

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting-DRAFT
Hybrid Meeting from Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
April 27, 2023

Members Present:

Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipality	April Montgomery*	San Miguel County
Ken Beegles	At Large Member-Industrial	Pete Nylander*	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Charlie Smith*	San Juan County	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Peter Butler*	La Plata County	Peter Ortega	UMUT
Karen Guglielmon	SMC Municipality	Buck Skillen	At Large Member
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Aimee Tooker*	Montrose County
Carolyn Dunmire*	At Large Member-Recreation	Brandon Johnson	At Large
Adrian Bergere	At-Large Member	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
John Kleckner	Hinsdale County	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Lorelei Cloud	CWCB Representative	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Glenn Fish	DWCD	Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District

Public:

Laura Spann (CWCB), Wendy Weygandt (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, Recorder), George Gavrielides* (Southern Ute), Ian Rogers (J-U-B Engineers), Greg Vlaming (Public), Elaine Chick (Water Information-PEPO Liaison), Jeff Rodriguez (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Blake Mamich* (Colorado Water Trust), Robert Sakata* (Public), Mickey O'Hara* (Public), Danielle Snyder* (Brooks and Caldwell), Joshua Godwin* (Public) Amy Ostiek* (CWCB), Greg Peterson* (CoAg Water), Lorelei Cloud (CWCB), Sam Stein (CWCB), Monika Rock (SWCD), Mike Preston (UMUT), John Ey (FWCD), David Schiowitz (SGM), Darren Rowley (Florida), Scott Roberts (MSI), Russ Sands (CWCB)

*Indicates Zoom Participant

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

- Roundtable Co-Vice Chair Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

2. Public Comments

- No public comment

3. Administrative Reports

- **Review and Approval Minutes**
 - Steve Wolff offered to meet with Wendy on some editorial suggestions, but no content changes.
 - Al Pfister moved to approve the January 19th Roundtable minutes. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Officer Reports**
 - Celene Hawkins from CWCB introduced her replacement, Lorelei Cloud
- WSRF Basin Roundtable Fund Balance is currently at \$538,646.

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

- **Roundtable Website**
 - The new website is $\frac{3}{4}$ complete and will be put on hold until October until the new grant funding is initiated.

- Elaine is currently donating her time and just completed two amazing events in January:
 1. The Southwestern Water Conservation District Seminar which was filmed at the Sky Ute Casino and reported having 272 attendees.
 2. The Children's Water Festival (which is back from a three year suspension). There were over 760 attendees and 28 presenters.
- The Southwest Basin Handbook is a new project being developed. It will become a segment that falls under the All Basins Umbrella handbook that will detail rules and regulations.
- PEPO's 6 month progress report is due this month. The grant is good through the end of September. On June 7th a meeting will be held to identify the PEPO priorities. One priority is to purchase a computer with Acrobat Pro that can be used to upload documents to the website that meets the ADA compliance standards. Over 200 Adobe PDF documents on the website are noncompliant per ADA standards.
 - Bruce Whitehead moved to purchase a computer and Adobe Pro with a cap of \$1500. Steve Wolff seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

- Drought Summit– May 31 & June 1 at History Colorado in Denver. The Spring forecast still shows 23 counties in drought.
<https://engagecwcb.org/drought-summit>
Flood Threat Bulletin:
<https://www.coloradofloodthreat.com>
- C-9 Roundtable will take place in Denver on November 14, the location TBD. The purpose will bring roundtable members together to identify priorities and promote collaboration around the state.
Individuals are asked to take the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9DXHTV>
Colorado River Issues
<https://engagecwcb.org/colorado-river>
- Wildfire Ready Watersheds: The application is open on a rolling basis: June 1 WSRF deadline is the last deadline for this year's (FY cap).
<https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com>
- PEPO Statewide initiatives
https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/220224/PEPOGrants_%20StatewideInitiativesFundPriorities_Feb2023.pdf?searchid=9d46baaf-5360-4405-90e9-288ec56d9c78
Jeff added that the Umbrella Handbook that Elaine Chick mentioned earlier will be a great orientation piece for IBCC, Roundtables, and PEPO.
- The June 1st WSRF grant applications that have been forwarded from the roundtables to the CWCB board in September. The next funding cycle begins in July.
- Turf Program: 1st application cycle closed at the end of March 2023 and will reopen July 1 through September 30, 2023.
- Technical Assistance- is live now; applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.
- Amendment guidelines provided special funding of \$450,000 not to exceed \$750,000 in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. It is anticipated that the funding will return to the normal \$300,000 per basin annually this coming fiscal year.

