

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Virtual and In-Person Meeting  
Roubideaux Room, 320 West 5th Street, Delta, CO  
July 18, 2022**

**Voting Members Present:**

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Justin Blair	At-Large Member
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishering	Montrose County
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	At-Large Member
Scott McInnis	Mesa County
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities

**Voting Members Excused/Absent:**

Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Vacant	At-Large Member
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District

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

Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD).

**Public:**

Luke Laurita (TU), Matt Lindberg (Brown & Caldwell Engineers), Shadi Nagati (CU Boulder), Karen Bailey (CU Facility), Randi Kim (City of GJ), Cheryl DeJulio (UVWUA), Steve Pope (UVWUA), Robert Sakata (South Platte RT), Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Chris Sturm (CWCB), Russ Sands (CWCB), Suzie Bilberry (Delta Conservation Dist), Matt Bliss (DiNatalie Water), Katie Jagt (Watershed Science & Design), Ken Curtis (Delores WCD), Dan Gibbs (DNR), Hannah Holm (American Rivers), Cindy McKee (GBRT Education Committee).

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Chairperson Steve Anderson.

**Roll Call/Introductions**

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

**Agenda Approval**

Steve Anderson stated a letter was received from the Upper Gunnison River WCD appointing Sonja Chavez to the Roundtable seat vacated by Julie Nania. The Roundtable will have to advertise for the at-large seat vacated by Sonja Chavez.

A motion was made and then seconded by Roundtable members to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from the May 16, 2022 Meeting**

Scott McInnis stated he missed roll call, but was present at the May 16, 2022, meeting and would like to be shown as present.

Sonja Chavez requested a correction to the minutes. She has not resigned from the Roundtable, but instead has taken over the Upper Gunnison River WCD seat vacated by Julie Nania.

Tom Alvey moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022, meeting as corrected. Austin Keiser seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Education Committee Report (Raquel Flinker)**

Raquel Flinker reported for the education committee. They have submitted the grant application for funds for the coming year. The request incorporates a newspaper campaign throughout the Gunnison basin. There were 6 papers targeted for a monthly advertisement with information on the Roundtable and how people can participate.

The CDPHE will provide training in Delta this week on Thursday on water and wastewater resiliency.

Cindy McKee will send out an invitation for the Education Committee meeting later this month.

### **Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)**

Tom Alvey stated there were no grant requests for this meeting, but a couple will be coming. There will be one from the Town of Crested Butte and another from three individual users who get water from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

There will be an increase to the funds to the basin part of the WSRF, bringing the account to about \$750,000. There also could be a dramatic increase in funding to both the state and basin accounts due to an unexpected amount of severance funds. The final approval by CWCB will be in September. If the Roundtable gets a replenishment there will be some good financial resources for distribution to basin agriculture infrastructure projects. Kathleen Curry also mentioned the topic of the interim water committee. Representatives Roberts and Catlin have agreed to run a bill to broaden the criteria for water plan grants. Tom Alvey pointed out these funding sources are not permanent and a more permanent solution for funding is needed.

### **Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (Steve Anderson)**

Steve Anderson reported on the CWCB meeting in Breckenridge. The board discussed drought resiliency. Staff will come back with more discussion at the meeting later this week. There was a water plan workshop and a discussion of the status of the water plan, which took up most of the second day of the meeting.

There were questions and discussion about the BOR's directive to both lower and upper basin states to have a plan in 60 days on how to save 2 to 4 million-acre feet of water. The upper basin states are in total agreement it is a lower-basin issue and the lower basin states should address the problem. Becky Mitchell is doing everything in her power to protect our water. The Roundtable discussed how to stay on top of this issue. Steve Anderson said he will communicate via email to everyone if something comes up which warrants it.

### **Interbasin Compact Committee Report (Joann Fagan, Mark Roeber)**

Kathleen Curry reported on the meeting. The CWCB is getting closer to hiring the water plan grant coordinators. The coordinator handling the Gunnison Basin would also be responsible for the Yampa, White, Green and the Colorado mainstem. They are hiring only 4 people statewide, not one for every basin. This person will help with grant applications and be a liaison between state and local water users.

In other discussions the roundtables talked about their reviewing process of projects for funding, which are similar to the GBRT process. They talked about the BOR's demand for 2 - 4 million acre foot curtailment in consumptive use. They discussed the completion of the Water Plan, which is a huge achievement.

