

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Montrose, Colorado
July 21, 2020**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	At-Large Member
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
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:

Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Steve Shea	Agricultural

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

David Kanzer (Non-Voting At-Large), Sam Stein (CWCB)

Public: Peter Barkman (CO Geological Survey – CO School of Mines), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW), Martha Moore (Education Committee – GBRT), Richard Udd (public), Russ Sands (CWCB), Luke Gingerich (J-U-B Engineers), Randi Kim (Utilities/City of Grand Junction), Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center), Steve Anders (USGS), John Peters (Colorado Land), Ed Millard (Southwest RT/IBCC Member), Moe Clark (Reporter – Colorado Newslite), Frank Kugel (Southwestern Water Conservation District).

Welcome

The virtual meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call several more members arrived on the virtual meeting and a quorum was declared to be present.

Approve Agenda

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the agenda. Dixie Luke requested to add a report on Fire Mountain and Senator Bennett to the agenda. Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the amended agenda. Ron Shaver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Member Welcome – Mike Cleary, Crawford Water Conservation District

Kathleen Curry announced a new member to the Roundtable, Mike Cleary, from the Crawford Water Conservancy District. Mike Cleary was not present at the meeting.

Bylaws Amendment Regarding Remote Participation

Kathleen Curry presented the draft Bylaws document for discussion. Changes to the Bylaws included vacancy appointments having to do with At-Large Seats, appointing Assistant Recorders, and the addition of the ability to hold a meeting via telephone or audio/video conference at the determination of the Chairperson that there is urgent need to do so.

Dixie Luke asked about the change to the Bylaws in Section 8. The amendment was clarified.

Dixie Luke moved to accept the Bylaws as presented. Neal Schwieterman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2019 Meeting

Tom Alvey moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting as presented. Dixie Luke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2020 Meeting

Cary Denison moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2020 meeting as presented. Steve Fletcher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the CWCB Representative – Steve Anderson/Sam Stein

Sam Stein of the CWCB introduced himself. Sam will be taking over Craig Godbout's role as liaison to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. Steve Anderson was having technical difficulties with audio so Sam gave some CWCB updates.

On July 15, a virtual board meeting was held. The CWCB board meetings will likely remain virtual for some time. There was a lot of discussion regarding demand management. They are currently looking into feasibility, taking into account what the work groups have done previously.

Another discussion was with Dan Gibbs who introduced the wildly important goal (WIG), which is to improve water data for the basins, the BIPs, and the water plans. The goal is to find around 20 tier 1 projects using the tier matrix that the local experts (LEs) are currently working with. There will be no project ranking. They are looking for environmental, agricultural and M&I projects which are ready to launch and are going to be all encompassing for the water plan.

There is work continuing on the BIPs. Sam extended thanks to the BRTs and LEs for putting in the work, and to the Board and the legislature for having the foresight to set aside the funding for work to continue on the BIPs in these difficult times.

Sam mentioned he appreciates those members who attended the listening sessions. The Board is now compiling all the questions that were asked and are working on responses. Hopefully those questions and responses will be posted in the not-to-distant future.

They are planning on having some internal conversations with staff about how to best engage with other stakeholders moving forward.

All the grants tabled in the May Board meeting were considered in July, including water plan grants. Four of the grants that went through were from the Gunnison Basin.

Regarding the budget situation, they are getting a little more clarity and have now got approval for a spending plan that will help stretch dollars over the next three years. The local experts still have funds allocated to them and there's still funding available for PEPO, and BRT recorders are still going to be compensated. All consultants and stakeholders working for the state must continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

Steve Anderson overcame his technical difficulties and reported one of the things that was discussed in a lot of detail at the CWCB meeting was the state of our funding, or lack of funding. There will be no funding of the Water Supply Reserve Fund grants or Water Plan Grants this year and probably next year. It might be 2023 before the GBRT sees some money for water supply grants.

All four of the GBRT WSRF basin grants were approved. He does not have a good list of projects funded by the state fund, but said we got most of what we were after.

Education Committee Report – Dave Kanzer

David Kanzer gave his report on the Education Committee's activities. They continue to work to make sure information about the Roundtable is distributed through social media and the website. The June newsletter was cancelled and they are working on the July newsletter, which hopefully will go out this week.

