

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Hybrid Meeting from Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
January 19, 2023

Members Present:

Bill Frownfelter*	At Large Member	April Montgomery*	San Miguel County
Ken Beegles	At Large Member-Industrial	Pete Nylander*	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Jarron Biggs*	La Plata Municipality	Al Pfister*	San Juan WCD
Peter Butler*	La Plata County	Gretchen Rank*	At Large Member
Randy Carver	Montezuma County	Buck Skillen*	At Large Member
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Aimee Tooker*	Montrose County
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Member-Recreation	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Adrian Bergere*	At-Large Member	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
John Kleckner	Hinsdale County	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Celene Hawkins*	CWCB Representative	Mely Whiting*	At Large Environmental
Glenn Fish*	DWCD	Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District
Charlie Smith*	San Juan County	Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipalities
Peter Ortega	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe		

Public:

Alex Brooks (Lotic Hydrological), Laura Spann* (CWCB), Wendy Weygandt (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, Recorder), George Gavrielides* (Southern Ute), Ian Rogers* (J-U-B Engineers), Greg Vlaming (Public), Carrie Padgett* (Harris Water), Jeff Deems* (ASO, Inc.), Elaine Chick* (Water Information-PEPO Liaison), Jeff Rodriguez* (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Blake Mamich* (Colorado Water Trust), Aantipas* (Public), John Whitney* (Senator Bennet's Office), Alex Brooks* (Public), Amber Clark* (Public), Joshua Godwin* (CWCB), Ed Millard* (Public), Helen Kaitich* (Senator Hickenlooper's Office), Erik Skeie* (CWCB), Jeff Deems*, (ASO, Inc.), Linnea Spears-Lebrun* (SWCA), Rica Fulton* (DRBA), Robert Sakata* (Public), Mickey O'Hara* (Public), Danielle Snyder* (Brooks and Caldwell), Joshua Godwin* (Public)

*Indicates Zoom Participant

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

- Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Public Comments

- Ed Millard summarized points noted from his brief.
- Helen Kaitich, Senator Hickenlooper Office
 - Carlee Brown, formerly of the House Natural Resources Committee and Colorado Water Conservation Board, will be joining Senator Hickenlooper's Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee (ENR). She will be starting in a couple of weeks.
- John Whitney, Senator Bennet Office
 - With the Inflation Reduction Act, \$4 billion is being tracked as it flows through the state and local governments. These monies allocated to Colorado River water should be used towards constant measures and not temporary fixes. System losses should be consistently tracked by both the upper and lower basins.

3. Administrative Reports

- **Review and Approval Minutes**
 - Steve Anders was moved to the public section of the minutes.
 - Ed Tolen clarified that the \$1 million awarded to PEPO by CWCB, was provided statewide and not to an individual PEPO program.
 - Ken Curtis moved to approve the October 27- Roundtable minutes as corrected. Ken Beegles seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Resolution Designating a Location to Post Notices**
 - The 2023 resolution designated <https://waterinfo.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable> to post notices currently hosted by SWCD. It will be updated to reflect the new website when the new website goes live.
 - Elaine Chick, offered to post meeting dates in local newspapers using PEPO funds. This is not part of the resolution.
 - Steve Wolff moved to approve the resolution to post notices on the website and Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Officer Reports**
 - Carolyn Dunmire offered no formal report. RMRI is still getting organized.
 - Celine Hawkins from CWCB indicated that the big-ticket item at Water Congress this year will be the anticipated full approval of the Water Plan. She expressed appreciation to the Southwest Basins Roundtable and all the individuals that committed time to work on the Implementation and Water Plan - Colorado River matters.
 - Carrie Padgett is the water hero of southwest Colorado for her work on Water Plan
 - No other officer reports
- WSRF Basin Roundtable Fund Balance is currently at \$663,000. Note: The fund balance started at \$1 million and \$337,000 in grants were approved by the Roundtable in October. The October grant applications are pending approval by CWCB.

4. Public Education, Participation & Outreach (PEPO) Liaison Report-Elaine Chick

- **Roundtable Website**
 - i. Content has been added to the website. Funding was released in June. Elaine reported that the website is getting close to going live.
 - ii. A new law states the websites with special districts must be ADA compliant. Although, the new website is compliant; the PDF attachments are not compliant. Elaine Chick recommended that Adobe be added to the Recorder's computer so that the PDFs can become compliant.
 - iii. Elaine was invited to present at the Children's Water Education Session at Colorado Water Congress on Thursday, January 26 at 2:15 pm.
 - iv. Now that the PEPO Grant has been approved, a date and time needs to be set to develop a priority list. Current subcommittee members include Ed Tolen, Carrie Padgett, Al Pfister, Gretchen Rank, Gigi Richard (no longer on Roundtable); other Roundtable members were invited to join. There was no immediate response.
 - v. The Water Information Partner Meeting is scheduled Friday, January 20 (tomorrow) at 1 PM. Handouts were sent out. This will be the first meeting of the year.
 - vi. Bruce Whitehead asked to have the website identify new grant applications to make it easier to identify those that have been reviewed versus those newly being considered. The Recorder offered to make that adjustment.

