

IBCC SUBCOMMITTEE NOTES 3-31-22

The Interbasin Compact Committee met on March 31, 2022 to discuss concepts around a work plan. Identified co-chairs included Aaron Citron and Sean Cronin. Subcommittee meeting attendees included:

- Dan Gibbs
- Aaron Citron
- Lisa Darling
- Jeris Danielson
- Joanne Fagan
- Paul Bruchez
- Al Pfister
- Jackie Brown

Discussion was also supported by CWCB and DNR staff including Russ Sands and Kelly Romero-Heaney.

- Aaron discussed ideas he and Sean brainstormed for topics that could fit into a Work Plan. Sean could not attend but passed along input to recognize and frame that all IBCC conversations are really the “negotiations” contemplated in HB-1177 and that the intent of that language was to reflect IBCC members helping lead local discussions - something he added Russ George had also noted. This sentiment of the IBCC helping support local projects was echoed by others.
- There was an acknowledgement that, per discussions at the February IBCC meeting, issues pertaining to interstate negotiations, DCP and DM were not issues that would be within the work plan or purview of the IBCC. The IBCC could continue to get updates on these topics and IBCC could still focus on advancing good work/projects for Colorado including intrastate water security, drought management, or other supportive projects, etc.
- Aaron stepped through his ideas which included: developing a funding guidebook, innovation challenges, Transmountain Diversion review and Renewable Water Resources discussion, drought response and roundtable coordination, funding, supporting public engagement and other concepts. Conversations in some of these areas acknowledged work DNR and other agencies have done around funding, ideas around innovation challenges in the Water Plan and the existing Conceptual Framework as a tool. However, discussion around supporting local drought planning, projects and finding ways to make those projects happen were roundly supported as major focus areas for IBCC. Several ideas regarding implementation were noted including the following:
 - **PEPO Support** - Support public engagement /PEPO/bring in local voices to speak to IBCC. IBCC can be a venue for and help drive public engagement. This could be a productive area for intrastate conversations.
 - **CWCB Support** - Better support from IBCC to the CWCB Board and more clear connections among the CWCB, IBCC, and roundtables related to supporting the development of local projects. Also explore closer coordination with the CWCB board and meetings to collaborate and/or set-up an in-person IBCC meeting with roundtables. Replicate something like the C-9 summit annually. Identify where the new regional coordinators will play a regional support role and what that may entail.

- **Local Drought Planning Support** - Use the IBCC as a forum to prepare for a future with less water; IBCC could support research, analysis, digging into the BIP Project Lists and facilitating dialogues between basins around these issues and working together. How real are some of the basin projects and how can we advance the ones that are? IBCC is set up to be a place for dialogue which has been a more clear pathway and is what is best about IBCC having an opportunity to hear about how certain areas of the state are dealing with things. How basins are going to deal with less water - a “just transition to drought.” What are the tactics, what are the agreements that are going to come up with in their basins and how can IBCC help? IBCC can act as a conduit for projects to focus on drought planning.
- **Roundtable Project Funding Support** - Connect the roundtables through the IBCC with these top tier projects that could advance and get help on how to connect those projects to secure funding, recognizing that funding conversations can be complicated and sometimes volatile. At a minimum, help IBCC members understand the funding opportunities to help message them locally and connect roundtables to funding contacts. IBCC can be a conduit to funnel information to roundtables.
- **Roundtable Project Support** - What projects are shovel ready and how can IBCC work locally to make them happen - focussing the duties of IBCC to potentially include taking real steps to help advance locally identified projects. Work with roundtable chairs and vice chairs to help identify needs and possible solutions/support. This may also bring new ideas and lessons to the surface.
- **CWCB Drought Toolkit Support** - Help support CWCB efforts around the toolkit/Water Plan and make statewide tools useful at local levels or modify/create basin specific tools. Bring in other agencies to also talk about their efforts.
- **Forest Health and Watershed Health Support** - identifying what more IBCC could do to help basin conversations, the funding opportunities and where more could be done with the money that’s available.

The subcommittee wanted to bring this conversation back to the full IBCC to further conversations and understand if a work plan needs to be formalized and, if so, what goals there may be for 2022, 2023 or beyond.