**Drought Contingency Planning – Demand Management Subcommittee**

**Southwest Basins Roundtable**

Dolores Water Conservancy District, 65 Cactus Drive, Cortez, Colorado

July 10, 2019 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Roundtable Members Present:**

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| Greg Black, At-Large | Al Pfister, San Juan WCD |
| Sonny Frasier, Dolores County Muni | Andrew Straub, Southern Ute Indian Tribe |
| Steve Harris, Legislative Appointee | Ed Tolen, At Large |
| Celene Hawkins, CWCB Board | Ed Zink, La Plata County  |
| Phil Johnson, Montezuma County Muni | Mely Whiting, At Large |
| Ed Millard, Montezuma County | Bob Wolff, SW Water Conservation District |
| Carrie Padgett, At Large Domestic |  |

**Other Subcommittee Members Present: Public:**

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| Bruce Smart, Dolores Water Conservancy District | Mandy Eskelson, Mountain Studies Institute |
| Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy District | Rob Genualdi, Division of Water Resources |
| Don Schwindt, SW Water Conservation District | Megan Holcomb, CWCB Staff |
|  | Aaron Kimple, Mountain Studies Institute |
|  | Blake Mamich, Southern Ute Indian Tribe |
|  | Steve Ruddell, Animas La Plata WCD |
|  | Dave Stiller, Public |
|  | John Simpson, Division of Water Resources  |
|  | Laura Spann, Recorder, SWCD |

1. **Introduction and Meeting Purpose**

Steve Harris called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

1. **Materials Generated Update**
	1. **Historical Information Document**

There were no updates since the last meeting.

* 1. **Planning Efforts for Drought in the Colorado River Basin Document**

Subcommittee members provided limited revisions to the Drought Planning Efforts document related to the CWCB demand management workgroups.

1. **Phase III Risk Study Update**
	1. **West Slope Caucus Summary**

Carrie Padgett directed the workgroup members to a two-page summary of the preliminary results from the Phase III West Slope Risk Assessment. She noted some highlights from John Carron’s presentation to the Four West Slope Basin Roundtables at their June 20th meeting: Of Colorado’s total current post-compact depletions from the Colorado River, 19% come from southwestern Colorado. More than 50% of post-compact depletions from the Colorado River are from transbasin diversions to the Front Range. Approximately 64% of southwest Colorado’s water use is pre-compact. Carron looked at what percentage by sub-basin of post-compact depletions would be curtailed at partial curtailments to generate 100,000, 300,000, 600,000 and 900,000 af of conserved consumptive use. Most of southwest Colorado’s Reclamation projects fall into the 1930-40 appropriation dates.

Rob Genualdi and John Simpson, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division 7, explained the administration number and the complexities around compact administration scenarios. Roundtable members asked questions and discussed the information.

Roundtable discussed how much of the post-compact Colorado River water is used in southwestern Colorado, and under post-compact calls simulated in the models, southwestern Colorado suffers some of the deepest cuts. Carrie will look closely at which water rights comprise the 19% post-compact uses in southwestern Colorado are, and how curtailment may affect our region by sub-basin. She may have this analysis for the August 6th SW Water Conservation District board meeting or the October Roundtable meeting. There was discussion of looking at future depletions and understanding current and future demands well. For southwestern Colorado, significant factor in future depletions is the development of the Tribal water rights. There was discussion about how future M&I demand for southwestern Colorado were modeled, and if that future demand estimate accounted for projected population increases. In the modeling runs, there was never a trace of the deliveries from the Upper Basin dropping below 7.5 maf in 10 years. Depending on how much risk southwest Colorado can tolerate, we might want to take different routes in exploring exposure.

1. **CWCB 2019 Demand Management Work Plan**

Carrie Padgett directed the group to two Demand Management Workgroup updates on the CWCB’s website. There is an orientation webinar for the Demand Management Workgroup participants scheduled for Monday, July 15 at 1:00pm. The first regional Demand Management workshop will be held in conjunction with Water Congress’ Summer Conference on the afternoon of Thursday, August 22.

1. **Recent Colorado River Conference Summary**

Ed Millard summarized the Getches-Wilkinson Center conference focused on Colorado River issues. He reviewed several options discussed at the conference for renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines: Scenario 1—continuation of the current reservoir operations, Scenario 2—going back to pre. 2007 Interim Guidelines operations, the “Grand Bargain”— cap Upper Basin uses at 4.5 maf in exchange for Lower Basin foregoing their compact call. Ed summarized the pros and cons of each of these potential negotiation outcomes for the Upper Basin. Ed walked through how Lakes Powell and Mead reservoir levels have changed since the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Ed summarized Brad Udall’s presentation on why the 2007 Interim Guidelines were not working and the pros and cons of Intentionally Created Surplus. Roundtable members requested additional time to hear from experts to better understand what issues are on the table for renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

1. **Future Involvement Opportunities**

The Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference will be held in Steamboat Springs from August 20-22, 2019. The Statewide Basin Roundtable Summit will be in Winter Park on September 25-26, 2019. Demand Management program outreach opportunities on workgroup orientation webinar on July 15 from 1:00-4:00pm. The first regional Demand Management workshop is on August 22 in Steamboat Springs.

1. **Reporting out to Roundtable**

The subcommittee organized their summary for reporting to the Roundtable at the full meeting. At the next subcommittee meeting, Reclamation will be invited to discuss the 24-month study, there will be a more detailed review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, and Carrie will provide more analysis of the Phase III Risk Study by sub-basin, with special attention given to how we are calculating future depletions.