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update Laura Spann

- Water Plan Funding and Water Supply Reserve Funds comes from sports betting, Federal mineral leases and severance taxes. \$25 million set aside for 2023 and 2024. The resulting loan programs are meant to protect aging infrastructure, water reserves that contribute to storage and supply, dredging, watershed health projects and ag projects. She noted that preference will be given to funding requests that share multiple benefits and promote increased water storage. CWCB will help identify the right funding for water projects that advance statewide solutions.
- American Rescue Plan Grants
 - Local Capacity Grants
 - CWCB Technical Assistance
 - Watershed Restoration
 - Wildfire Ready
 - Turf Replacement (max. \$25 K)
 - July 1 through September 30, 2023
 - State, local, tribes, water commissions, nonprofits
- Where to Start?
 - CWCB portal profiles
 - Estimate project cost
 - Identify potential stakeholders
 - Financial commitments
 - Talk to Roundtable & CWCB
 - Best advice is to start early
- *Reference attached document: Funding FAQ for Southwest Basins Roundtable*

6. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee-Ken Curtis

- Amy Ostdiek and Michelle Garrison provided a great summary of the Colorado River Compact. It is important to note that the news does not always reflect detail and events actually happening.
- New legislation created a task force on the Colorado River Compact. This new task force will determine the motion within the next 10 days. There is an increased emphasis on tribal input and West Slope interests.
- Bruce Whitehead expressed anticipated controversy between Industrial, Municipalities, and Roundtables with regard to Senate Bill 285.
- This new task force has seemingly bypassed IBCC which will potentially make IBCC less relevant.

7. WSRF Grant Requests

- MSI Post 416 Fire Recovery (\$17,943.00) Scott Roberts
 - The project will support water interest groups with education regarding impacts to, recovery of, water quality and restoration of aquatic life following a wildfire over a five year time period.
 - Mely Whiting moved to approve. Brandon Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- CoAg Water - Request (\$75,000) Greg Peterson
 - The intent of the request is to keep water in agriculture. The design is to collect funds that can be regranted to farmers with small projects. Priority is given to
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farmers that are going to be profitable, and that show strategies that can scale up. These projects measure economical viability, measure impact on soil, consumption, and profitability. CoAg is looking for farmers and ranchers with new ideas. Categories under consideration include 1) Alternative crops, 2) Efficiency, 3) Hay & Forage, 4) Livestock, 5) Soil Projects. To date \$375,000 has been distributed to approximately 30 projects in the amount of \$2,000 to \$32,000 mini grants. The average funding for projects was \$13,000.

- Mely Whiting made a motion to approve funding as long as there is an effort to engage the Southwest Ag community or conservation district and that there is a caveat that the funds stay in the Southwest area. Al Pfister seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Florida-Pastorius Reservoir - Request (\$46,275) Darren Rowley
 - The request was made to replace a headgate that poses community safety issues with a new Rubicon headgate. Brandon Johnson shared that the Rubicon headgates do not work in temperatures below 30 degrees and could that be a concern to the project? It was not. Buck Skillen made a motion to approve the request. Al Pfister seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- San Miguel FloodPlain Restoration –Request (\$49,850.00) Adrian Bergere
 - The initial presentation focused on conservation of wetlands and decrease floodplain restoration and working with BLM and the Forest Service to finalize sites to complete 2024 field studies. Bruce Whitehead expressed concern that the project may be in conflict with Senate Bill 270 and pending legislation. Knowledge of types of depletion and evaporation depletions as well as permits and other costs to move forward with the project seems to be lacking. The conversation changed from identifying locations to a mere planning standpoint to address feasibility studies, scopes of work and budget preparation.
 - Bruce Whitehead made a motion to approve funding as long as the project is compliant with Colorado Water Law. Al Pfister seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

8. Upcoming Events

- July 27, 2023- Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards (hybrid from Cortez)
- Upcoming Elections IBCC
 - Al Pfister, March 2023
 - Ken Curtis, July 2023
- 2023-WSRF Grant Applications due to the Roundtable Chain in June for the July 2023 Meeting.
- July 27, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant awards (hybrid from Cortez)
- 2023-WSRF Grant Applications due to the Roundtable Chain in September for the October 2023 Meeting.
- October 26, 2023-Regular Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards (hybrid from Durango)
- Other Announcements

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

Co-Vice Chair Brandon Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

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Funding FAQ for Southwest Basins Roundtable

Updated April 27, 2023

What is CWCB's Water Plan Grant Program?

