

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
Roubideaux Room, 320 West 5th Street, Delta, CO
January 16, 2023**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Bobbie Daniel	Mesa County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishing	Montrose County
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	At-Large Member
John McCloy	House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
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:

Justin Blair	At-Large Member
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Public:

Hannah Holm (American Rivers), Ashley Garrison (CWCB), Montana Cohn (Rivers Edge West), Cindy Dozier (Club 20, RMRI, COFWA), Todd King (Otter Pond HOA), Amy King, Kathy and Tim Heavers (Otter Pond), Craig Ullmann (Applegate Group), Mike Lane (Delta County), Erik Skeie (CWCB), Jeff Deems (ASOINC), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Ken Curtis (Delores WCD), Luke Laurita (TU), Paul Kehmeier (CO Dept Ag), Robert Sakata (SPRRT), Suzie Bilberry (Delta Conservation District), Kyle Vandenberg (Redlands Water and Power), Dave Kanzer (CRWCD), Chuck Garber.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wendell Koontz.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Later in the meeting Bobbie Daniel, Commissioner from Mesa County, introduced herself.

Agenda Approval

Allen Distel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the November 21, 2022 Meeting

Sonja Chavez requested a change to the minutes to reflect the correct amount of funding for PEPO was \$25,000.

Tom Alvey moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting as corrected. Allen Distel seconded and the motion passed. Bill Nesbitt abstained.

Education Committee Report (Cindy McKee)

Cindy McKee reported on the Education Committee activities.

The education grant program has been launched. The grant is available to anyone providing water education for K-12th grade. Each entity can apply for and receive up to \$1,500. Applications are due by February 17, and grantors will be notified by March 1. There is a total of \$8,000 available.

The newspaper campaign will be launched this spring.

Cindy announced she is leaving her position with the Education Committee but will stay for as long as it takes to replace her.

Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)

Tom Alvey introduced two projects for Roundtable action.

a. Stewart Mesa Canal Diversion Modification and Restoration Project – Trout Unlimited

This is a request from Trout Unlimited for \$30,000 Basin and \$275,000 State funding for the completion of the Stewart Mesa Headgate project. The project is to modify and reconfigure the Stewart Mesa headgate diversion out of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The Screening Committee recommends approval of \$30,00 Basin and \$275,000 State funding.

Mark Roeber moved to approve the request from Trout Unlimited for \$30,000 Basin and \$275,000 State funding for the completion of the Stewart Mesa Headgate Project. Bill Nesbitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Otter Pond Dam - Otter Pond HOA

This is a request from Otter Pond HOA for \$30,000 Basin and \$412,000 State funding for the repair of Otter Pond Dam. The Screening Committee recommendation is split between approval of \$50,000 Basin and \$250,000 State vs no funding because this is not a water supply issue. The Roundtable discussed the project and their concerns and a modified amount of funding was recommended.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the request for \$15,000 from Basin and \$150,000 from State funds. Tom Alvey seconded.

After more discussion, Jonathan Houck moved to postpone the item until clarity on what the State would say about the legal status of the dam is understood. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried.

At the next meeting there will be a request from the Town of Crested Butte, and potentially another project.

Tom Alvey discussed the funds available in the Basin account. The GBRT will have to spend \$550,000 by June to get fully replenished.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (Steve Anderson)

Steve Anderson stated the next CWCB meeting is next week, and he had nothing additional to report.

Interbasin Compact Committee Report (Joann Fagan, Mark Roeber)

Joanne Fagan stated that they have not met, and she had no report.

RiversEdge West (Montana Cohn)

Montana Cohn with RiversEdge West is asking for a letter of recommendation for their project, which is focused on two parcels of land along the Uncompahgre River owned by the City of Montrose. RiversEdge West, formerly known as the Tamarisk Coalition, does restoration of rivers through removal of invasive species. Restoration is planned for the two parcels through the removal of invasive plant species, primarily Russian Olive, and the active revegetation of native, desirable species. Removal is slated to be completed by Conservation Corps crews and revegetation to be completed through a robust volunteer program, enhancing 8 acres of riparian habitat. This work has pending grant applications with the Colorado River District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Additional in-kind match will be provided by RiversEdge West and the City of Montrose.

Tom Alvey moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable provide a letter of support for RiversEdge West's restoration project. Nancy Fishing seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ashley Garrison, New Regional Water Plan Grant Manager for CWCB

Ashley Garrison is the new Regional Water Plan Grant Manager for our region. Ashley was hired in mid-December. She is currently reviewing grant applications submitted at the last meeting and then will be reporting to CWCB Board. Her background is grant management with forest projects. She lives in Summit County.

CWCB Updates (Jeff Rodriguez)

Jeff Rodriguez discussed the following January CWCB updates:

- There will be a Water Plan Celebration on January 24, 2023 in downtown Denver from 4:30-9:00 pm.
- Reminders about the Regional WPG Managers, Governor's Budget Proposal, and HB22-1379 accepting applications.
- Basin Hero Awards voting is open until tomorrow. These awards are to reward people for exemplary service and will be recognized at the Water Plan Celebration.

- Funding updates on WSRF Statewide Grants, Basin Requirement $\geq 10\%$ Project Cost, FAQ and Other Tools Coming, Other Funding Resources, and Wildfire Ready Watersheds.

Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement (Dave Kanzer)

Dave Kanzer introduced Jeff Deems and Erik Skeie, who gave a presentation on the Colorado Airborne Snow Observatory. Discussion was on the purpose of snowpack measurements and utilizing airborne laser altimetry (lidar) measurements for more accurate data.

Drought Plan Program (Raquel Flinker)

Raquel Flinker discussed a couple of funding opportunities.

- There is a drought plan program funding opportunity, specific for producers to create drought plans. The funding is for up to \$1,000. Applications are due January 23.
- Water Now Alliance has a project accelerator for public drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater agencies for technical assistance. That deadline is the beginning of February.

Anyone interested should send an email to Raquel for more information.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business

Cary Denison asked if the RFP that was recently released by the Upper Colorado River Commission for system conservation was being discussed. Steve Anderson stated it is on the CWCB agenda. Hannah Holm gave a few details and stated the applications are due February 1.

Steve Anderson discussed the current snowpack.

Sonja Chavez announced the Upper Gunnison has completed their wildfire zones of concerns assessments and the corresponding geofluvial assessments. There will be a presentation on January 30, at 6:00 pm at their board of directors meeting. Sonja will send an invite to the Roundtable and will also give a presentation at the March meeting.

Future Meetings

The next regular Roundtable meeting is March 20, 2023, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm, at the Montrose County Events Center. The State of the River meeting will follow from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Provide a letter of support for RiversEdge West's river restoration project.