

**Interbasin Compact Committee  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Virtual and In-Person  
Montrose County Event Center  
March 18, 2024**

**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
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Kathleen Curry	Saguache 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
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Dave Traylor	Ute WCD
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Henry Woods	Hinsdale Municipalities

**Voting Members Excused/Absent:**

Bobbie Daniel	Mesa County
Mark LeValley	At-Large Member
Jim Plumbhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District

**Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:**

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Bob Hurford (DWR), Jedd Sondergard (USBLM).

**Public:** Kim Zahniser (ZGEO Energy Holdings), Wendy Fenner (ZGEO Energy Holdings/Good Shepherd Ranch), Bryan Moore (USGS), Ashley Garrison (CWCB), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Cole Bedford (CWCB), Rober Sakata (CO Dept Ag), Reed Irwin (unknown), Jeff Hurd and family (Jeff Hurd for Congress), Evan Jones (DWR), Stan Irby(Arch Ditch Assoc.), Greg Peterson (Arch Ditch Assoc.), Melissa Wills (Colorado River District), Rebecca Briesmoore (Colorado River District), Steven Morris (Applegate Group Inc.), Paul Kehmeier (Colorado Department of Agriculture), Amy Ostdiek (CWCB), Andrea Harbin Monahan (CWCB), Beverly Richards (UGRWCD), Emily Smak (CWCB), Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Kelsey Kirkwood (unknown), Mike Tilko/Mott MacDonald (unknown), Russ Sands (CWCB), Savannah Nelson (PEPO Coordinator).

**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.

Wendell Koontz and other members presented Mike Berry with a plaque for his many years of service as Recorder for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

**Agenda Approval**

There were no objections to the Agenda from the Roundtable.

Wendell Koontz announced the upcoming vacancy of the Delta Municipalities seat currently held by Richard Udd, and a request from the City of Grand Junction for a letter of support for Juanita Ditch.

**Approval of Minutes from the January 29, 2024 Meeting**

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2024 meeting as submitted. Marti Whitmore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Education Committee Report (Savannah Nelson)**

Savannah Nelson reported on the 2024 Water Education Grant, 2024 newspaper campaign, PEPO survey results, and the 2024 PEPO schedule. Other topics discussed were the basin's

handbook, PEPO committee membership, and follow-up for publications in local papers by subscribers. Kathleen Curry joined the PEPO committee.

### **Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)**

Tom Alvey reported on 1 funding request and the 2024 WRSF funding.

#### **Arch Ditch Association**

This is a request from Arch Ditch Association for \$35,000 from basin funds only to automate and improve their headgate. Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the request from Arch Ditch Association for \$35,000 from basin funds for their headgate project. Marti Whitmore seconded. Kathleen Curry abstained. The motion carried.

#### **2024 WRSF Funding**

There is approximately \$350,000 left in the basin account. Tom stated he expects more grant funds in May and July. The basin account should have a refresh of \$300,000 in the next fiscal year.

#### **Letter of Support for City of Grand Junction**

Wendell Koontz read a request from the City of Grand Junction for a letter of support for Juanita Ditch. Tom Alvey moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable provide a letter of support to the City of Grand Junction for the Juanita Ditch project. Neal Schwieterman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Legislative Review (K. Curry)**

Kathleen Curry reported on bills currently in legislature. The Roundtable discussed current and future bills. An update email on legislative items will be sent out to Roundtable members.

### **Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (J. Rodriguez and A. Ostidek)**

Amy Ostidek gave an update on negotiations of operations of Lakes Powell and Mead, including Post-2026 Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead, deadlines for operations guidelines, upper division states alternatives, and upper and lower basin proposals. They hope to have it all figured out by the end of 2024. The lower basin division's proposal document will be emailed to Roundtable members.

Jeff Rodriguez discussed the following CWCB updates, deadlines and reminders for March. Jeff also updated the Roundtable on funding for the Water Supply Reserve Fund.

## MARCH CWCB UPDATES

### Colorado River Webinars

- Information on CWCB Calendar
  - 3/19 - 11:30 - 12:30
  - 4/4 - 11:30 - 12:30
- Upper Division State Alternative
- Questions? Email Amy Ostdiek
  - amy.ostdiek@state.co.us

### 1051 Reporting

- M36 Water Loss Audit
  - Required
  - CWCB training
- Deadline June 30th

### Water Conditions


- Next meeting 3/19/24
  - 9:30 am
  - Virtual

### CWCB Guide

- CWCB Staff will be going on the road to get roundtable feedback

### Reminders

- CWCB Deadlines
  - WSRF Deadline Apr. 1
  - WPG Deadline July 1
- Wildfire Ready Watersheds
  - Accepting Applications
- Technical Assistance & Local Capacity
  - Accepting Application
  - Both Programs (ARPA Funds)
    - Contracted by 12/31/24



John McClow gave an update on water plan grants that were awarded.

### CWCB Water Plan Grant Applications (Ashley Garrison)

Ashley Garrison, CWCB Regional Water Plan Grant Coordinator, gave a presentation on water plan grants, including water plan grant history, funding, applications, and projects that don't fit WPG.

Cole Bedford, Chief Operating Officer, discussed the CWCB Water Projects Loan Program.

### Colorado River District Update (R. Flinker and D. Kanzer)

Raquel Flinker gave Colorado River District updates, including:

- Dates for State of the River Meetings in 2024.
- Colorado River District purchase and sale agreement of the Shoshone senior non-consumptive water right on the Colorado River.
- 2024 System Conservation Pilot Project.
- Instream flow water right information and listening session.
- Community Funding Partnership.

### Gunnison Basin Snowpack Update (B. Richardson)

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD, gave an update of snowpack figures for March. Conditions have improved. The upper basin has shown above-normal precipitation over the last 30 days.

**Interbasin Compact Committee Report (Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber)**

Joanne Fagan submitted a staff report with details from the last IBCC meeting, which was circulated to Roundtable members. In addition, Joanne discussed a list of tasks the Committee is being asked to evaluate and select 2 or 3 at the June meeting and start working on those. Joanne placed links to two documents in her staff report. There is a survey form for feedback requested by the end of April. Mark Roeber commented he felt the meeting was the best in 2 years and they are moving in the right direction.

**Public Comment**

Jeff Hurd, an energy law lawyer, introduced himself to the Roundtable as a candidate running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

**Other Business**

Sonja Chavez announced the Colorado River District is working on an IGA with the West Divide Water Conservancy District for augmentation water, which may be of interest to anyone living or working in that area.

**Future Meetings**

The next regular Roundtable meeting is May 20, 2024 in the Roubideau Room in Delta, Colorado.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, Wendell Koontz closed the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

State of the River Meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

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Adam Turner, Recorder

**Action Items**

Gunnison Basin Roundtable will provide a letter of support to the City of Grand Junction for the Juanita Ditch project

An update email on legislative items will be sent out to Roundtable members.

The lower basin division's proposal document on operations of Lakes Powell and Mead will be emailed to Roundtable members.

Feedback requested to documents linked to Joanne Fagan's staff report by the end of April.