

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
May 17, 2021**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	At-Large Member
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Julie Nania	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

**Voting Members Excused/Absent:**

Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
John Justman	Mesa County
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Vacant	At-Large Member
Vacant	At-Large Member

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

Sam Stein (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Kanzer (CRWCD), Bob Hurford (Division of Water Resources), Jedd Sondergard (US BLM), Ryan Unterreiner, (CPW).

**Public:** Wendell Koontz, Justin Blair (At-Large Candidates), Robert Sakata (Sakata Farms), Russ Sands, Becky Mitchell, Amy Ostdiek, Curran Trick, Kat Weismiller (CWCB), Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Greg Petersen (Colorado Ag Water Alliance), Emily Halversen (Colorado AG Office), Jason Ullman (DNR), Luke Gingerich, Michael Weber (J-U-B), Matt Lindburg (Brown and Caldwell), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Hannah Holm (CMU Hutchins Water Center), Emily Zmak (CDR Associates), Ashley Hom (USFS), Carolyn DeGroot (Town of Crested Butte), Ed Millard (SWRT/IBCC).

### **Welcome**

The virtual meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Austin Keiser. Chairperson Kathleen Curry arrived during roll call and took over duties as Chair of the meeting.

### **Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

### **Agenda Approval**

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the agenda as presented. Tom Alvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2021 Meeting**

Cary Denison moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting. Bill Nesbitt seconded. Ryan Unterreiner requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect him as present at the March 15, 2021 meeting.

Cary Denison moved to change his motion to include the amendment. Bill Nesbitt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **River District Appointment (Kathleen Curry)**

Kathleen Curry discussed having Dave Kanzer serve on the GBRT as the River District representative, but the Bylaws state all members must be a resident of the basin, which Dave is not. Kathleen suggested the Roundtable consider the position open and ask the River District to appoint someone else. This is a technical issue regarding Bylaws, which reflect the statute. Becky Mitchell of the CWCB weighed in on the subject and stated she would like the Attorney General's office have a little time to look at it. Dave Kanzer stated the board at the River District understands the issue and would defer to the wishes of the Roundtable. John McClow stated he thinks there is time to look into the issue and Russ Sands said he would talk to the Attorney General's office and get back with the GBRT.

## **Elected Appointment Interviews (Mike Berry and Kathleen Curry)**

### **Specific Interest At-Large Seats**

Kathleen Curry announced the 5 seats having a specific interest were able to be filled in accordance with the Bylaws. A motion to approve is required by an appointed member, and only appointed members can vote. Those seats are:

- Cary Denison – Environmental
- Steve Anderson – Agricultural
- Neal Schwieterman - Recreation
- Jim Plumhoff – Industrial
- Adam Turner – Municipal

John McCloy moved to approve those five seats as At-Large members. Mike Berry seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Remaining At-Large Seats**

Kathleen Curry stated there are 6 applicants for the remaining 5 At-Large seats. One additional applicant, Robert Morris, withdrew. Some applicants are well-known. Justin Blair, Wendell Koontz, Bruce Bair, and Sonja Chavez all gave a short talk on their interests and why they applied. Steve Fletcher was excused from the meeting and applicant Shawn Labounty was also not present.

There will be an election for these five seats. Mike Berry will send out a google form ballot in the next 5 days and announce the results by June 1.

## **Report from the CWCB Representative (Steve Anderson)**

Steve Anderson reported there has not been a CWCB Board meeting since the last Roundtable meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday and Thursday of the current week. He stated he does not have anything to report but is interested in how the Roundtable feels about demand management. One of the topics at the CWCB meeting will be the feasibility of demand management.

## **Discussion with Becky Mitchell, CWCB Director**

Director Mitchell began by thanking members for work on the BIP updates, which are so critical to help meet future needs. She mentioned there have been benefits from the virtual meetings where a lot more people have been reached who may not have been.

Some upcoming dates she mentioned are a second Riverside Chat on June 8 and a public comment period on the water plan update in early- to mid-2022.

Director Mitchell discussed the status of step 2 of the demand management workplan, which focusses on the framework and strawman. She also touched on the Equity Taskforce, Code of Conduct policy, budget funding update, severance tax issues, the Senate Bill 240 watershed health program, and Colorado River and drought issues. Cary Denison asked Director Mitchell about whether the DWR has started a rule-making process for the Colorado Basin. She responded the intention of the State Engineer's office was to get out a plan fairly quickly and hopefully there will be some news coming out of the upcoming board meeting.

### **Proposed Code of Conduct**

Kathleen Curry asked Director Mitchell whether other Roundtables have adopted the Code of Conduct. The response was most have adopted it, but there has been a little push-back on best management practices and the criteria of showing up and attendance. Russ Sands responded at least 3 roundtables have adopted it.

The Roundtable members discussed the Code of Conduct. Some were concerned with another level and being told what to do, but felt it is a done deal and the roundtable must conform. Others felt it seemed harmless, there was nothing offensive, and may be a good guideline for some folks. Some members were concerned with section 4.

Mike Cleary moved to reject the entire section 4. Bill Nesbitt seconded. It was clarified the motion was to accept all but section 4 of the Code of Conduct. There were 12 no votes, and 6 yes votes. The motion failed.

Jonathan Houck moved to support the guidelines in full as presented. Cary Denison seconded. There were only 17 yes votes; 22 votes were needed. The motion failed.

