

## Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables

### Rio Grande Basin Roundtable

#### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday Nov.8, 2022 at 2:00pm

RGWCD

8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO

#### **Call to Order**

Nathan Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were Nathan Coombs (CWCD), Emma Reesor (Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project/Vice President), Judy Jolly (Ag Member At-Large), Heather Dutton (CWCB/SLVWCD), Nikita Cooper (Rio Grande County Representation/Roundtable Secretary), Cassandra McCuen (RGWCD), Jim Ehrlich (Alamosa County), Travis Smith (Reservoirs), Michael Carson (City of Alamosa), Amber Pacheco (RGWCD), Cary Aloia (Environmental Representative), Judy Lopez (Trinchera), Anna Greenburg (NRCS/Bird Conservancy), Jenny Nehring (Wetland Dynamics), Payton Valentine (CWCD), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Ryan Unterriener (CPW), Keith Holland (Ag Water User), Kevin Terry (Trout Unlimited/Recreation representative), Rio de La Vista, Virginia Christensen (Water Users at Large), Erin Minks (Senator Bennet), Cindy Medina (Alamosa River Keepers), Craig Cotton (DWR), Tim Lovato (Saguache County Commissioner/Saguache County Representative), Wayne Schwab, Hannah Thrill (RGWCEI), Peter Clark (Ag Water User), Cathy Moran (RiGHT), Rose Vanderpool (RGWCD), Jenny Knoblauch, Connor Born (RGHRP), Erin McWilliams (RGHRP), Alex Funk (TCU), Chuck Finnegan, Ethan Franke, Joel Nystrom (COL), Joshua Godwin, Michael Gibson, Clair Catlit, Kylie Greg, and Josh Arber (Acacia Association).

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes from the October 11, 2022 were approved as presented.

#### **Public Comment**

- Travis Smith announced that the USDA Forest Service has signed an agreement with National Turkey Federation for master stewardship.
- Emma Reesor gave a quick update on PEPO and the Education committee. It has been a busy year for the education committee. The Education committee retreat will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022.
- Amber Pacheco gave a brief update on the subdistrict statuses in the San Luis Valley. Cleave and Chris are on their way to Monte Vista, to sign the first Groundwater Conservation for Subdistrict 4. Subdistrict 1 still working on plan of water management.

5. Anna Greenburg, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies/NRCS discussed her project on the Conejos River Restoration Project which is a comprehensive approach to restoration. They are in the planning phase of the project using the water supply grant for funding. Judy moved to approve the letter of support. Kevin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. Peyton Valentine Conejos Water Conservancy District discussed their project on Snowmelt Forecasting Project Request. The goal of this project is to develop 3D mapping for the basin that will feed into the forecasting in the Spring. This type of forecasting has been done in other areas, but this project will develop more detailed forecasting. The budget is \$157,000 with SLVWCD, RGWCD, CWCD providing matching funds. Jim moved to support the project. Keith seconded the motion and the motion carried.

8. Emma Reesor, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Foundation presented their project on the Anaconda Ditch. The Anaconda project is part of a larger Water Plan Grant, however the needs on this ditch surpassed the original grant project. The ditch currently has an aging headgate, debris, a boating hazard, and is very inefficient. Project consists of new concrete headgate, moving hazard, riverbank restoration, adding automation. The funding request from the Basin Roundtable is \$60,000 with the remainder of the budget as a match. Judy moved to approve the funding, Virginia seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Jeff Rodriguez shared some CWCB updates and announced that Loura Stands is the new Regional Roundtable Coordinator. Basin has \$1 million with \$17,000 of stimulus fund in basin account. WSRF deadline is December 1 and Water Plan Grant Deadline is December 1. WSRF fund has \$11 million.

Anna Mauss gave an overview of the CWCB Grant Portal. She also mentioned that there are now Local Capacity building grants. She clarified that the WSRF deadline for state funding is reviewed at any state board meeting but must be received by the local roundtable, 90 days prior to the board meeting.

Theresa Jehn-Dellaport with Quantum Water and Environment and Saguache County gave an overview of their project. Tim Lovato noted that the Saguache County Commissioners are working to tighten up their 1041 regulations, but they need to have a better understanding of the water and hydrology of the area. The project is in the beginning phases.

Alex Funk gave an update on TRCP State and Federal Funding. He presented a “roadmap for federal funding”. He noted that the Bureau of Reclamation and EPA websites have helpful links for the infrastructure funds. TRCP has done a survey to find the barriers to secure infrastructure funds. Capacity is the major issue for most entities. It was noted that capacity building, project development, partnerships to build project size are important elements to build projects that are funded.

Todd Dogherty and Rio de la Vista presented on the Water Smart Grant Presentation. The grant is to analysis what the water market in the valley is and how to create a market. A list of funders and Steering Committee was included in the presentation. This project is to help secure water within our basin and address issues within the valley including scarcity. Community input is key for this project. The project sponsor and grantee is the RGWCD.

Craig Cotten gave an update on the compact meetings as well as delivery for the 2022 water year. Irrigation season ended November 1, 2022. He also noted that the Division has several open positions including assistance division engineer and a Water Commissioner Position.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.