

## November 28, 2022 CBRT Minutes.

Recorder: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, [ken@kenransford.com](mailto:ken@kenransford.com).

1. **CBRT Members Present:** Paul Bruchez, Stan Cazier, Kristin Kurath, Kelly McNicholas Kury, Diane Johnson, April Long, Ed Moyer, Ken Ransford, Charles Spickert, Jason Turner, Peggy Bailey, Jeff Bandy, James Dilzell, Kathy Kitzman, Zach Margolis, Maria Pastore, Carlyle Currier, Richard Van Gytenbeek, Nathan Bell, Guy Walker, Greg Williams
2. **Guests:** Tina Bergonzini, Lyzzi Bork, Abby Burk, Claire Carroll, Austin Corona, Angie Fowler, Kendra Fuller, Taylor Furrh, Luke Gingerich, Alyson Gould, Eric Heil, Hannah Holm, Bailey Leppek, Don Metzler, Dave Payne, Tessa Peters, Jeff Rodriguez, Wendy Ryan, Paula Stepp, Lisa Tasker, Mely Whiting, Ty Jones
3. **Jeff Rodriguez, CWCB report.** Regional coordinators have been hired; Ashley Garrison has been hired to work with the Colorado Basin, Yampa-White-Green and Gunnison Basin Roundtables. The coordinators will assist with Water Plan Grant applications.

All grant applications must be submitted through the CWCB Grant Portal.

The Roundtables each have \$1 million for WSRF Grants.

The statewide fund has \$11m. The first grant deadline is December 1, 2022. Grants will be reviewed and awarded at every CWCB meeting.

Each roundtable received \$200,000 in Stimulus Funds; the CBRT still has \$140,200 left, and Basin grant requests come out of this money first. Stimulus funds need to be allocated by the CWCB by its May meeting.

4. **Request for Letter of Support for Town of Avon Irrigation System Grant-Eric Heil, Town of Avon; Patty McKenny, Town of Avon.**

Town of Avon is seeking up to \$300,000 in Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan: Conservation & Land Use Grant Program funding with up to a \$120,000 local match to design and engineer a new irrigation system for Harry A. Nottingham Park and its surrounding streetscape. The existing irrigation system was installed 30 years ago and has outlived its useful life. Leakage from the irrigation system is responsible for the loss of up to 4.3 million gallons of water each season (mid-May through October). Replacing the irrigation system will advance the Colorado Water Plan goal to achieve 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water conservation by 2050.

The Roundtable voted unanimously to provide a letter of support.

5. **Request for Letter of Support for Fish Passage on Elk and Canyon Creeks Grant-Richard Van Gytenbeek, Trout Unlimited**

The goal is to eliminate physical barriers to fish passage in Elk and Canyon Creeks so that trout can migrate up from the Colorado River. Proponents work with landowners to modify irrigation structures, which could include rock ramps, or replacing the structure. Both Elk and Canyon Creeks are perennial streams with excellent rainbow and brown trout habitat. Every stream is blocked by irrigation diversions. Both streams exhibit amazing habitat, with high flows in the spring and low flows in the summer and fall. To date a fish passage channel on the Ware and Hinds Ditch on Elk Creek. They have identified 25 structures in Middle Colorado tributaries in the watershed plan. The Roundtable asked whether the landowners were supportive and whether any additional public access would be available. Richard indicated that yes, the landowners were supportive but that no additional public access would be made available.

The Roundtable voted unanimously to provide the letter of support.

6. **Request for Letter of Support for RiversEdge West Riparian Restoration Grant—Rusty Lloyd.**

The Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative's vision is to foster enhanced coordination, planning, and collaboration on river corridor related activities within the Grand Valley River Corridor to support a healthy, resilient, and economically vibrant river corridor which the community values and to which it feels is connected.

The Roundtable voted unanimously to provide the letter of support.

7. **Request for Letter of Support Alternative Forage Crop Grant-Hannah Holm, American Rivers**

This study will capitalize on the growing interest in understanding the potential for alternative less water intensive forage crops through a large scale research project. The project will focus on how best to establish Kernza, and two varieties of intermittent wheatgrass.

The Roundtable voted unanimously to provide the letter of support.

8. **Initial Discussion for Proposed WSRF Funding for Roan Creek Fish Barrier Project--Paula Stepp, Middle Colorado Watershed Council.**

This project would create a fish barrier on Roan Creek to stop predation on cutthroat trout by impeding passage of non-native sport fish.

Concerns were raised by the Roundtable regarding costs and whether natural materials could be used rather than concrete, and how long the project might last due to erosion and the dynamic nature of Roan Creek. The proponents indicated

that these issues have been looked at and they believe they have the best design for this location. The proponents plan to return to the Roundtable in January to request WSRF funding.

9. **WSRF Funding Request for Grand Valley Roller Dam Headworks Replacement Project-Tina Bergonzini, GVWUA; Mark Harris, GVWUA**

The Headworks Replacement Project replaces and repairs existing physical irrigation infrastructure in the Grand Valley Project and the Roller Dam Canyon facilities which were constructed in the early 1900s. This project would replace headgate structure and replace the gates resulting in overall water savings which would benefit the 15 Mile Reach as well as improve efficiencies for the irrigators that rely on the project. The project is currently budgeted at \$8M. GVWUA plans to seek \$2M in Statewide WSRF funding which will require a 10% match from the CBRT WSRF Funds or \$200K. This was a Tier 1 Project under the CBRT BIP and numerous letters of support have been submitted.

April Long made a motion to approve the \$200,000 grant request, and Stan Cazier seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Crystal River Augmentation Study Update—Wendy Ryan, Colorado River Engineering**

Wendy Ryan of Colorado River Engineering provided an update on the Crystal River augmentation study which was partially funded by the CBRT helped fund. In 2018 the Division of Water resources as a result of a call from agricultural rights on the Crystal determined that certain sub-divisions, private residence, and municipal water providers, junior to the call needed to obtain an augmentation source. The study has identified the quantity of junior depletions that would be out of priority either due to a call by irrigators or the instream-flow. This amount is approximately 100 A.F. Although over half-of that amount is attributable to two structures. Potential solutions being considered include the expansion or use of existing storage structures (no new on-channel reservoirs are being considered), conversion of historic use credits, and acquirer recharge/natural infrastructure.

Some concerns were raised with how this might impact and proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers designation. It was pointed out that a similar situation arose in Summit County but ultimately a source of augmentation water was secured. It was also noted that due to the drought both the Yampa and White Rivers have come under administration for the first time.

11. **Discussion of the BIP and the Roll of the CBRT--Roundtable Discussion.**

The Chair started a discussion regarding the role of the Roundtable was in advocating for or moving projects forward that were included in the recent updated BIP. It was indicated that at the last IBCC meeting, every Roundtable was asking the same question. Overall there seems to be some projects that have strong proponents but other projects that are worthy of funding might lack proponents. It

was determined that periodic updates from the regional leads in each sub-basin would be helpful in identifying projects that could use some assistance.

12. **WSRF Grant Review Process—Roundtable Discussion**

WSRF grant requests to the Roundtable previously required 2 steps, first presented to the Next Steps committee, then a presentation to the Roundtable as a whole, prior to being recommend to the CWCB for funding. After discussion it was determined that the CBRT would take up WSRF Grant requests at all its regular meetings, eliminating the review by the Next Steps Committee.