The committee got a refresh of \$6,500, and the budget was approved by the GBRT. The bulk of the money goes to social media and website maintenance, with \$1,000 reserved for transportation for applicants from school districts to go to the Mesa County Eureka Water Center. Neal Schwieterman stated they have partnered with a group called "The Friends of Youth and Nature". This group has matched the GBRT grant and is trying to garner more funds so when COVID subsidies there will be more than double the money available to help kids to make it to the Eureka Water Center.

As always they are seeking input from the Roundtable. They are working with the local expert, Luke Gingerich, to put information on the website.

IBCC Report and Survey Discussion – Joanne Fagan, Bill Trampe, Russ Sands

Joanne Fagan reported on a couple of IBCC meetings over the last 6 months. They spent two days in March talking with the demand management workgroups. Those meetings are summarized and posted on the CWCB's website. During the last meeting, about a month ago, they spent a fair bit of time talking about demand management and equity. They were also asked to address these three questions and provide feedback from the Roundtable:

1. What do roundtables/constituents want to learn more about?
2. What do roundtables/constituents want IBCC to do or discuss next?
3. What questions do roundtables/constituents want answered?

The CWCB staff called the IBCC members and polled them on what topics they thought the IBCC should explore. Members suggested more discussion about the conceptual framework and transmountain diversions, funding and impacts to the basins and the water plan, forest health, compact compliance, alternative transfer mechanism and equity in demand management. There was also a concern about how things would apply to third parties that are not a part of the IBCC's roundtable process.

After discussion it was decided a poll will go out on the three questions and Joanne Fagan and Bill Trampe will then summarize the responses and the document will be circulated to the Roundtable.

There was discussion regarding the cover memo that came with the questions, which suggested the IBCC shouldn't be working much on the demand management equity issue. It was requested that a report be provided at the next Roundtable meeting regarding where the CWCB is at on demand management.

BIP Update/Demand Management Committee Report and Workplan Action Item – John McClow, Luke Gingerich

John McClow reported the BIP committee had a meeting on June 16. They worked through a number of process and policy issues trying to decide what the GBRT's goals are in the BIP and what additional technical data is needed, and then what the authority of the committee itself would be in terms of the workplan and the IPP list. The consensus of the committee was that it really was an issue for the full Roundtable to make policy decisions and to approve this BIP update workplan. Luke Gingerich circulated a draft to the committee then updated it for the Roundtable. John asked the Roundtable to review the document and approve the plan, whether in its entirety or with some adjustments or amendments, so that Luke can get to work.

Luke gave an overview of the tasks. After discussion there were no recommended changes to the workplan. Luke suggested it would be good to do as other entities have done, by getting something in a local paper or making sure it gets on their social media. Any effort for public outreach would be good.

Bill Trampe is concerned about demand management and the eventual consumptive use expansion brought on by accomplishment of the BIP. Luke and Bill will set up a meeting by phone. Kathleen suggested it is always good for the whole committee to hear Bill's thoughts so Luke agreed to take a few notes and send to the committee afterwards.

Luke stated there are 6 BIP committee meetings scheduled with 4 to be held between now and January. They will probably have to be zoom meetings.

John McClow moved to adopt the workplan as presented. Bill Trampe seconded. There were no objections so the motion passed unanimously.

Water Supply Reserve Fund Update and Discussion – Tom Alvey, Sam Stein

Request for Scope of Work Change for the Leroux Creek Water Users Pipelining for the Gray and Goodenough Reservoirs Project

Tom Alvey reported one of the previously approved projects, Leroux Creek Water Users project to line 2 outlet pipes on reservoirs, is coming in under budget. They would like to use the savings to line a third pipe while the pipe lining company is in the basin in September. It was suggested Tom contact Craig Godbout for guidance on how to get approval. Tom asked the Roundtable for a conceptual approval of the request.

John McClow moved the Roundtable declare that it is supportive of that process and supports conceptual approval of the scope of work change for the Leroux Creek water users pipelining for the Gray and Goodenough Reservoirs. Neal Schwieterman seconded.

Cary Denison asked which reservoir received the lining and which one is proposed to now receive the lining. Tom responded Goodenough and the Gray will receive the lining, those were the ones that were approved initially. The third one that would receive it is the Willow.

Tom Alvey abstained from the vote. There were no objections to the motion so the motion passed.

Request for Information Regarding Approved Projects

Tom asked for more information from those who were at the CWCB meeting regarding the projects that got approved or if there are any questions on those projects.

Kathleen thanked Steve Anderson for making the motions on the Gunnison projects that were submitted. Four Gunnison Basin projects were approved and they were all from basin funds only.

