

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
Delta
January 20, 2025**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishing	Montrose County
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Hare	Environmental
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
William Tedrow	Delta Municipalities
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Henry Woods	Hinsdale Municipalities
Jerry Young	Tri-County WCD

Voting Members Excused/Absent:

Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Bobbie Daniel	Mesa County
Mark LeValley	At-Large Member
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Dave Traylor	Ute WCD
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Vacant	Colorado River WCD

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW).

Public: Kelly Morgan and Jojo La (CDPHE), Michael Munoz (North Fork Environmental Science), Savannah Nelson (PEPO), Beverly Richards (UGRWCD), James Frazier (Paonia K-8), Julie Nania (WCU Coldharbour Institute), Melanie Rees, Jesse Bryan (Trout Unlimited), Tanya Ishikawa (UWP, Ouray County), Amy Ostdiek (CWCB), jwriter, Ashley Garrison (CWCB), Lucas Vader (Delta County Independent), Brody Wilson (KUNF Community Radio), Anita Evans (Friends of Youth and Nature), Cindy Dozier (Club 20), Christina Welch (Colorado State University), Michael Weber (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission).

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.

Public Comment

None.

Agenda Approval

Wendell Koontz announced Item #12 will move to the March meeting.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Allen Distel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2024 Meeting

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2024 meeting as submitted. Allen Distel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

WQCD; Dredge and Fill Regulation Update (M. Weber and J. La)

Mike Weber from the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and Jojo La and Kelly Morgan from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, gave a presentation on HB 24-1379, the Colorado Dredge and Fill Program. The discussion covered exempted activities and excluded water features for dredge and fill activities that happen in state waters, implementation components and requirements, temporary authorizations, application for permits, and development schedule. January 28 is the next stakeholder meeting. Information can be found on the Colorado Dredge and Fill Program website.

Education Committee Report (Savannah Nelson)

Savannah Nelson reported on the following PEPO efforts:

- Gunnison Basin Roundtable Handbook update
- 2025 Education Grant Application Program – open until February 17
- 2025 PEPO Schedule

The following 2024 Water Education Grant recipients gave a summary of their projects and what they accomplished with their funding:

- Anita Evans, Friends of Youth and Nature
- Tanya Ishikawa, UWP, Ouray County
- Jim Frasier, Paonia (K-8)
- Michael Munoz, Paonia (North Fork Environmental Science)
- Julia Nania, Coldharbour Institute

Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)

There were no grant applications for this meeting.

Tom Alvey and Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable on 2025 WSRF Funding. Tom read highlights from a letter stating the state-wide account balance is fully awarded and no more state-wide funds would be available. Basin funding is limited. Tom suggested reaching out to other Roundtables for their opinions and then drafting a letter requesting legislative help for a continued funding source for the WSRF program that is greater than current levels.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (Jeff Rodriguez and Amy Ostdiek)

The following updates were given by CWCB members:

Jeff Rodriguez

- WSRF Funding
- Reports:
 - Water Plan Progress Report
 - 10 Strategies to Protect Irrigated Agriculture
 - CWCB Guide
- Timing of Water Plan Grant Letters of Support – not required but must be submitted with the application
- ARPA Program Funding administered by CWCB:
 - Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program
 - Groundwater Sustainability Program
 - Federal Technical and Local Capacity Program
- Instream flow recommendations in the Gunnison Basin

John McClow

- SCPP Program – not reauthorized at this time
- Water Plan Grant Applications – 38 applications for December for \$8.85M

Amy Ostdiek

- Colorado River Updates
- NEPA Process Alternatives
- Uncertainties with Federal Funding with new administration
- Post 2026 Operations

Colorado River District Update (R. Flinker)

Raquel Flinker updated the Roundtable on the following:

- River District Board Meeting – January 21 and 22
- 2025 General Assembly – convenes January 8
- 119th US Congress adjourned
- Community Funding Partnership
- Shoshone Water Rights - \$40M from Federal Government
- Gunnison Basin Hydrology (ISFs)
- Post 2026 Operations Negotiations
- Supplemental Lower Gunnison Project
- Growing Water Smart
 - Applications due end of February
 - Workshop 4/28-30/2025 in Montrose
- Historic Flows and Trends in the Gunnison Basin

Interbasin Compact Committee Report (K. Curry, M. Roeber)

Kathleen Curry and Mark Roeber stated they had nothing to report. The next meeting will be on February 26.

Uncompahgre Valley Water Users DMIP (S. Pope)

Moved to March 17, 2025 meeting.

Legislative Update (K. Curry)

Kathleen Curry reported on water related legislative items and budget.

Gunnison Basin Snowpack update (Sonja Chavez)

Beverly Richards, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, gave an update on the Gunnison Basin Snowpack.

Basin Implementation Plan Update (Wendell Koontz)

Due to time constraints this topic is moved to the March 2025 meeting.

Other Business

Wendell Koontz gave updates on the following topics:

- Ag Stewardship Tax Credit - moved to March meeting
- Montrose Pavilion Meeting Location – tour of facility
- Jesse Bryan TU – topic at March meeting
- Water Congress - Basin Roundtable panel

Bill Nesbitt announced Congressman Hurd will have a staffer at the March meeting.

Future Meetings

The next regular Roundtable meeting is March 17, 2025 at the Montrose Event Center. Colorado River District's State of the River Meeting will follow.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting was declared adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Adam Turner, Recorder

Action Items

- None.