Andy Mueller spoke at the meeting. He said there has been discussion with the lower basin ag sector about doing temporary loans. He said everyone needs to be thinking about more permanent use reductions and if the west slope must reduce water use, the front range needs to reduce water use too.

Joanne Fagan discussed Becky Mitchell's presentation on what is happening with the BOR and the upper and lower basins.

Director Dan Gibbs added one of the big highlights was at end of the meeting he challenged each basin representative to get a meaningful project off the ground and said there were good commitments to do this within a year. He is excited about the 4 regionally based staff who will be working with the local communities, counties, and municipalities to provide technical help to get projects off the ground. When asked what kind of project, Director Gibbs stated it is not specific, just a water project in the basin to work toward getting the water plan goals implemented.

#### **City of Grand Junction (Matt Bliss, DiNatale Water Consultants)**

Randy Kim, City of Grand Junction, gave a background on their proposed water storage facility projects for future supplementation of their existing water supply. Matt Bliss, DiNatale Water Consultants, gave presentation on the project. They are asking for \$265,000 from Colorado water plan grant funds. Grand Junction is contributing \$95,000. The project is for engineering and water rights for two new reservoirs to be created by converting mined gravel pits. The project will yield about 1,700 AF of storage. They are asking for a letter of support for their water storage project grant application.

Kathleen Currey asked where Clifton and Orchard Mesa stand on the project. Orchard Mesa is on board, and Clifton is evaluating.

Tom Alvey moved for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to provide a letter of support to the City of Grand Junction for their water storage project grant application. Austin Keiser seconded. Kathleen Curry opposed. The motion passed.

#### **Gunnison County Electric (Matt Feier)**

Steve Pope, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, said they are proposing to put a power plant at the Taylor Park Reservoir. They are looking for a letter of support for their grant application. The plant will be about 500 KW. It will service the local community in the area. The grant they are seeking is a federal WaterSmart grant for \$2 M. The total project cost will be around \$3 M. Bill Nesbitt stated the Upper Gunnison discussed this project some time ago and is supportive.

Nancy Fishing moved to provide a letter of support to Gunnison County Electric for their WaterSmart grant application. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously

### **Colorado River Issue (Amy Ostdiek)**

Amy Ostdiek was not present to give this presentation.

### **Wildfire Ready Watershed (Chris Sturm)**

Chris Sturm, with the CWCB, gave a presentation on a new program called Wildfire Ready Watersheds. This is a legislative directive from Senate Bill 21-240. The purpose is to plan and implement mitigation strategies to minimize impacts before wildfires occur.

For more information the website is [www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com](http://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com).

### **Colorado Water Plan (Russ Sands)**

Russ Sands gave an update on the Colorado Water Plan. The Water Plan was launched on June 30. There is a 90-day public comment period, which will run through September 30. They have received valuable feedback. To give feedback go to [www.engagecwcw.org](http://www.engagecwcw.org) and fill out a survey. There will be listening sessions over the next 90 days in 4 areas, all online. After the comment period the comments will be incorporated and a final Water Plan will be submitted in January for board approval.

Russ said there is now online access to apply for grants. Approval can be done digitally by 2 members of the Roundtables.

Russ introduced Jeff Rodriquez as the CWCB Liaison to the GBRT.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Other Business**

Mike Berry discussed the open at-large seat which will need to be advertised.

Tom Alvey mentioned there is still no River District representative. Raquel Flinker is not in the district. John McClow concluded it is a legal thing, but Tom believes other basins have elected to ignore that. It will be investigated and put on the next agenda.

Bill Nesbitt stated he would like advanced notice on the next meeting. Mike Berry offered to put out an invite to put on people's calendar.

Steve Anderson discussed whether the meeting should now be moved back to Holiday Inn Express in Montrose. However, the hotel has just changed owners and the room may not be available long-term and the virtual platform is not as simple the Delta location. It was decided the next meeting will once again be in Delta.

**Future Meetings**

Colorado River District Board meeting July 19-20, 2022.

IBCC Meeting October 25, 2022, from 8:30-12:30. Location still TBD.

The next regular Roundtable meeting is September 19, 2022, 3:00 pm, Roubideaux Room, Delta

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', is written above a horizontal line.

Mike Berry, Recorder

**Action Items**

Advertise for the At-Large seat vacated by Sonja Chavez.

Provide a letter of support to the City of Grand Junction for their water storage project grant application.

Provide a letter of support to Gunnison County Electric for their WaterSmart grant application.