

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Zoom Videoconference
April 22, 2021

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large Industrial	Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities
Leland Begay	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD
Jarrold Biggs	La Plata Municipalities	Ed Millard	Montezuma County
John Currier	Colorado River WCD	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Kathy Rall	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Recreation	Gretchen Rank	At Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Gigi Richard	At Large Member
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	Ellen Roberts	La Plata County
Bill Frownfelner	At Large Member	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member		

Public:

Peter Barkmann (Colorado Geological Survey), Stacy Beagh (Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update Local Expert Team), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Mandy Eskelson (Mountain Studies Institute), Tony LaGreca (Colorado Water Trust), Rich Landreth (City of Cortez), Ian MacLaren (Montezuma County Attorney), Blake Mamich (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Becky Mitchell (Colorado Water Conservation Board, CWCB), Carrie Padgett (BIP Update Local Expert Team), Robert Sakata (CWCB Board Member, South Platte), Russ Sands (CWCB), Danielle Snyder (Brown & Caldwell), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Sam Stein (CWCB), Greg Vlaming (High Desert Conservation District), Kat Weismiller (CWCB), Scott Williamson (Water Education Colorado)

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Administrative Reports

Review and Approval of Minutes

Al Pfister moved to approve the January 28th, February 25th and March 25th Roundtable minutes. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports

Ed Tolen, Roundtable Chair, reported that the Colorado Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) travel policy may be reconsidered in June, at which time the CWCB and Roundtables may be permitted to meet in person. The CWCB is also setting up a Zoom account for future Roundtable meetings. Meanwhile, the SW Basin Roundtable will continue to use SWCD's Zoom account.

Celene Hawkins, CWCB board member, reported that there hasn't been a CWCB board meeting since the last meeting. This year's focus continues to be drought, fire, and funding.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The WSRF Basin fund balance will be \$403,603 after \$33,900 in grants are approved for disbursement by the CWCB.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments or questions.

4. CWCB Update

Becky Mitchell (CWCB Director) described the CWCB Code of Conduct, which outlines the CWCB's and the Roundtables' shared responsibility for open meetings and respectful dialogue. The CWCB Code of Conduct is applicable to all roundtables as presented. In addition, the CWCB is asking all roundtables to independently adopt the Code of Conduct and commit to respectful, safe engagement on difficult water topics.

Sam Stein (CWCB) thanked those who have attended the recent water plan-related workshops. All scheduled events can be found at engagecwc.org. Recently, the CWCB board adopted the demand management feasibility framework matrix and Amy Ostdiek will be presenting it to all the roundtables. DNR has started an Equity Task Force to discuss how to reach, include, and elevate often excluded voices in state water management decision making.

5. Consider Adopting the Code of Conduct

There was considerable comment and discussion regarding the proposed CWCB Code of Conduct. Jarrod Biggs moved that the Roundtable adopt Section 3 of the CWCB Code of Conduct as a "guide for our conduct as volunteers on the Southwest Basin Roundtable for our individual and collective action representing the southwest basins." John Currier seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. PEPO Liaison Report

Elaine Chick, PEPO Liaison, said she has submitted the WSRF application to support development of a stand-alone Roundtable website. Elaine is requesting letters from the PEPO subcommittee members to document their in-kind commitments to this project.

Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado, presented a summary of the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP), which organizations and individual educators can use to realize the "Outreach, Education and Public Education" goals set forth in the Colorado Water Plan. The SWEAP framework features 10 key outcomes, related strategies, and examples of actions local entities can take to reach their unique audiences. Scott requested the Roundtable consider endorsing SWEAP at a future meeting.

7. San Miguel River E&R Needs Assessment

Celene Hawkins and Kenny Heldman provided background on the San Miguel Stakeholders Group and its membership, along with the development and adoption of the San Miguel watershed needs assessment. This effort was sparked by the Southwest Basin Roundtable and the State during development of the Colorado Water Plan, which found data gaps for local environmental and recreational needs and wanted to develop a planning process to collect that data and start conversations on how to address those needs. The San Miguel Stakeholders Group had regular participation from 20-30 members at its meetings, which focused on developing the needs assessment, identification of high value recreational and environmental attributes, and linkages with streamflow and these attributes. The next step will be identification and evaluation of potential projects to address the needs identified. The adopted San Miguel needs assessment is available on the Roundtable webpage.

8. IBCC Update

The IBCC representatives didn't have anything new to report as there had not been an IBCC meeting since the last Roundtable meeting. Amy Ostdiek said that the IBCC will be focused on reviewing the proportionality aspect of the demand management feasibility investigation. Mely Whiting reported briefly on DNR's Equity Task Force, which will meet in mid-May. One of the primary tasks will be organizing a fall workshop to discuss how to include often underrepresented voices in water management decision making.

9. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee

Ken Curtis summarized the Colorado River subcommittee, which met earlier that morning. John Currier described current snowpack, forecasted runoff, and related reservoir operations in the Colorado River Basin. Amy Ostdiek presented the demand management matrix, which is now being used to frame the feasibility investigation discussion. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on July 29th, at which State Engineer Kevin Rein may be invited to speak. To avoid confusion with equity in the context of efforts like the Equity Task Force, the CWCB will be using the term proportionality and not equity to discuss aspects of fairness as it applies to the demand management feasibility investigation.

Ken also reported that snowpack observation flights over the Upper Dolores and Animas basin were conducted earlier this week. He will be setting up a workshop with Jeff Deems (Aerial Snow Observatory) and David Gochis (NCAR) for anyone interested in hearing their results.

10. WSRF Funding Subcommittee

Phil Johnson moved that the Roundtable open a second round of WSRF application review at the October 28th meeting given the stronger-than-anticipated WSRF Basin Account balance. Mely Whiting seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

There was Roundtable consensus to address all WSRF applications at one meeting on October 28th with WSRF subcommittee review of applications prior to the meeting and adequate notice to potential applicants.

11. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update

Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering, summarized recent progress on the BIP update. At the May 27th meeting, the BIP subcommittee will focus on updating measurable objectives and actions. In July and August, the BIP subcommittee and Roundtable will review draft BIP Volumes I and II. Carrie summarized the content and deliverables to be included in the final BIP update. She has been working on finalizing the IPP list and tiering the projects listed by readiness and other criteria.

12. Upcoming Events via Zoom

Roundtable BIP Update	May 27, 2021
Roundtable BIP Update	June 24, 2021
Regular Roundtable Meeting	July 29, 2021
Regular Roundtable Meeting (Consideration of WSRF Applications)	October 28, 2021

13. Adjournment

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.