

Interbasin Compact Committee  
**Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting**  
Hybrid Meeting from Dolores Water Conservancy District  
Cortez, Colorado  
October 27, 2022

**Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	At Large Member-Industrial	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Geoff Burbey	La Plata WCD	Pete Nylander*	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Peter Butler	La Plata County	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Randy Carver	Montezuma County	Gretchen Rank	At Large Member
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Buck Skillen	At Large Member
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Member-Recreation	Aimee Tooker*	Montrose County
Karen Guglielmone*	San Miguel Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Jim Wells*	San Miguel WCD
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipalities	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District
Dave Kanzer	Colorado River WCD	Adrian Bergere	At-Large Member
Gary Kennedy*	Mancos Water Conservancy		
Rich Landreth*	Montezuma Municipalities		

**Public:**

Steve Anders\* (US Geological Survey Liaison), `Adrian Bergere (San Miguel Watershed Coalition), Mickey O'Hara\* (The Nature Conservancy), Robert Sakata\* (South Platte Basin Roundtable), Lori Schell\* (Empowered Energy), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District), Wendy Weygandt (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, Recorder), Warren Rider (Rider Resources/Animas Watershed), Danielle Snyder (Brown & Caldwell), Shirley Sells (Florida Ditch Company), George Gavrielides (Southern Ute), Daren Rowley (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Linnea Spears-Lebrin (SWCA), Peter Ortega\* (UMUT), Ian Rogers\* (J-U-B Engineers), Greg Vlaming\* (Public), Haley Farwell\* (Public), Carrie Padgett\* (Durango Water), Jeff Deems\* (ASO, Inc.), Bob Wolff (ALP WCD), Chuck Wanner (4CBCH), Sara Burch (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Steve Preston\* (UMUT & Rocky Mountain Restoration), Elaine Chick (Water Information-PEPO Liaison), Ryan Unterreiner\* (Colorado Parks & Recreation), Jeff Rodriguez (Colorado Water Conservation Board)

\*Indicates Zoom Participant

**1. Introductions & Review Agenda**

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. At-Large Elections**

Candidates:

- Adrian Bergere, San Miguel Watershed
- Rica Fulton, Dolores River Boating
- Warren Rider, Rider Water
- Lori Schell, Empower Energy
- Danielle Snyder, Brown & Caldwell

Vote was taken. Adrian Bergere was elected to replace Gigi Richard's At Large position.

#### **4. Administrative Reports**

##### **Review and Approval Minutes**

Brandon Johnson moved to approve the July 28 Roundtable minutes. Al Pfister seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

##### **Officer Reports**

Celene Hawkins (CWCB) raised the issue of CWCB staff interpretation of the criteria for approving the watershed/environmental/recreation Colorado Water Plan grants. She was concerned that the staff interpretation that a SMP/IWMP or other watershed planning process was required before moving projects forward and using Water Plan grants to leverage the unprecedented federal funding into our basin (as we have many tributaries and limited overall capacity to advance SMP/IWMPs across all of our basins at once). The Roundtable members expressed (1) concern about the length of time that it takes to do watershed/SMP/IWMP work and limited capacity to advance these plans in all of our tributaries at the same time; (2) questions about whether other portions of the Water Plan funding are subject to similar planning requirements; (3) concerns that this could disadvantage or prevent state and federal funds (especially ones that are time-limited) from going to good projects (and thoughts that there could be other ways for an applicant to demonstrate that projects are meeting a real need and stakeholder engagement. Celene Hawkins was going to take the Roundtable suggestions back to CWCB.

##### **Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative Representative**

The Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative is the collaborative between the *National Wild Turkey Federation* and *US Forest Service* to increase the resilience of forests, habitat, communities, recreation, and water resources on private and public forested lands within the state of Colorado. SW Colorado was selected as the focal area in the state.

Mike Preston is stepping down as SW Colorado Steering Committee Member-Water Representative and made a recommendation that Ed Tolen replace him. Ed Tolen asked the Roundtable membership if there was anyone that would like to represent the water community on the collaborative. Carolyn Dunmire indicated that she would like to be the representative. There was consensus from the Roundtable for Carolyn to be the new representative.

