Colorado River Basin Roundtable Meeting November 27, 2023

1. **Upcoming Meetings & Deadlines.**

- a. December 1, 2023, WSRF and Water Plan WPG grant application to the CWCB
- b. There is no December CBRT Roundtable meeting
- c. January 22, 2024, CBRT Roundtable meeting.
- d. Colorado Water congress 1/31 to 2/2/2024
- 2. Recorder: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, ken@kenransford.com.
- 3. Today's November 27, 2023, meeting was conducted by Zoom and held in person at the Colorado River District Office.
- 4. **CBRT Roundtable Members Present**: Paul Bruchez, Stan Cazier, Carlyle Currier, Kelly McNicholas Curry, Randi Kim, Kirsten Kurath, Ken Ransford, Charlie Spickert, Jason Turner, Greg Williams, Jeff Bandy, Nate Bell, Kathy Kitzman, Maria Pastore, James Dizzel, Peggy Bailey
- 5. Guests: Taylor Adams, Ashley Brubaker, Summit County, Abby Burke Audubon Society, Perry Cabot CSU Extension, Austin Corona, Jason Cowles Eagle River Water & San District, Alex Davis Aurora Water, Anna Drexler Driess PEPO Coordinator, Jackie Fisher OMID, Kayli Foulk Grand County, Ashley Garrison CWCB Water Plan Grants, Luke Gingerich JUB Engineers, Mike Goscha TYBAR Ranch, Hannah Holm American Rivers, Brendon Langenhuizen Colorado River District, Heather Lewin Roaring Fork Conservancy, Lorra Nichols River District, Amy Ostdiek CWCB Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section, Dave Payne Ute Water Conservancy District, Jeff Rodriguez CWCB, Robert Sakata CWCB Board, Russ Sands CWCB, Jo Stanko Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, Emily Zmak CWCB Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section
- 6. CBRT July and September meeting minutes were approved unanimously without amendment.

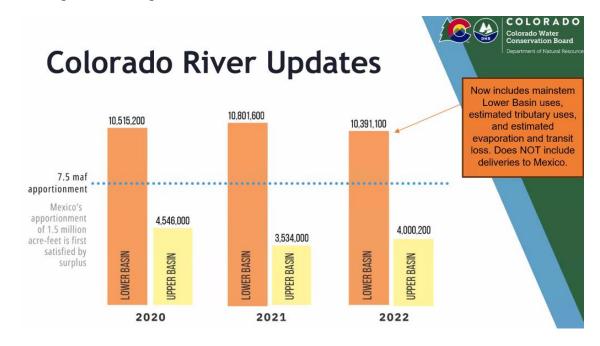
7. November CWCB Update, Jeff Rodriguez

- a. SCPP System Conservation Pilot Program Webinar—see the YouTube recording on the CWCB website. The CWCB Interstate and Federal team hosted a webinar on November 13, 2023. It is an overview of SCPP and a good discussion of information needed to make the application.
- b. The C-9 Summit of roundtables on November 14 was well attended. The CWCB is considering making this an annual meeting. Jason Turner agreed that this should happen annually.
- c. There was a robust discussion about the offer to purchase the Shoshone power plant water right at the recent CWCB meeting on November 15, 2023.

- d. CWCB Stakeholder Guide will be available to update Roundtable members about the Roundtable process. This supplements any basin-specific materials.
- 8. Jason Turner thanked CWCB Board and South Platte Roundtable member Robert Sakata for attending the CBRT Roundtable meetings.

9. **CWCB Update, Amy Ostdiek**

Amy Ostdiek provided an update on Colorado River issues



- a. Updated infographics on Colorado River basin water use is complete (see above) and available on CWCB webiste.
- b. SCPP System Conservation Pilot Program. To receive copies of Colorado SCPP applications or to gain more information, email DNR at: <u>dnr_ColoradoSCPP@state.co.us</u>.
- c. A Draft SEIS released October 25, 2023, addresses the 2007 Interim Guidelines Comments on this are due December 11, 2023.
- d. Commissioner's corner: Send comments to <u>dnr_ColoradoSCPP@state.co.us</u> or <u>Amy.Ostdiek@state.co.us</u>.
- 10. New Members
 - a. Summit County Commissioner Nina Waters is replacing Josh Blanschard in a water rights holder seat. Mesa County Commissioner Bobbi Daniels is the new Mesa County Representative.

- 11. **Grant Guidelines:** WSRF Grant Guidelines were presented to the Roundtable, Ken Ransford drafted these guidelines and they have been vetted by the Next Steps Committee. This will enable the CBRT chair to direct applicants with threshold questions about their grant applications. The guidelines also adopt a twice-a-year grant cycle, with spring and fall applications. The Next Steps committee will operate in this capacity until a formal grants committee is formed with members and a chair. Jason requested members to contact him if they are willing to be members, and whether they would like to be a chair.
 - a. Greg Williams made a motion to adopt the guidelines, Carlyle Currier seconded it-- passed unanimously.
- 12. **Upper Colorado Conserved Consumptive Use report**, Perry Cabot CSU, and Hannah Holms, American Rivers presented on the findings of the Upper Colorado Conserved Consumptive Use Study, a copy of the findings and reports can be found on the Colorado Basin Roundtable website.
 - i. The full report is at <u>https://www.coloradobasinroundtable.org/agriculture/upper-colorado-study/</u>
- 13. Alternative Forages Phase 2 Project. Hannah Holmes requested a letter of support for Alternative Forages Phase 2 Project to investigate forage crops other than alfalfa. They are requesting a Colorado Water Plant Grant WPG. They expect the total project will cost \$750,000, and they will ask the CWCB for \$500,000. The Roundtable voted unanimously to execute a letter of support.

Taylor Adams, Hydros Consulting Colorado River Risk Study Phase IV.

a. Mr. Adams provided an update on Phase IV of the Colorado River Risk Study. Once finalized that report will be available on the Colorado River District's website www.crwcd.org

14. **CBRT Succession Planning.**

Kirsten Kurath raised a question regarding the chair-person duties going forward after the current chair stepped down. Jason Turner (the current chair) reported the Colorado River District will continue to host the meetings. Jason also encouraged the CBRT to find another entity or person to step up to lead the CBRT. If members are interested in the chair position, contact Jason Turner.