

Work Group Meeting Report Out

Work Group: Monitoring and Verification Meeting #4 **Date:** March 5, 2020

Meeting Topics: Agenda topics included: summary from joint Demand Management - IBCC meeting the previous day; large group scenario planning exercise; Monitoring & Verification individual meeting to identify top priorities and uncertainties; joint meeting with Agricultural Impacts workgroup; joint meeting with Administration and Accounting workgroup.

Key Take Aways: There were many overlapping issues between the two workgroups the M&V group met with. Agreed upon issues with the agricultural impacts workgroup included: the need for sideboards and differentiation of M&V needs depending on project type (high elevation pasture, full and partial fallow, crop switching, M&I, TMDs, etc.); the balance between accuracy and administrative cost of M&V; the responsibilities of the contractor and contractee regarding M&V, infrastructure, and quantification/payment of water volume; the balance of defensible, honest, and accurate M&V with simplicity; the desire to measure “wet water” and not “paper water”; the importance of maintaining return flow patterns where there is injury potential and the need to simplify and pool resources (regional reservoir releases, etc.); the desire for a “straw man” project to work through.

Agreed upon issues with the administration and accounting workgroup included: the need for a simple process that avoids water court; the balance between accuracy of M&V and simplicity, possibly using conservative safety factors; the possibility of using the Lease Fallow Pilot Project approval model (CWCB authority by statute, conservativeness through the criterion guidelines, SEO approval); the importance of maintaining RFOs in key geographic areas and the desire to pool resources; the need to group geographic and sector areas for streamlining of study and guidance; the need for transparency and understanding that there will be uncertainty in the process.

Uncertainties raised in both the individual meeting and the joint meetings included: Who evaluates project proposals? Is Compact Water a legal use? Does it need adjudication by Water Court? Is there a minimum project size for efficiency of administration? Does application from one producer require a ditch-wide analysis? Does Colorado need to scrutinize other Upper Basin state programs? Is a “lowest common denominator” approach required in the Upper Basin in terms of data availability?

Questions/Concerns to Raise: The group identified some “parking lot” questions and issues for other groups to consider, including but not limited to:

- Can the Lit Review identify West Slope reservoirs with decreed augmentation supply (for possible lease/pooling of RFO replacement)?

Additional technical, informational other needs: Workgroup members agreed to do additional research on monitoring and verification considerations.

Other: No public comments were heard during the fourth meeting. The group will meet next on March 30 from 10am-2pm in Silverthorne (re-scheduled as web meeting).