

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
Montrose County Event Center
March 17, 2025**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishering	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
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
William Tedrow	Delta Municipalities
Dave Traylor	Ute WCD
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County
Henry Woods	Hinsdale Municipalities
Jerry Young	Tri-County WCD

Voting Members Excused/Absent:

Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Bobbie Daniel	Mesa County
Mark LeValley	At-Large Member
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Vacant	Colorado River WCD

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Public: Meghan Kent (West Slope Outdoors Alliance), Greg Hart (Mayor, Town of Cedaredge), Cindy Dozier (Club 20), Briana Greer (UWP), Riley Scott (Congressman Jeff Hurd), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Sean Chambers (Chair, South Platte Basin RT), Tyler Davis, Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Ed Millard (Southwest Basin RT), Randi Kim (City of Grand Junction), Lisa Pool (Senator Hickenlooper), Greg Peterson (Colorado Ag Water Alliance), Robert Sakata (CO Dept Ag), Hannah Holm (American Rivers), Jason Ullmann (DWR), Beverly Richards (UGRWCD), Becky Mitchell (State of Colorado), Ashley Garrison (CWCB), Steven Morris (Applegate Engineers), Cheryl Cwelich (River Network), Jeff Sondergard (BLM).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chairperson Wendell Koontz.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Honoring Dave (DK) Kanzer for the Colorado River District

Dave Kanzer (DK), retired from the Colorado River District after 30 years of dedicated service. His work significantly impacted water conservation and policy, including modernizing water use on the Western Slope and improving the Gunnison River's environmental health. Raquel Flinker, a Senior Water Resources Engineer, highlighted his contributions and the collaborative spirit he brought to various projects. Although DK is currently out of the country and unable to attend the meeting, a small plaque will be awarded to honor his remarkable career.

Public Comment

Lisa Pool from Senator Hickenlooper's office advised the Roundtable their office is available to provide assistance for any organization facing federal funding issues. They have also been working on the Fix Our Forests Act. If anyone has comments on the Fix Our Forests Act, please forward them to her.

Agenda Approval

Wendell Koontz noted additions to the Agenda from Jason Ullmann and Jeff Rodriguez. There were no objections from the Roundtable and the Agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2025 Meeting

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2025 meeting as submitted. Sonja Chavez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PEPO Committee Report (Savannah Nelson not here)

Sonja Chavez read Savannah's report on the following PEPO efforts:

- The water education grant application period has opened and closed, and they have selected and approved 6 applications for funding.
- PEPO has sent out newsletters and are brainstorming ideas for the upcoming publication period. An email survey will be sent out to members asking for feedback.
- Updates are underway to the Gunnison Basin Handbook.

Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)

Tom Alvey stated there is no change to funding and no applications at this time.

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

Becky Mitchell gave a status update on the ongoing Colorado River negotiations.

Jeff Rodriguez gave updates for CWCB on the following:

- Three new board members confirmed to the board
- Diane Hoppe Memorial Scholarship
- Climate and Water Workshops
- Ag Emergency Drought Program
- Upcoming funding deadlines - Ashley Garrison
- PEPO Coordinator Grants
- CWCB reports available and reports forthcoming

Colorado River District Update (R. Flinker)

Raquel Flinker updated the Roundtable on the following:

- Shoshone Water Rights
- Other State of the River events

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

Kathleen Curry reported on the IBCC meeting on February 26 in Westminster. The IBCC members created a subcommittee called the Drought Resilience Action Plan, and she was appointed to the subcommittee. She is working on the language dealing with agriculture. Joanne

Fagan was also appointed to the committee and is assigned to fire mitigation management. Kathleen would like to get input at the next Roundtable meeting.

Kathleen also discussed the funding issues brought up by Tom Alvey. The basin accounts will be replenished, but there is no money for the state account. Several other basins are interested and willing to coordinate discussion with legislature regarding this funding issue.

Uncompahgre Valley Water Users DMIP (S. Pope)

Steve Pope gave a presentation on the UVWUA Drought Management and Infrastructure Plan (DMIP). The purpose is to limit the impact of future drought. They have formed a task force and have worked with County Commissioners and others to develop a monitoring and forecasting plan.

Jason Ullman (State Engineer, DNR)

Jason Ullmann, State Engineer, discussed measurement rules on the western slope. The State Engineer and Division Engineer can require measurement devices where necessary. Stakeholder meetings are being held to discuss the measurement rules.

CAWA Update (Greg Peterson)

Greg Peterson with Colorado Ag Water Alliance and the Upper Yampa River Basin Roundtable gave an update on edge-of-field water quality monitoring. His presentation, called Collaborative Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring in Mountain Meadow Hay Systems, discussed water monitoring on hay pastures over the past 3 years. The project partnered with Colorado State University to study the impact on water quality and sediment loss on irrigated fields.

Forest Mill Reclamation Update (Jesse Bryan, TU)

Jesse Bryan with Trout Unlimited gave an update on the reclamation of the Forest Hill Mill Reclamation site in Taylor Park, Colorado. He discussed human health and ecological concerns, restoration actions and intended outcomes for the project.

Legislative Update (K. Curry)

Kathleen Curry reported on legislative items including a new revenue forecast and 9 water bills in appropriations.

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 (K. Curry, T. Alvey)

Kathleen Curry stated the review of the Basin Implementation Plan will happen at the May meeting. The item will be prioritized at the top of the agenda. The 170 items listed on the spreadsheet will be reviewed for status, lead proponent and lead contact.

Other Business

Wendell Koontz discussed the new Roundtable meeting site at the Montrose Pavilion in Montrose.

Future Meetings

The next regular Roundtable meeting is May 19, 2025 at the Montrose Pavilion.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting was declared adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Adam Turner, Recorder

Action Items

- None.