In a nutshell, the [Water Plan Grant Program](#) is state funding to advance the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. The program is divided into the following categories: Water Storage & Supply, Water Sharing Agreements, Conservation & Land Use Planning, Engagement & Innovation, Agricultural Projects, and Watershed Health & Recreation Projects. Adding storage? Have a multi-benefit project? Lots of project partners, collaboration? An innovative or landscape-scale project? It might fit well here.

Pro-tip: Have an idea? **Talk with the CWCB early on!** It may take 3-6 months to gather everything needed for a successful application so start now. CWCB is available to coach you in application development.

Another pro-tip: Roundtable letters of support, while not required, add value to your application. If you want their consideration, the [Southwest Basin Roundtable](#) **requests the draft application and a draft letter of support two weeks prior to the meeting along with a presentation at a meeting.** As a last resort, the Roundtable may consider a letter of support if requested via email at least two weeks in advance of the CWCB application deadline.

Water Plan Grant Deadlines:

Roundtable Support (optional)	Application due to CWCB	CWCB Board Review
January or April meeting	July 1st	September
July or October meeting	December 1st	March

CWCB Contact: Laura Spann, laura.spann@state.co.us, call or text 720-916-7723

Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair: Ed Tolen, (970) 563-0320, etolen@laplawd.org

What is the Water Supply Reserve Fund?

In a nutshell, the [Water Supply Reserve Fund](#) is intended for basin projects that align with the Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan. Projects can be funded through basin funds and/or statewide funds, both of which **need Basin Roundtable approval.** The statewide fund is great for aging infrastructure and drought resilience projects and basin funds can be used to address critical needs in the basin.

WSRF Deadlines:

Application to Roundtable Chair	Presentation to Roundtable	Application Due to CWCB	CWCB Board Consideration
March	April meeting	June 1st	Sept
June	July meeting	Aug 1st or Oct 1st	Nov or Jan
September	October meeting	Dec 1st	March
December	January meeting	Feb 1st or April 1st	May or July

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WSRF pro-tip: Have a project in mind? Talk to the CWCB and Roundtable early. You can get started by registering for an account in [CWCB's grant portal](#).

CWCB Contact: Ben Wade, 303-866-3441 x3238, ben.wade@state.co.us

Southwest Basin WSRF Coordinator: Ed Tolen, (970) 563-0320, etolen@laplawd.org

We want to seek federal water funding but don't have the capacity. Have some big needs but don't know where to start or how to manage the workload? CWCB is now considering grant applications for 1) [Local Capacity](#) to support your organization in hiring help to organize projects and apply for federal funding and 2) [Technical Assistance](#) (coming soon) to connect your organization with a CWCB contractor to help you prepare a federal grant request. **The deliverable for these grants is at least one federal funding application.** [Here's a comprehensive list of federal water funding opportunities.](#) **CWCB Contacts:** Michael Regan, michael.regan@state.co.us, (303) 866-3441 x3214

Grants aren't enough to address our needs. How about a loan? The CWCB's Water Project Loan Program provides low-interest loans for the design and construction of agricultural, municipal (raw water), and hydro projects. A minimum loan request of \$100,000 is recommended. **CWCB Contact:** Matt Stearns, matthew.stearns@state.co.us, 303.866.3441 x3257

We want to get our watershed wildfire ready.

The [CWCB is now accepting grant applications](#) on a rolling basis to support development of [Wildfire Ready Watershed](#) action plans and implementation of projects designed to mitigate post wildfire impacts. **CWCB Contact:** Chris Sturm, chris.sturm@state.co.us, 303-866-3441 x3236

What's this I hear about turf replacement funding?

The next application period is July 1 – September 30 [for eligible entities \(local governments, non-profits, districts, tribes\)](#) to apply for funds to either expand their existing community turf replacement or request support for starting a new initiative. [Click here for more details.](#) **CWCB Contact:** Sam Stein, sam.stein@state.co.us, 303-866-3441 x3231

What about drinking water and wastewater projects?

The CWCB generally funds raw water projects, so if you have drinking water or wastewater projects in mind, we can connect you with representatives at the following agencies:

[Colorado Department of Local Affairs](#)

[Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority](#) (get on the eligibility list)

[Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#)

[USDA Rural Development](#)

This is overwhelming—where do I start?

It's a lot to take in. That's part of why the CWCB hired regional water plan grant managers—to help project proponents navigate our funding opportunities. **Please call, text, email or set up a visit.** If we don't know the answer, we'll ask the right person. The CWCB wants to advance water solutions statewide while this once-in-a-generation funding is available. If these opportunities don't meet your project needs, we are more than willing to assist in finding alternative grant programs. **Contact:** Laura Spann (based in Durango), laura.spann@state.co.us, 720-916-7723