

**Drought Contingency Planning – Demand Management Subcommittee
Southwest Basins Roundtable**

SW Water Conservation District Office, 841 East Second Avenue, Durango, Colorado
October 9, 2019 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Roundtable Members Present:

Jarrod Biggs, La Plata County Municipalities
Greg Black, At Large
John Currier, Colorado River WCD
Ken Curtis, At Large
Steve Harris, Legislative Appointee
Celene Hawkins, CWCB Board
Brandon Johnson, At Large
Phil Johnson, Montezuma County Municipalities

Frank Kugel, SW Water Conservation District
Ed Millard, Montezuma County
Carrie Padgett, At Large Domestic
Mike Preston, At Large
Blake Mamich, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ed Tolen, At Large
Mely Whiting, At Large

Other Subcommittee Members Present:

Bob Wolff, SW Water Conservation District

Public:

Kara Armano, Trout Unlimited
Elaine Chick, Water Information Program
Gigi Richards, Four Corners Water Resources Center
Laura Spann, Recorder, SWCD
Ryan Unterreiner, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

1. Introductions

Mike Preston called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. Phase III Risk Study Update

a. Final Deliverable Update

John Currier summarized the assumptions and preliminary results of the Phase III West Slope Risk Assessment. The River District recently approved a contract extension with Hydros Consulting for downscaled modeling runs and additional outreach. John Currier said that the final report, which will be completed by year end, will provide more of the “under the hood” look at the assumptions and results of the modeling for basins in southwestern Colorado. Among other topics, there was discussion regarding proportionality, transmountain diversions, and future tribal depletions in southwestern Colorado.

b. Brainstorming Questions for Future Analysis

There was consensus to wait for the Phase III final report to see which additional basin-specific questions are addressed. The subcommittee asked Carrie Padgett to provide an initial review of the final report and identify some unanswered questions for future modeling work.

3. Demand Management Context within the Bigger Picture

Russell George, IBCC Chair, will participate in the January Roundtable meeting. The subcommittee proposed topics for discussion: including requesting a strong role for the Roundtables in the demand management discussion, the linkage between IBCC and Roundtables for demand management. Mely Whiting volunteered to summarize in a paragraph a request to Russ George and the IBCC regarding the Roundtable role in the discussion. Elaine Chick brought up the opportunities for educational opportunities and outreach in her role as PEPO Liaison. She will be updating the Education Action Plan as well, and outreach related to demand management will need to be addressed.

4. Genesis of Section 603

Ed Millard provided a preview of his “Forgotten Law of the River” presentation, which will be given at the Colorado Mesa University Upper Colorado River Basin Forum on November 13-14 in Grand Junction. Russ George will join Ed to provide an IBCC perspective on Colorado River issues. Ed Millard pointed to Section 603, which he believes may provide protection for Upper Basin uses. Roundtable members encouraged a review of presentations at the River District Annual Seminar and Getches-Wilkinson Center Conference in which unresolved issues among the basin states are highlighted. It was also suggested that the Roundtable contribute to “keeping the Upper Basin house in order” and avoiding the drawing of legal quivers. The Upper Basin may feel impacts from changing hydrology that the Lower Basin may not. It was also discussed how important it is for CWCB and the State Attorney General’s Office to strike a balance between protecting state legal positions and creating trust with local water users. There was discussion about the potential for the Roundtable to encourage statewide conversations about water supply augmentation strategies such as phreatophyte removal, forest health management, and cloud seeding in parallel with the ongoing demand management feasibility investigation.

5. CWCB 2019 Demand Management Workplan

a. Reporting out from Attendees of Workgroups

This topic was postponed for the full Roundtable meeting.

b. CWCB Updates

This topic was postponed for the full Roundtable meeting.

6. Reporting out to Roundtable

The subcommittee organized their summary for reporting to the Roundtable at the full meeting.