

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2020**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	At-Large Member
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Julie Nania	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Voting Members Absent:

Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Ron Shaver	At-Large Member
Steve Shea	Agricultural

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sam Stein (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Kanzer (Non-Voting At-Large), Jedd Sondergard (US BLM).

Public:

Heather Sackett (Aspen Journalism), Sam Liebl (Gunnison Country Times), Cindy Dozier (Past Chair Club 20), Martha Moore (Education Committee), Ed Millard (SWRT IBCC), Robert Sakata (Sakata Farms IBCC), Luke Gingerich (J-U-B Engineer Liaison), Roger Rash and Sue Hansen (Montrose BOCC), Alyson Gould (Colorado Water Trust), Anita Evans (Eureka Center / ED Friends of Youth and Nature), Taylor Winchell (Denver Water), Hannah Holm (Water Center CMU), Peter Barkman (CO Geological Survey), Russ Sands (CWCB), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW Liaison), Frank Kugel (Public), Dennis Murphy (Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership), Tom Kay (North Fork Grower / No Chico Bush), Garret Varra (South Platte RT), Chris Landry (Public), Scott Williamson and Jayla Poppleton (Water Education Colorado), Steve Anders (USGS), Linda Ingo (Ouray County Rancher), Phil Brink (Colorado Cattleman's Association), David Harold (Olathe Grower), Jesse Kruthaupt (Trout Unlimited), Jason Ullman (Division IV Engineer).

Welcome

The virtual meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call several more members arrived and a quorum was declared to be present.

Approve Agenda

Tom Alvey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Cary Denison seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

This is the annual meeting of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and election of officers. Kathleen Curry asked for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Recorder.

Tom Alvey moved to retain existing officers. Neal Schwieterman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2020 Meeting

Jonathan Houck requested a change to the attendance record to show he was excused due to a conflicting meeting.

Neal Schwieterman moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting as amended. Bill Trampe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Report from the CWCB Representative – Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson reported there had been no CWCB meeting since the last GBRT meeting. Demand management is on the agenda for the next CWCB meeting taking place later this week. He has reviewed a workplan put together by staff. Their intent is to develop a strawman, which should start the conversation. This will be the highlight of the meeting.

He and a group of people, including several members of this Roundtable, have been meeting with Senator Bennet about water issues. At this point Steve Anderson lost connection to the meeting.

Sam Stein reported on changes to the WSRF program. At the last board meeting, WSRF changes were passed generally to streamline the process. A couple of significant changes are: 1) deadlines have now changed to align with the water plan deadline and will have a 3-month window, and 2) 100% of the funds will be allocated to the basin account on September 1, as opposed to multiple distributions as done in the past. The allocation to the basin accounts is a slightly more than expected due to more money carried over from last fiscal year. Most likely this is the last money to be distributed to roundtables for the next 3 years due to a significant budgetary shortfall. The state has created a 3-year statewide spending plan for the WSRF, which will be \$2.459 million each year. The Governor's proposed budget has come out, and because of the horrific wildfire season and drought this year there has been \$6 million allocated this year for the Colorado State Wildfire grant, and \$4 million for CWCB's watershed restoration grant program. An additional \$5 million is proposed for each of those programs next fiscal year.

The CWCB is developing new engagement software. This can be found at engagecwcb.org. They are hoping to message this for the 5-year anniversary for the Water Plan. There is a page on the website called "Share Your Water Plan Story". They are looking for people to share stories about people, places and projects that inspire them and embody the water plan.

The next CWCB Board meeting will be Wednesday and Thursday of this week, November 18-19, 2020. There will be a lot of discussions about demand management.

Russ Sands added the 3-year spending plan extends to all the grant programs and they are trying to stretch that money out. For WSRF specifically, since the Board approved \$1.8 million it leaves just over \$600,000 available for approval for statewide match for the March Board meeting. They will go back to their full \$2.5 million starting next fiscal year.

Kathleen Curry added the JBC is looking at the proposal the Governor put together for DNR and it looks like the dollar amount for the aquatic nuisance species program is the same as the last cycle; for 2021/2022 it will be around \$3.9 million. She did not see any new appropriation for the endangered species recovery fund or demand management. Given our budget situation at the state level, and the focus on forest health, in a nutshell the budget for DNR was really emphasizing the two programs for forest health and mitigation. There will be an update at the next GBRT meeting in January on legislative activities.

