

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables  
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 11, 2024, at 2:00pm  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District  
Alamosa, Colorado

**Call to Order**

Heather Dutton, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A quorum was determined to be present. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes were approved as presented.

**Public Comment**

Mat Peterson, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, announced that their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be held at the Scott Ranch near South Fork on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Cassandra McCuen, Rio Grande Restoration Project, announced that they will be hosting a Public input meeting for the Alamosa River Front Project on June 20, 2024.

Heather Greenwolf, Rio Grande Headwaters, that the EPA will be coming to Creede July 10 to present a project and welcomed roundtable members to that meeting.

Kevin Terry, IBCC Representative asked the group what is the single biggest issue within our basin? The IBCC staff would like to hear the representatives' comments on this question and the next board meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that ASO Snow Flights and funding for those flights is the biggest opportunity and challenge for the basin. Kevin asked if there are any other issues that the roundtable board would like to address.

Cindy Medina, Alamosa River, opened the discussion about the processes and function of the executive committee. The goal of this discussion is the find more effective and efficient ways for the roundtable board and subcommittees to function. Nathan asked if the roundtable members would share their opinion of inefficiencies within the roundtable. Travis commented that the executive committee is very important and needed.

Heather reminded the group that the Roundtable Chair Position would be opening as of July 2024. Amber Pacheco has mentioned that she is interested in the chair position. A few of the tasks that the chairperson is charged with is creating the agenda, working with the education committee, working with grantees, sending emails with meeting packet, and cleaning up the mailing list. Assisting grantees is the biggest time commitment of the position. Other tasks may arise in this position.

Darin Schepp, CDWR, announced that the Rio Grant River peaked on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Conejos peaked on June 1. The current compact curtailment is 12% on Rio Grande, and 17% on the Conejos.

CWCB Update was given. The next Colorado River Webinar will be held June 13. The CWCB guide will be published online Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. The 1051 Reporting is due June 30. Water Plan Grant deadline is July 1 and WSRF is August 1. The Sanchez Reservoir Project did get approved at the State Level. Nathan

Coombs, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Representative was elected as Chairman at the last CWCB Board meeting.

Cassandra McCuen, Education Committee, updated the group on the Colorado Basin Tour, and noted that the committee is working on more tours. WaterWise Panel will be in July.

Heather Greenwolf, Rio Grande Headwaters Alliance request letters of support for Headwaters Alliance's Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Project, North Creede Stream Stability and Flood Project construction. The letters of support will be used for the Bureau of Reclamation and CWCB Water Plan Grants. This project was listed in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan as well. Cindy moved to approve the letters of support. Carry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Daniel Boyes, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project requested letters of support for the Rio Grande Restoration at Gunbarrel Road. The project will be 1 mile of restoration down stream of Highway 285. The letter will be used to help secure a Water Plan Grant. Virginia moved to approve the letter of support. Kevin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Daniel Boyes, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project presented is project preview for the Rio Grande 'Teacup' River and Flood Irrigation Restoration for Planning and Design of the project. The project will be between South Fork and Del Norte on Private Lands. The issues that will be addressed are aging Infrastructure, aquatic and riparian habitat, frequent maintenance needs, and water administration. The ditches in this project include Minor ditch, Meadow Glen, Bauer ditch, Anaconda ditch, and Ehrowitz. This project will include "down ditch" project improvement on flood irrigation infrastructure while improving the water table and maintaining willow and cotton wood restoration.

Jason Cody, Colorado Malting Company, presented is project preview of the Colorado Malting Company Expansion. Heather clarified that private entities are eligible entities, as discussed at the May Roundtable meeting. Jason gave an overview of the project and noted that malt barely commodity prices are extremely low and aren't economical. Colorado Malting Company would like to expand to create markets at a local level. They currently produce 5,000 batches per week with 300 types of malts. The project expansion will triple the current 500 ton malting capacity to 1,700 tons annually. Jason noted possible benefits to this expansion is job creation, increase agri-tourism, attain more flexible customer pricing, and bring diversification into alternative crops. The projects estimated water savings of 500 AF per year. Jason stated they try to stress rye for a tastier malt. This project has the potential to scale up rye production by 750 acres per year. The yield for this type of malting rye is 50-60 bushels. He stated that the basin implementation goals that will be met are sustainable aquifers, vibrant and resilient agriculture, and engaged and informed citizens. The total project cost is \$2,656,000 with WSRF Request of \$750,000 (\$75,000 basin ask, \$675,000 State Account), CDA RFSI request is \$650,000.

Sue Swift-Miller, Great Outdoors gave an update on the Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom and Recreation Enhancement Project and noted that it doesn't fit the criteria for the CWCB Water Plan Grant or the WSRF funds. The group is working on revamping the project with budget amendments and will be requesting other funding sources.