT Members Present:** Angie Fowler, Nathan Bell, Paul Bruchez, Stan Cazier, Carlyle Currier, Chuck Ogilby, Laurie Rink, Kim Albertson, Jim Pokrandt, Ken Ransford, Jason Turner—new Colorado River District designate to the CBRT Roundtable, Lane Wyatt

- 4. **Roundtable Participants Present:** Dennis Davidson, Laurie Rink, Scott Schreiber

- 5. **WSRA Grant balance.** \$132,816 is the account, after a \$120,000 replenishment, \$20,000 below the expected replenishment of \$140,000 paid in January 2020. Outstanding grant requests include:

- a. **\$12,500 Crystal River augmentation plan grant** request by the Colorado River District.
- b. **\$25,000 Grand Valley Audubon request to rehabilitate gravel pits as ponds along the Colorado River.**
- c. **\$25,000 at Diamond Ditch improvement in Parachute.**
- d. **\$10,000 North Fork of Colorado Integrated Water Management Plan.** The 3 Grand County BOCC members all voted to support this project; Northern still has not supported it. Paul Bruchez is concerned that Northern doesn't support this, and that the grant applicant hasn't showed it has reached out to landowners with Colorado River frontage.
 - i. **Lane Wyatt earlier expressed reservation that Northern would not share the data** it has compiled on the North Fork of the Colorado River; Northern said this data is public, so **it is available**, but Northern would not be available to share

- 6. **New Roundtable Chair.** Jim Pokrandt is stepping down as roundtable chair. Stan Cazier recommended that Jason Turner replace Jim, and Carlyle Currier agreed, since Jason is familiar with water issues that affect the CBRT and the West Slope, and since the Colorado River District can provide support.

- a. **Lane has retired from NWCOG**, and 2020 is likely to be his last year on the roundtable. He suggested that Jim Pokrandt be vice-chair, but Jim declined as he won't be on the roundtable.

- b. **Jim recommended that we consider the Arkansas or Yampa-White** roundtables as models. They have awarded a grant to pay for administrative help each year.
 - c. **These are the tasks the chair has to fulfill:**
 - i. Administrative: Set agenda, reserve room, order pizza with CWCB assistance
 - ii. Monitor website. Ken Neubecker is now doing this.
 - iii. Manage grant applications
 - iv. Correspond with CWCB
 - v. Represent Colorado Basin Roundtable at statewide meetings—this requires a person with policy expertise.
 - d. One recommendation: Divide up tasks among 3 persons.
 - i. Administer grants
 - ii. Administrative tasks
 - iii. Represent the Roundtable at statewide policy discussions
 - e. **Carlyle recommended that Jason Turner serve as roundtable chair**, Chuck Ogilby seconded, and Stan Cazier thirded the concept. The Next Step group reached consensus to support this motion but it will be in the form of a nomination from an individual from the floor.
 - f. **Jim Pokrandt encouraged any other members of the Roundtable to volunteer to serve as Roundtable chair. This is not a pre-ordained election**
 - g. **Jim Pokrandt will cease attending Roundtable meetings after the January 27 meeting. But not forever. The idea is for new leadership to take shape and run the operation in its own way.**
7. **New Grant application matrix**—Laurie Rink described the new grant application matrix that she developed together with Kirsten Kurath and Angie Fowler. The grant application is in the MS Word file titled *20.01.14 CBRT Proposal Instructions DRAFT_.docx*.
- a. The matrix contains information that applicants should consider in grant requests submitted to the roundtable.
 - b. **Laurie's questions for the roundtable:**
 - i. Should we have 2 times a year grant cycle?
 - ii. Should there be a **scoring system**?
 - iii. How do we present this to the Roundtable?

- iv. Once this is approved, we want to post it on the CBRT and CWCB websites.
 - v. We should **post on our website a list of prior grants approved.**
 - vi. **Approved applicants should provide a progress report to the CBRT** after the grant has been expended.
- c. Stan Cazier suggested that if an applicant had made a grant application to another roundtable, they should be able to use the application for the main basin in all the other basins where they are submitting a grant request.
 - d. Laurie said they looked at the other basin applications, and they pulled the best ideas from the other roundtables in forming the matrix. She said it is more detailed than the other roundtable applications.
8. WRSF pending grant applications—these will be discussed on January 27:
- a. CAWA request for outreach: \$5,750
 - b. Canyon Creek Fish Passage: \$20,700 request for fish passage improvement in culvert beneath I-70 near New Castle.
 - c. Grand River Ditch improvement, \$25k basin and \$52.5k Statewide
 - d. Lateral Ditch ML47 Basin and Statewide grant request: \$8,000, \$72.5 statewide
This ditch receives water from the Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC).
 - e. Royal Elk Ranch reservoir improvement project in the Coffee Pot zone of the Flat Tops. Jessica Hernreich presented an application, but it needs work; Jim recommended she come back to another meeting with a more complete grant request.
9. **Update CBRT BIP list of projects.**
- a. Russ Sands of the CBRT will be at the CBRT meeting on Monday, January 27. He will talk about the BIP update process and our ability to engage a “local expert”
 - b. Jim recommended we review prior projects that embody the 6 themes in our current BIP. It helps that projects were previously listed as IPPs, but **new projects can be added to the list.** And being on the list is no guarantee of funding. As well, projects may emerge over time that advance our BI but were not on the list.
 - c. There’s an RFQ out for local experts to support the roundtable; Angie recommends reading this RFQ; it must be publicly posted no later than January 28. Ken Ransford noted that the deadline for submitting a local expert to Brown

& Caldwell, the engineering firm charged with updating the roundtable BIPs, is March 28, 2020, suggesting we have sufficient time to identify this person. **Angie Fowler said that SGM will submit an application to serve as the Local Expert.**

- d. Angie reported that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable has **created a subcommittee that reports on the BIP update** to the whole roundtable. Laurie Rink echoed that she thinks this is a good idea. John McCLOW and Kathleen Curry are spearheading the Gunnison roundtable subcommittee.
10. **Demand Management Subcommittee Report.** Paul Bruchez discussed a potential grant application for a **high altitude hay field consumptive use study**. Bruchez thought the study should be small, but a local rancher has offered to put 3,200 acres under study. He said this is a prominent player in the Upper Colorado River Basin; Dr. Perry Cabot of CSU is excited about this. The rancher will only participate if he is assured of being paid even if he stops growing and selling hay.
- a. **Another producer said he would participate if Denver Water and Northern were interested in this project and were willing to contribute their own water rights to this study.** Paul said he may reach out to them at Water Congress next week.
 - b. A number of Front Range players are interested in this project. Paul has not heard from any naysayers who are critical of this project. Jim Pokrandt said that **American Rivers is interested** in the project and may provide funding.
 - c. Grand County has an Open Lands, Rivers, and Trails Fund, and their funds may be available. The worst case scenario is that they develop baseline data.
 - d. The next step is to check in with Denver Water, Northern, and the Colorado River District to gauge their support, and to keep contacting NGOs for funding support.
11. **Colorado River Risk Study Phase 3 final report was released November 20, 2019.** Jim said there won't be a Phase 4 per se at this point; rather a Phase IIIb where entities can ask and pay for running the modeling to get more sub-basin specific info; the Gunnison BRT and Yampa-White BRT are interested in this. Jim Pokrandt said the roundtable would have to pony up funds to get more basin-specific information; **WSRF grants can pay for this.**