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

- Jeff Rodriguez provided voting information on Basic Water Hero Awards

- Link: <https://engagecwcb.org/colorado-water-plan-launch-celebration>
- Director Hawkins is launching the Water Plan celebration that is scheduled the evening of January 24, 2023-Tuesday after the Water Plan is hopefully approved. The event will be held in downtown Denver to recognize partnerships that collaborated to develop the Water Plan and recognize Water Hero Award winners.
- The WSRF guidelines are being updated to clarify common misconceptions and confusion among project applicants. Verifying language and guidelines will hopefully decrease questions and make it easier for project proponents. One example includes the 10% of total project cost will count towards 25% match.
- Other project wildfire new watershed template of scope of work is live:
 - <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com>
- Water Plan Grant coordinators and project proponents are navigating funding opportunities and contributing to revisions contributing to clarity.
- The Governor's budget proposal (still in proposal stage) added an additional \$7.5 million to the Water Plan Grant, to bring the total to \$25 million; originally \$12.5 million from the general fund, and now an additional \$10.5 million proposition DD (legalization and taxation of sports betting) and \$2.5 million from the Construction Fund.

6. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update-Mely Whiting, Al Pfister, Ken Curtis

- October 25, 2023 was the last meeting and was reported at the October 27 meeting.
- No updates

7. Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement (CASM)

Presentation by Jeff Deems, AOS, Inc. & Eric Skeie, CWCB

- NASA Legacy Program began in 2012. In 2019, Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement began from that 2012 concept.
- CASM is a stakeholder driven process that is expanding services in Colorado. Data that includes high resolution of snow depth will provide a unique picture on depths above and below current snowtel information.
- The types of data resulting from the benefits include the ability to fly over and collect data from entire watersheds. It will measure water volume, provide elevation profiles, assist with river forecasts and can be helpful with dam releases, etc.
- In 2022, there were two flights over Dolores. These were conducted in April & May.
- The next CASM Stakeholder Meeting will be February 22, 2023. Follow on: coloradosnow.org

8. Criteria for Approving Grant Support Letters between meetings

- Ed Tolen was going to consult with Ben Wade at CWCB to see if support letters can be accepted prior, with, or after the grant application. Laura said support letters are not required of an application, but highly recommended.
- Changes need to be made clear and in front of the parties that will be submitting applications. Due to the constant evolving changes at SWBRT and CWCB, a lot of education is needed. Workshops could be offered. PEPO funds could be a possible resource.
- Ken Curtis moved to make a motion to have entities that do water plan grants and or request letters of support submit their application in writing at least two weeks prior and that they are encouraged to come to the roundtable to present their proposal or conceptual proposal to the roundtable prior to receiving a letter of support; second by Ken Beegles. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

9. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee-

Ken Curtis

- Despite increased snowfall, there are still serious risks regarding the Colorado River.
- The Upper Basin appears to be holding strong.
- Proposal Deadlines:
 - January 31 Southern State Reclamation Proposal
 - February 1 System Conservation Pilot Program Proposal

Steve Wolff

- The definition of “Protection” is still a work in progress.
- Division 7 exemption will be a future SWBRT topic for discussion. It can be referenced in CRS 37-92-305(c).
- “Preserving the Benefit” was originally designed to protect Lake Powell if it got too low in the winter months. The 35/25 incorporated waters from Navajo, Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge to charge Lake Powell was intended to be a temporary solution. The operations seemingly are being abused and are not “Preserving the Benefit”. This topic is currently a point of discussion in relation to the original intent.

11. WSRF Grant Requests

- Dolores Water Conservancy District - Request for new Center Pivots (\$100,000)
 - Clarification needed to determine the request amount. The proposal asked for \$90,000; but exhibit A & B requested \$100,000. Ken noted that the actual amount being requested is \$100,000.
 - Greg Vlaming, program project manager, identified the estimated cost of each pivot was approximately \$6,000. The goal is to replace 20 aging pivots. These existing pivots are 30-40 years old. It was not known how individuals will be selected for this project. Perhaps a lottery will be made available
 - Bruce Whitehead moved to approve the DWCD request for new center pivots; 2nd by Peter Ortega. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- MSI (\$24,354)
 - MSI did not have representation at the meeting. Ken Curtis spoke on their behalf.
 - Area work is being conducted at Chicken Creek and House Creek
 - MSI will analyze data that will measure water quantity and soil moisture related to ground moisture and snow. Currently only water quality is being measured. The value of their request will help give data to watershed groups that are coordinating efforts. Jarrod Biggs believes technical linkages and good data will contribute to quality data sets. The coordination of mutual parties will support further integration of data collection to localize best practices.
 - SWCD approved a \$20,000 grant yesterday in support of their project.
 - MSI is also applying for statewide WSRF in the amount of \$24,354; aside from the request to SWBRT.
 - Ken Beegles made a motion to approve MSI funding application, 2nd by Carolyn Dunmire. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

12. Upcoming Events

- 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
- 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 4:48 p.m.