BIP Update

Luke Gingerich reported on the progress of the BIP update. Currently they are sending out a revised list to regional representatives who submitted the first round of projects. They are focusing on finding core data where possible and filling in holes on easily accessible data. Next, they will do a first round of tiering on projects, run it through the general contractor, and then he plans to send it back through the BIP committee.

On December 17 there will be a zoom call with the BIP committee focusing on goals, strategies and measurable outcomes. Last week they began work on the weather modification part of the study. They are working with the contractor and Wilson Water Group.

Additionally, they have been working on developing the watershed health and forest health IPP. Luke thinks there is enough momentum behind creating a solid Tier 1 project out of watershed health and forest health that it needs to be a focus soon. The project idea should be developed by February to be included in the project tiering process. The decision was made to put it on the agenda in January for further discussion. They will try to have forest service representation for that discussion.

Education Committee Report – Dave Kanzer

Dave Kanzer reported on the committee's activity since the last meeting. They distributed their latest newsletter. The frequency of newsletters is decreasing due to budget constraints and may need to cut back further. There is a lot of traffic on the internet and they have found Twitter may be more efficient with less effort to get to members. Since not everyone is on Twitter, they also still maintain an email list and have updated the Facebook page. They are also maintaining the website.

All these activities cost money. The committee is allocated \$6,500, with \$1,000 going toward transportation for younger audience members. They are running a deficit. The current rate of activities runs about \$750 month and they have a budget of about \$450 a month. The vendor has generously cut her billing rate by \$200-\$300 month. They are considering reducing reliance on the newsletter and rely more on social media or seek additional funding.

Due to increasing competition for grants Dave is looking for input from the Roundtable for future funding alternatives. Their basis for these activities is the Education Action Plan (EAP), which the committee wrote for the GBRT on its behalf. Members felt the newsletter is important and valuable outreach to those who are not on social media. Kathleen Curry and Dave Kanzer will work together to send out an email to entities to see if anyone would like to contribute. If there are no contributions the Roundtable will revisit the subject.

a. SWEAP Presentation and Endorsement Request (Dave Kanzer and Scott Williamson)

Scott Williamson and Jayla Poppleton from Water Education Colorado (WECO) explained the Statewide Education Action Plan (SWEAP). The Gunnison Basin EAP fits within the statewide EAP. Jayla Poppleton is the Executive Director of Water Education Colorado (WECO). WECO was founded by the state legislature in 2002, charged with the mission of ensuring that Coloradoans are informed on water issues and to make decisions that will guide our state to a sustainable water future.

Scott Williamson, Educational Programs Manager with WECO, gave a presentation on SWEAP, Colorado's first statewide education plan focused on water. WECO is requesting GBRT to provide an endorsement of SWEAP.

Neal Schwieterman moved to provide a memo endorsing the SWEAP approach. Allen Distel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Neal Schwieterman, Allen Distel and Dave Kanzer will work together with Kathleen on the memo of support to give to Scott Williamson and Jayla Poppleton.

b. Eureka Center Presentation (Neal Schwieterman and Anita Evans)

Neal Schwieterman discussed the \$1,000 the GBRT has committed to help transport students to the Eureka Science museum. Neal gave a presentation on the exhibits in the water center, which GBRT helped to fund.

Anita Evans, Executive Director of Friends of Youth and Nature, discussed her background. Her degree is in forestry. She has been a teacher on the front range and in Delta. Anita helped establish Friends of Youth and Nature, whose purpose is connecting kids with outdoors. They are currently working in Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties. Their funds come from fund raising, and transportation is the primary obstacle to getting kids outdoors.

Neal stated currently, due to COVID, the only school district allowing bussing is Delta County, and only to outdoor venues. Neal asked the Roundtable if it wants to hold back this funding until bussing to the Eureka Center is possible or be more flexible and allow Anita to use the funding for any type of water education. There were no objections from the Roundtable. The organization will be asked to give an accounting of the use of the funds at the end of year.

IBCC Report and Survey Discussion – Joanne Fagan, Bill Trampe

Bill Trampe reported the last IBCC meeting was on October 21 and was a zoom meeting. They covered a lot of ground in the morning. In the afternoon they joined with PEPO who spent several hours talking about their statewide effort on the water plan and how they were going to get their message out about demand management.

In the morning session they discussed the questions from summer about what the IBCC should be doing. The Gunnison Basin Roundtable was the only roundtable to officially provide

comments to those questions. They used those comments at that meeting and took verbal comments from other roundtables. Discussion with IBCC about its goals ensued.