##### **Basin WSRF Fund Balance**

The WSRF Basin Fund balance is \$1,000,000 (includes \$75,577 stimulus funds)

Each basin received \$1,000,000 dollars.

The goal of SWBRT is to spend down to below \$750,000 by the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. CWCB will then replenish the Basins WSRF account back to \$750,000.

#### **5. Public Education, Participation & Outreach (PEPO) Liaison Report-Elaine Chick**

- The PEPO grant has not been confirmed. Elaine has not seen funding in over four months. She is working with Ben Wade, CWCB for grant confirmation and transfer of funds.
- 2022 Southwest Basin Mini Tour via a collaboration between Water Education Colorado and SWBRT invited 12 individuals for a day long tour that highlighted various topics: the Colorado Water Plan, the Basin Implementation Plan, Animas-La Plata Tribute Garden, La Plata West Water Authority Pump Station, the Mancos river restoration McElmo Flume, Ute Mountain Farm and Ranch and Benthic Macroinvertebrates at Rotary Park
- Southwestern Water Conservation District's Annual Water Seminar taking place at the Sky Ute Casino Resort on March 31, 2023 (*MARK YOUR CALENDARS*)

- “Water in a Nutshell” held at Fort Lewis 10/26/2022 was a sell out
- Elaine was asked to the Water Congress in January 2023 to highlight the Rising Rivers Stewards children’s activity book, which was sponsored by SWCD.
- Elaine Chick shared the newly designed website that showcases the Southwest Basins Roundtable in depth version, which will replace the single Roundtable page that is currently on the WIP website. The draft can be reviewed at: <https://southwestbadev.wpengine.com/about/>

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Suggestion to add Bylaw and list of Roundtable members and emails to the “Who We Are”: Main Page
2. List agencies that are applying for grants
3. Everyone from the SWBRT was asked to share at least one photo
4. Link IPPs under Water Plan.

**6. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update-Jeff Rodriguez**

● **Water Plan Update**

- Jeff Rodriguez reported that CWCB had filled each Roundtable WSRF account to \$1,000,000 as a temporary increase to each basin.
- Three years of WSRF funding will be held in reserve; in case severance tax income is reduced again.
- Brought back a statewide account to offer \$11 million on aging infrastructure and drought resilience; first deadline December 1 (paper copy will be utilized until online version is finalized)
- Statewide requests will be accepted at each deadline
- PEPO was awarded up to a \$1 million dollars statewide for statewide PEPO activities.
- CO Ag Water Alliance is offering Water plan funds; new funds for landowners for drought contingency
- SAVE THE DATE: January 24- A Water Plan Event is intended to bring roundtables and other water related entities together. This VIP event location is to be determined-but will likely be held in Denver. Awards will celebrate exemplary progress on water issues. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.
- CWCB created a new role of water plan coordinators to assist entities to navigate new funding opportunities. Laura Spann was hired as the SW Basin and Rio Grande Basin representative. She will help with water plan grants. This new position will evolve over time-Laura starts November 28.
- Funds to pay the Recorder increased to \$6,500 annually
- \$75,000 stimulus funds have to be spent down by May 2023
- Colorado Ag Funds -CAWA grant will provide \$10-\$40K seed money to smaller users; the deadline to apply is December 1.
- Robert Sakata shared a link: <https://www.coagwater.org/federal-technical-assistance>
- CWCB has earmarked funds that will help:
  - i. Entities to hire their own contractors to expand capacity and go after federal funds
  - ii. Entities to contract directly with CWCB to provide assistance to go after federal funds.

## **7. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update-Al Pfister**

- The latest IBCC meeting was on Tuesday, October 25th in Winter Park. Our members all attended by Zoom. The IBCC members went around the room highlighting what has been going on at their Roundtables. CWCB staff presented information on the Colorado River issues. Discussed capacity building opportunities. Also discussed setting up coalitions to develop Stream Management Plans.