Allen Distel moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed with 23 yes votes. The topic will go on the next agenda.

### **Demand Management Framework Discussion (Amy Ostdiek)**

Amy Ostdiek, CWCB, and Emily Zmak, CDR Associates, gave a presentation on the demand management framework.

There will be engagement opportunities including a survey, the EngageCWCB website at [www.enggecwcb.org/dm](http://www.enggecwcb.org/dm), workshops to be held on June 1 and June 14, and a listening session to be held on June 29.

### **Education Committee Report (Dave Kanzer)**

Dave Kanzer reported on the website, newsletter and social media. Kathleen's corner is the star of the newsletter. There are 450 subscribers. Dave also participates with the PEPO group on behalf of the Roundtable.

Other discussion included:

- Friends of Youth and Nature's year-end report indicated they reached almost 1,250 kids. He will post their report on the website.
- Martha Moore, who provides website and social media services, would like to move onto other things. Consequently, they will be looking for new vendor services. John McClow said complimented and thanked Martha on a great job.
- Dave said there will be a transition in his role, and introduced his colleague, Raquel Flinker, a staff engineer for the Colorado River District, who will participate as an interested party or liaison.
- Dave and Neal Schwieterman are working on the annual Education Action Plan, but it is not ready for review. It is due before the next Roundtable meeting but there will not be a lot of changes.
- Russ Sands discussed the PEPO workshop.

#### **IBCC Report (Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber, Cary Denison)**

Joanne Fagan said there was nothing new to report. The next IBCC meeting is on June 23. Cary Denison also had nothing to report. Mark Roeber was not present.

#### **BIP Update (Luke Gingerich)**

Luke Gingerich gave a status report on the BIP Update report. The last meeting was productive and they are moving along nicely with Volume 1 and are working on Volume 2. The project list is updated. He anticipates a draft available for the Roundtable in the June timeframe.

#### **Forest Health Study Outcome (General Contractor for CWCB Water Plan Update)**

Matt Lindburg with Brown and Caldwell gave an update on the forest health study being done in association with the BIP and water plan updates. They are also currently working on a white paper on the topic. The stated objective is to create alignment with respect to water-focused forest health related activities that are happening in each basin and how they integrate into the BIP and Water Plan updates.

## **Grant Review Committee Report**

Tom Alvey introduced 3 grant applications.

### Colorado Ag Water Alliance

Their request is for 3 different basins. They are asking for \$4,500 from basin funds from the Gunnison Basin. The funds are for outreach and education specifically to ag water users, especially concerning infrastructure, stream management, water quality and conservation. The Screening Committee recommends full funding of \$4,500 from basin funds and \$14,500 from state funds. The North Platte and South Platte Roundtables have also been asked for contributions.

Allen Distel moved to approve the request from Colorado Ag Water Alliance for \$4,500 from basin funds and \$14,500 from state funds for outreach and education to ag water users. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Town of Crested Butte

This application is for investigation and design for replacement of an outlet valve on Lake Irwin. The total expense for the design phase is \$145,000. The applicant is asking for \$50,000 from basin funds. They are asking for funding from other sources as well. The Screening Committee recommends \$25,000 from basin funds.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Screening Committee's recommendation for \$25,000 from basin funds for the Town of Crested Butte for investigation and design for replacement of an outlet valve on Lake Irwin. Michael Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Grand Mesa Water Users

This project is to improve efficiency and infrastructure on a complex system of a multitude of reservoirs and diversion ditches on the Grand Mesa. This request is for \$45,000 from basin funds and \$75,000 state funds. The total project cost is \$440,000. The Screening Committee recommends funding primarily the capacity surveys on the reservoirs as well as a couple of prototype sensor systems and a software program in the reduced amount of \$20,000 from basin funds and \$45,000 from state funds.

Austin Keiser moved to approve the Screening Committee's recommendation for \$20,000 from basin funds and \$45,000 from state funds for the Grand Mesa Water Users for capacity surveys on the reservoirs as well as a couple of prototype sensor systems and a software program. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Hannah Holm, Hutchins Water Center at CMU, announced their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum scheduled to be in person on November 3 and 4, 2021. There is a call for abstracts, and the theme is “Negotiating Resilience”. Information is on their website.

**Other Business**

Mike Berry reminded the statutory appointments they will be involved in the at large election. Statutory members can expect something soon.

**Future Meetings**

Sonja Chavez announced the Gunnison River Festival is scheduled for June 11-13, 2021. More information can be obtained at the Gunnison River Festival online.

Dave Kanzer announced the Gunnison Basin State of the River meeting is a webinar scheduled for June 10, 2021 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. It is not a roundtable-linked event. Information is on the website, and he will send out announcements as well.

The next regular Roundtable meeting is July 19, 2021. There was discussion about having an in-person meeting in Delta or Hotchkiss and 1 hour earlier start at 3:00 pm. Kathleen will look into available space.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



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Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Russ Sands will talk to the Attorney General's office regarding the appointment of Dave Kanzer, a non-resident of the basin, as a member of the GBRT.

Mike Berry will send out a google form ballot mid- to late week for the remaining At-Large seats, and he and Kathleen Curry will announce the results by June 1.

Kathleen Curry will look into finding a meeting space in Delta or Hotchkiss for an in-person meeting on July 19, 2021.