The focus of the discussion after that was primarily about demand management and the equity issue, and what could the IBCC do to help with the demand management question. The consensus was to solicit feedback on a draft scenario. That will be coming and Bill said to be ready to respond.

Joanne Fagan reported she heard same funding information Sam spoke about earlier.

Russ Sands stated they will be talking next week with the board about demand management. They are contemplating the next phase in the feasibility update. He is hoping there will be something to discuss soon. The next IBCC meeting will be February 23, 2021.

Bill Trampe added there are 3 meetings planned over the course over the next year. February 23, approximately June 20, and then in October. Bill informed the Roundtable he is stepping down from the River District and the Roundtable. He stated he is more than willing to help with ideas or suggestions or history for anyone who takes his place. Kathleen and others thanked Bill for his service to the roundtable and IBCC. Bill's leaving is a huge loss to the Roundtable and the IBCC. He has been involved with the roundtable since its beginning.

Kathleen Curry moved to propose the Roundtable adopt a resolution to recognize Bill Trampe for his work on behalf of the Roundtable and the IBCC. Mark Roeber seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Kathleen said the Roundtable will generate something to send to Bill for all he has done. The appointment to fill the vacant Roundtable seat and the IBCC representative position will be discussed at the January meeting.

Grant Review Committee Report and LIDAR Survey Application Discussion – Tom Alvey

Tom Alvey reported the screening committee got an application but it was submitted after the deadline. If the Roundtable waited for the January meeting it could not be heard by the CWCB at the March statewide meeting. Therefore, instead of a screening committee report he suggested the applicants make presentation to the roundtable. It is an interesting proposal regarding LIDAR surveying of snowpack. It is newer technology that might help us understand snowpack conditions.

Taylor Winchell, Denver Water, presented the proposal on behalf of a much larger work group. Mr. Winchell recognized Laurina Kaatz Denver Water and Emily Carbone from Northern Water who were essential in bringing these materials together. The project is called The Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories (ASO) Expansion Plan. It is a proposal for WSRF funds in the amount of \$45,000. They are asking for \$5,000 each from the Colorado, South Platte, Metro, Arkansas and Gunnison roundtables, and \$20,000 from state WSRF funds. There is also \$44,000 of in-kind contributions from 4 other entities.

Tom Alvey asked a couple of questions to get a better sense of what the proposal is. Tom said, as he understands it, this more of a planning approach to what an ASO could be. Mr. Winchell agreed as they have seen the technology proven throughout Colorado, but it has been difficult for the state to gain momentum and to do more than just a pilot flight in any area and have a consistent year-to-year flight program. They are looking to plan out how that can be possible statewide. Tom also asked about the contributions other members of their collaborative are bringing. They are asking the roundtables to provide a large part of the funding, and yet some of the collaborative include some of the largest and deepest pockets in the state. Tom wonders about all those contributions being in-kind. Taylor replied it is a fair question, at the time all the organizations had already gone through their budgeting cycle or expressed things are tight.

Cary Denison added he sees the value of the data and sees it as a worthwhile effort. He asked if they would be using these funds to answer questions. Mr. Winchell said the plan is for getting over roadblocks for an ASO program. It is not to do flights with these funds, but to lay out a plan.

Mark Ritterbush asked if more of the Gunnison Basin would be incorporated. Mr. Winchell stated yes as the map has not been finalized. They will incorporate whatever areas stakeholders want.

Austin Kaiser asked how, after they spend the money to develop the plan, will they fund it. Mr. Winchell stated they do not have the answer right now, but part of the project is to look at what the options are.

Sonja Chavez mentioned the Upper Gunnison uses this information and it is beneficial.

Sonja Chavez moved that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable support the request for \$5,000 for the Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories Expansion Plan. Neal Schwieterman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Action Items

Kathleen Curry and Dave Kanzer will work together to send out an email to entities to see if they would contribute funding to the Education Committee.

Neal Schwieterman, Allen Distel and Dave Kanzer will work together with Kathleen on the memo of support endorsing the SWEAP approach.

Kathleen Curry to generate something in recognition of Bill Trampe's service to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and the IBCC.

Future Meetings

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting will be January 18, 2021.

Cimarron Valley and River Watershed Coalition group will have a meeting on November 30, 2020 from 4-7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express.

The next IBCC meeting will be February 23, 2021.

The next CWCB meeting will be November 18-19, 2020.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Mike Berry, Recorder