## **8. Bylaws Revision Subcommittee -Steve Harris**

- Bylaw changes were mostly clean up. These changes were highlighted in yellow on the copies provided on the website.
- The Super Majority definition and reference- of 75% of the members present was defined in Article III, Section 19 and Article V, Section 4.
- Although the Annual Meeting is typically held in July, a revision to the bylaws Article VIII, Section 1 notes that shall be held at the **third** meeting of the year. Election of officers will be held at this third meeting.
- Article IX, Section 2 (A & D) of the Bylaws was changed to reflect the following:
  - (A) There shall be two individuals elected as Representatives of the Roundtable on the IBCC, and a third individual to serve as an alternate. The two representatives shall serve staggered two year terms and the alternate shall serve a two year term.
  - (D) At the Annual Meeting one of the IBCC Representatives shall be elected each year. The alternate shall be elected on each even numbered year.
- Steve Harris made a motion to accept the changes in the bylaws, 2nd by Brandon Johnson; it passed with full consensus.
- Steve Harris made a motion to accept the term limits and change to the 2nd by Al Pfister; it passed with full consensus.

## **9. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee-Ken Curtis**

Michelle Garrison and Amy Ost diek reported on the Upper Basin's 5 Point Plan-working on projects; but none are currently complete and the 500+ Plan.

Taylor Adams, Hydros talked about the Phase 3 Risk Study that is still a work in progress.

Kevin Rein, State Engineer coming down in January..

## **10. Projects Subcommittee**

- Director Gibbs created an action item for Interbasin Compact Committees to engage their groups in developing water projects. Without a defined roadmap to accomplish this goal, some questions have arisen:
  - How to prioritize projects? Should each sub-basin identify a project individually or should the subcommittee bring recommendations to the Roundtable for approval?
  - How to get federal money spent?
  - How to engage groups that are underutilized?
- It was suggested that current projects on the IPP list be considered. Perhaps the committee could prioritize 2-3 projects and bring them to a special Roundtable meeting to review . Chair Tolen suggested that due to the available funding, this might be the time to add new projects in the sub-basin that are not on the IPP list. The IPP form can be found on the website and completed forms could be forwarded to Chair Tolen to be added to the current list.
- Comment was made that Red Mesa Reservoir could be a priority. It currently has a state engineer restriction. NRCS funding is pending; and if approved could require a 25% match. Perhaps next Spring would be the best time to ask for funding.

- Carrie Padgett shared via email: “How to add projects to the IPP and CWCB”

To help project proponents manage their proposed projects, CWCB developed the Projects Database. They’ve moved the list online and have made it available to the public. The link to the database is a bit tricky to find on their [engagecwcb.org](https://engagecwcb.org) site, but here is [a link](#) to the main page. The database can be found by clicking “[CWCB has a new Project Database.](#)” From here you’d click on the button “[Basin Identified Projects](#)” to either update an existing project or add a new project. To add something new, first click on “[Add or Update Project.](#)” Next, click on the blue button “[Propose Project.](#)” This page will walk to you through a series of input pages similar to the form I had you fill out in the past.

## 11. WSRF Grant Requests

- Dolores Water Conservancy District (\$47,000)
- Florida Consolidated Ditch Company (\$9,000), **(Revised: \$45,000)**
- Mancos Conservation District (\$100,000 Roundtable, \$306,013 Statewide)
- Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company (\$45,000)
- Pagosa Springs (\$100,000 Roundtable, \$675,000 Statewide)

All five grant applications were approved with the stipulation that Florida Consolidated Ditch Company resubmits the paperwork for the revised \$45,000 and Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company submits a Questionnaire.

## 12. Upcoming Events

- December 19, 2022–WSRF Grant Applications Due for January 2023 Meeting
- January 19, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards (hybrid from Cortez), **Changed due to conflict with Colorado Water Congress Annual Conference**
- March 27, 2023-WSRF Grant Applications Due for April 2023 Meeting.
- April 27, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards (hybrid from Durango) Durango Recreational Center
- June 26, Upcoming Elections IBCC
  - Al Pfister, March 2023
  - Ken Curtis, July 2023
- 2023-WSRF Grant Applications Due for July 2023 Meeting.
- July 27, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant awards (hybrid from Cortez)
- September 25, 2023-WSRF Grant Application Due for October 2023 Meeting.
- October 26, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards (hybrid from Durango)
- Other Announcements

## 13. Wrap UP and Adjournment (At or Before 6:00 PM)

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

