

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

Members Present:

Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipality	Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment
Ken Beegles*	At Large Member-Industrial	Gretchen Rank*	At Large Member
Bill Frownfelter*	At Large Member	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Buck Skillen*	At Large Member	Peter Ortega	UMUT
Karen Guglielmono*	SMC Municipality	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Aimee Tooker*	Montrose County
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Member-Recreation	Brandon Johnson	At Large
Adrian Bergere*	At-Large Member	Ed Tolen	At Large Local Domestic Rep
Lorelei Cloud*	CWCB Representative	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
David "DK" Kanzer	Co Water Conservation District	Bruce Whitehead	LPWCD

Public:

Laura Spann (CWCB), Wendy Weygandt (Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, Recorder), Vernon Leslie (Park Ditch), Letisha Yazzie (UMUT), Elaine Chick* (Water Information-PEPO Liaison), Jeff Rodriguez* (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Shannon Hatch (Bureau of Reclamation), Steve Laverly (Park Ditch), Perry Cabot (Colorado State University), Amy Ostdiek* (CWCB), Michelle Garrison* (CWCB), Monika Rock (SWCD), Mike Preston (UMUT), Shannon Mullane* (Colorado Sun), Ken Brenner (Upper Yampa), Jeff Meyers (Yampa/White/Green), Robert Sakata* (Public), Steve Bikis (LPWCD), [George Gavrielides](#)(Southern Ute)

*Indicates Zoom Participant

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

- Roundtable Co-Vice Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

2. Public Comments

- No public comment

3. Officer Election

- Steve Harris moved to elect by acclamation current officers Ed Tolen (Roundtable Chair), Brandon Johnson (First Vice-Chair) and Al Pfister (Second Vice-Chair and IBCC Representative). Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

4. Administrative Reports

- Review and Approval Minutes
 - Ken Curtis moved to approve the April 27, 2023 Roundtable minutes. Brandon Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- WSRF Basin Roundtable Fund Balance - \$349,578
 - The January balance was \$538,646. \$189,068 in grant requests were approved at the April meeting and are currently pending CWCB approval, leaving a balance of \$349,578.

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

- Roundtable Website

- Elaine reiterated the need to purchase Adobe Pro to create usable and compliant PDF documents on the new website. Adobe Pro is available via a monthly subscription.
- Elaine included in her PEPO grant application a line item dedicated for a computer and software to support the BRT Recorder that was approved by CWCB. CWCB procurement has disallowed computer purchases and software purchases are still being explored.
- Jeff Rodriguez is working on finding other options that might be used in place of Adobe Pro and will schedule an offline meeting with Elaine and Wendy.
- Elaine would like to purchase a second Owl to improve hybrid meeting quality. She scheduled a demo.
- The 2023 PEPO Grant application was submitted, but CWCB approval is still pending.
- A full day presentation, “Water Law in a Nutshell” will be held in Durango on September 28th at Fort Lewis College. Aaron Clay, attorney-at-law will be facilitating. Be sure and sign up early as it sells out quickly. Adam State Credit is offered upon completion.
- Forest to Faucets is a 2-day workshop for K-12 teachers at the San Juan National Forest Headquarters-Durango on August 3rd and 4th. Adam State credit is offered upon completion. So far there are 15 teachers that signed up and they will each receive a “My Water Teachers Kit” and “Water Guide Books”.
- The PEPO Subcommittee workgroup includes Gretchen Rank, Al Pfister and Elaine Chick. Others are invited to participate. Contact Elaine Chick for more information.

6. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update-Jeff Rodriguez and Lorelei Cloud Funding Reminders:

- August 1
 - WSRF
 - NRI Projects
- Annual WSRF Allocations
 - Available October 2nd
- Wildfire Ready Watersheds
 - Accepting Applications on a rolling basis
 - <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com>
- Technical Assistance & Local Capacity
 - Accepting Applications
 - CWCB Contractor Update
- Both Programs (ARPA Funds)
 - Contracted by 12/31/24
- Turf Program Cycle 2 Open
 - Closes 8/31

Climate Change in Colorado Report

- Expected to be released in late 2023
- Visit the webpage–<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/hazards/climate>

Reminders

- 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. It is anticipated that it will be a full day training session and will likely include an evening reception for further networking.
- C-9 Roundtable Draft Agenda-2023
 - Roundtable Handbook Discussion

○

- PEPO Workshop on Regional Collaboration
- All Chairs Panel (Board, IBCC or mix of BRT's, Board and BRT chairs)
- Colorado River Updates + Colorado River Drought Task Force Report out?
- Drought Resilience (could be across sectors)
- Climate Change
- Funding
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Health
- Water Quality

- Lorelei Cloud also gave an update on recent meetings that highlighted demand management on the Colorado River, the Drought Task Force, and upcoming information on further funding that will be available at the end of August.

7. IBCC Update - Mely Whiting, Al Pfister, Ken Curtis

- C-9 Summit was covered by Jeff Rodriguez
- Colorado River Issues discussed at the IBCC meeting in Glenwood Springs
 - Lisa Darling (South Metro Water) and Ken Brenner (Upper Yampa) and others gave good presentations on important topics. The downside was that there was not good followup discussion among attendees. Ken expressed hope in having more interactions at future events.
 - It was a 10-hour drive for a four hour meeting in Glenwood Springs.
 - IBCC is working on comments that they hope to share with Director Gibbs prior to the C-9 Summit.
 - Individuals were encouraged to attend the C-9 Summit that is linked to the CWCB meeting. There should be more opportunities to network.

8. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee- Ken Curtis

- Today's meeting had a jam packed agenda
 - CWCB director, Becky Mitchell is attempting more statewide outreach and her schedule is more freed up allowing her to travel more.. Additionally, there has been a lot of support from Amy Ostdiek and Michelle Garrison.
 - Amy Ostdiek summarized the 6-priorities and is working on commissioner issues. Commissioner Mitchell asked Colorado to speak in a single voice. It is important that Colorado task forces unite on some topics; knowing that it is likely that they will be unable to negotiate every issue.
 - Michelle Garrison provided a hydrology update
 - David "DK" Kanzer -West Slope Roundtable provided great updates on the Colorado River District-Risk Study Phase IV
 - Yampa-White-Green (YWG) Position Paper-Jeff Meyer
 - Perry Cabot discussed Technical Consumptive Use
- Kevin Kissler from the City of Cortez Public Works and Ag Innovation/Ute Mountain Farm & Ranch may be future meeting topics

9. Yampa/White/Green Roundtable Position Paper-Jeff Meyer

- Overview-Short Term/Drought Relief
 - Support UCRC 5-Point Plan
 - Promote and participate in DCP
 - Avoid "Buy and Dry"; Ensure SCP leases meet constraints
-

- Ensure all Upper Basin conserved water stays in Lake Powell (and if it is used that it is for its intended purposes)
- Operate CRS on forecasted information; not on reservoir elevation.
- Address structural deficit accounting; make the Lower Basin responsible for a fair proportion of losses.
- Prioritize projects for drought relief; streamline processes
- Ensure Lower Basin only uses its fair apportionment; 7.5 MAF in some years; or less if hydrology limits.
- Be consistent with existing US and Colorado River law
- Overview-Post 2026 Operations
 - Plan for a range of hydrology and growth scenarios
 - Allocate climate change risk fairly between Basins
 - Formalize and codify that the Upper Basin-conserved water will stay in Lake Powell
 - Use small, incremental (not Tier-Based) releases; balance with conservation.
 - Formalize and codify accounting for evaporation and transpiration losses
- YWG Timeline
 - **YWG Basin Roundtable Committee starts to study 2007 Interim Guidelines**
 - The Bureau of Reclamation demands 60-day plan for 2-4 MAF reductions (June 2022)
 - UCRC submits 5-Point Plan (July 2022)
 - 7 States reach agreement on CBMA (January 2023)
 - **Then YWG releases Position Paper**
 - The Bureau of Reclamation releases the draft SEIS; 13-28% cuts in the Lower Basin (April 2023)
 - California drives the Lower Basin Agreements for paid cuts of 3 MAF (May 2023)
 - The Bureau of Reclamation rescinds SEIS and considers the Lower Basin alternative plan (June 2023)

10. Colorado River District Update-Dave “DK” Kanzer

- Risk Study Phase IV
 - Key Elements
 - Hydrology is the #1 indicator of “health” and catalyst for risk to the Colorado River water users.
 - Increase demand in the Upper Basin = An increased risk of potential shortage.
 - An increase in Trans-Mountain Diversion (TMP) demands will not be fully satisfied as hydrology worsens, resulting in a drawdown of West Slope TMD storage reservoirs.
 - Maintaining Lake Powell elevation of 3500’ (above mean sea level) under existing policy (2007 Interim Guidelines) puts a burden on the Upper Basin.
 - Project Objectives
 - Reexamine and Analyze
 -

- Pre/Post 1922 Compact Consumptive Use estimates in Colorado
- Big River impacts to Lake Powell and Lake Mead and compact obligations
- Phase III overestimated total consumptive use and pre-compact consumptive uses
- Phase IV intended to fix the state modal to more accurately reflect consumptive use in priority
- The Bureau of Reclamation wants Lake Powell above 3500' elevation which requires extra water to fulfill current demands.
- Maintaining Lake Powell's elevation at 3500' per the existing operational policy puts the burden entirely on the Upper Basin.
- Follow the Colorado River Drought Task Force: SB 295 list of upcoming Task Force Meetings and updates at www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org/DroughtTaskForce
- The Water Conservation Support Tool works towards better outcomes to benefit farmers and ranchers, achieve water reduction targets, and minimize community impacts.

11. WSRF Grant Requests

- **La Plata Water Conservancy District - \$25,000 - Eric Bikis**
 - The proposed technical analysis will compile percolated volumes, analyze flow paths via a 2-D groundwater model, quantify the amount and timing of exfiltrated water in the Long Hollow drainage for storage and use by LPWCD to meet New Mexico Compact obligations and exchange to shareholders for irrigation, provide and discuss findings to Division 7 Engineer to establish occurrence, and prepare a project report.
 - Bruce Whitehead moved to approve with the caveat to look at direct water routes; Brandon Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Park Ditch - \$10,000- Steve Laverty**
 - The request was to add two measurement devices (parshalls) to replace non-measuring slide gates.
 - Mely moved to approve; Steve Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

12. Upcoming Events

- 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)-LaPlata County Fairgrounds & Event Center, 2500 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
- Other Announcements
- Tentative 2024 Meeting Dates:
 - January 18, 2024 (Cortez)
 - April 25, 2024 (Durango)
 - July 25, 2024 (Cortez)
 - October 24, 2024 (Durango)
-

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

Chairperson Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.