Basin Account Summary

Kathleen Curry asked for a summary of the account balance and the timeframe for managing that fund balance. Sam Stein responded as of July the latest report shows Gunnison Basin has a balance of \$474,738. In May there was a disbursement of \$120,000 into each basin account. There is going to be zero disbursement for the current fiscal year 2020-2021, and there is still uncertainty surrounding WSRF funding for the following year. Although they understand basins would like to conserve funds to stretch over the next couple of years, the CWCB is encouraging basins to put forth projects that seem really important and worthy. Kathleen asked if the fund balance includes those 4 projects just approved. It was determined the amount did not include the approved projects. Sam will get back to Kathleen with a firm number.

Tom Alvey stated the screening committee needs some guidance regarding projects to approve. Kathleen stated she is concerned the newsletter we send out is encouraging people to apply for funds. Mike Berry suggested since there may only be a couple hundred thousand dollars over the next two years, maybe the balance could be split in two and take projects for a deadline for year one, and then projects for a deadline for year two and get people a chance to get their projects in and evaluated. Tom and Kathleen both approved of the idea. Tom suggested before any action is taken he would like to think about it and come up with a schedule for people to get their applications in and look at it on a two year basis. He will have the schedule at the next meeting.

Mike also suggested telling applicants that were not awarded any funds for the next couple of years that they are still in the pool and they will be first to be evaluated when funding is received, or the money starts to flow again.

Announcement from Dixie Luke Regarding Senator Bennett's Visit to the Fire Mountain Project

Kathleen Curry reported for Dixie Luke, who lost her audio on the virtual meeting, that Senator Bennett visited the Fire Mountain Project this week. She wanted to thank everyone who had a part in making that happen. Her note said that the Fire Mountain Canal has a very successful Bureau of Reclamation and RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program from the NRCS) project underway. The senator came to see these successes as well as hear concerns to make RCPP more user friendly.

Dave Kanzer also reported on the Senator's visit and said it was an excellent meeting. They met briefly on a farm with the sprinkler system and then went up to see the Fire Mountain Siphon which is a \$5M project. Senator Bennett was pretty influential in drafting some of the farm bill language that made that RCPP possible and he mentioned under the 2018 farm bill there was quite a bit of funding available. Several attendees on this call have taken advantage of that and continue to look at blending those funds with other federal funds.

Public Comment

Peter Barkman of the Colorado Geological Survey has been making a virtual tour of roundtable meetings to let people know that they have recently completed their online groundwater atlas of Colorado. They were funded by CWCB and CDPHE to upgrade the atlas as a web-base and as of early June it has been completed. It is full of general information on water and groundwater. They are in the process of completing a statewide alluvial aquifer layer and are hoping to do a statewide Dakota aquifer as well.

Hannah Holm is working on putting together the program for the Upper Colorado Forum which happens in November. Given the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, they have decided to make it a virtual event. She is hoping to put together a nice slate of discussion topics of the latest and greatest technical issues for the Forum.

Other Business

Luke Gingerich requested if anyone has local planning studies or efforts that have taken place between 2015 and now to send that information to him so he can cite where projects have been identified locally. They would like to list all of the local planning efforts that have taken place in the interim between 2015 and this go-around.

Action Items

A poll will go out to Roundtable members regarding the three questions. Joanne Fagan and Bill Trampe will summarize the results and the document will be circulated to members.

A report on where the CWCB is at on demand management will be provided at the next meeting.

Bill Trampe and Luke Gingerich to set up a phone call to discuss Bill's concerns with regard to demand management and the BIP. Luke will report back to the committee on the conversation.

Tom Alvey to contact Craig Godbout for guidance on how to get approval for using remaining monies from the Leroux Creek Water Users pipe lining project to line an outlet pipe on a third reservoir.

Tom Alvey to come up with a schedule for people to get their applications in and look at it on a two year basis, and will bring the schedule to the next meeting.

Roundtable members to send Luke Gingerich information on any local planning studies or efforts that have taken place since 2015.

Russ Sands to follow-up with the date of the Demand Management Workshop.

Future Meetings

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting is Monday, September 21, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. It most likely will be a virtual format.

There is no date set yet for the next BIP Demand Management Committee meeting. They want to get the plan approved first and then Luke will send out a doodle poll. Everyone on that committee should expect a doodle poll soon.

There is no date set yet for the next Demand Management Workshop. Russ Sands stated it may be on September 8, but it has not been posted yet. He will follow up with the date.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder