

Interbasin Compact Committee  
**Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting**  
Via Zoom  
October 28, 2021

**Members Present:**

Ken Beegles	At Large Industrial	Peter Ortego	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Randy Carver	Montezuma County	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
John Currier	Colorado River WCD	Gretchen Rank	At Large Member
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Gigi Richard	At Large Member
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Recreation	Ellen Roberts	La Plata County
John Ey	Florida WCD	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Bill Frownfelter	At Large Member	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District
April Montgomery	San Miguel County	Robin Young	Archuleta County

**Public:**

Stacy Beough (Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update Local Expert Team), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Jeff Derry (Center for Snow & Avalanche Studies), James Dickhoff (Town of Pagosa Springs), Mandy Eskelson (Mountain Studies Institute), Kris Holstrom (San Miguel County Commissioner), Lauren Kirm (Town of Mountain Village), Rich Landreth (City of Cortez), Brendon Langenhuizen (Colorado River Water Conservation District), Matt Lindburg (Brown & Caldwell), Blake Mamich (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Tom Meehan (Lone Cone Ditch Company), Molly Morris (4CORE), Carrie Padgett (BIP Update Local Expert Team), Andrea Phillips (Town of Pagosa Springs), Chris Pitcher (Town of Pagosa Springs), Mike Preston (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Tom Smrdel (Platte River Recovery Program) Danielle Snyder (Brown & Caldwell), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Sam Stein (CWCB), Kat Weismiller (CWCB), John and Tonia Wilson (Vallecito Valley)

**1. Introductions & Review Agenda**

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**2. Administrative Reports**

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Al Pfister moved to approve the July 29, 2021 Roundtable minutes. Carolyn Dunmire seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**Officer Reports**

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen reported that there is an “All Chairs” meeting next week.

**Basin WSRF Fund Balance**

The WSRF Basin Fund balance is \$603,903, of which \$191,400 is federal relief that must be appropriated by March 2023.

**January Roundtable Meeting Date**

There was Roundtable consensus to move the next meeting to Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with Colorado Water Congress’ Annual Conference.

**3. Public Comments**

John Currier introduced Brendon Langenhuizen from the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

#### **4. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update**

Sam Stein (CWCB staff) thanked the Roundtable members for their work on the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), which are now available at [engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org) for public comment through November 15<sup>th</sup>. He solicited Roundtable review of the CWCB's comprehensive projects database, an outcome of the BIP update process. The CWCB is now drafting the update to Colorado's Water Plan for release in June 2022. The next CWCB meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. CWCB's Water Equity Task Force meeting recordings are available on YouTube.

Celene Hawkins (CWCB board member) added that the CWCB board has adopted a decision-making framework for the demand management feasibility investigation, which is available on the CWCB website. Conversations about Colorado River negotiations are moving forward as well.

#### **5. Public Education, Participation & Outreach (PEPO) Liaison Report**

Elaine Chick, PEPO Liaison, reported that the BIP public comment period has been advertised widely via email blasts, press releases, and local newspaper coverage. Starting November 1st, the CWCB will offer an online WSRF application form and process. At Colorado Water Congress' Annual Conference, CWCB will announce the results from a water public awareness survey currently underway. Due to declines in severance tax revenues, it's unlikely that WSRF will be replenished in the coming three-five years and so the CWCB is exploring alternatives to create stability for the Basin Accounts, including setting a distribution list of \$300,000 per basin per year for three years. The CWCB is considering increasing annual basin PEPO funding from \$6,500 to \$25,000 per basin per year starting July 2022. The CWCB is undertaking a phased Colorado Water Plan messaging campaign with support from PEPO liaisons. The Water '22 campaign will include an event based in the southwest Basin. Elaine is currently working with two designers to develop a proposal for the Roundtable web design.

#### **6. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee**

Ken Curtis summarized the morning Colorado River subcommittee. James Heath (Division 5 Engineer), Kalsoum Abbasi (Colorado Springs Utilities), Alex Davis (Aurora Water), and Rick Kienitz (Aurora Water) presented on the Homestake Reservoir Pilot Release conducted recently to evaluate the mechanics of shepherding water under a potential curtailment scenario or the proposed demand management program. Michelle Garrison, CWCB, detailed conditions, operations and forecasts for Lakes Mead and Powell.

#### **7. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update**

Mely Whiting, Al Pfister and Ken Curtis summarized the IBCC meeting held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Dan Gibbs replaced Russ George as IBCC Director. Given the ongoing instability with severance tax revenues, the CWCB may place a \$750,000 carryover limit on WSRF Basin accounts. There were breakout discussions about achieving proportionality as part of the proposed demand management program. There was significant discussion about a failed motion that the IBCC be charged with structuring the proportionality/equity aspects of any demand management program if implemented. The IBCC will hold a special meeting in the coming months to further discuss this question.

#### **8. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update**

Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering, and Stacy Beough, Strategic by Nature, strongly urged Roundtable members to read BIP Volume I and provide comments by the Special Roundtable meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period ends on November 15<sup>th</sup>, after which time Carrie and Stacy will bring any public comments requiring further review to the full Roundtable. After that, the BIP will come before the Roundtable for adoption before its final release in January 2022.

#### **9. Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies (CSAS) Presentation**

Jeff Derry summarized recent monitoring and data collection by the Center for Snow & Avalanche Studies and how local water managers utilize that information for real time decision making. He also presented recent activities of the Colorado Dust on Snow program, including coordination with recent Aerial Snow Observatory flights. He relayed the various tools from the Center available to stakeholders and water managers. CSAS also conducts high mountain plant community studies.

## **10. WSRF Grant Request – CSAS**

Jeff Derry presented CSAS' request for \$15,000 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$90,000 from the WSRF Statewide Account to support three years of ongoing snowpack research and monitoring. CSAS is presenting similar requests to all nine Roundtables for a total of \$225,000 from WSRF Basin and Statewide accounts. Deliverables include field campaigns to assess dust-on-snow conditions; timely and actionable dust-on-snow information in the form of regular CODOS updates; dedicated webpages for each CODOS site; dust-on snow data access, visualization, interaction, and interpretation tools on the CODOS website; and continuous near real-time reporting of climate station data to stakeholders. The total estimated project cost is \$430,000.

## **WSRF Grant Request – Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District**

Renee Lewis and Justin Ramsey presented Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District's (PAWSD) request for \$18,680 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$168,120 from the WSRF Statewide Account to support design and engineering for replacement of the Snowball water treatment plant. PAWSD is proactively seeking to address the limitations of the existing Snowball water treatment plant in meeting the current and projected requirements and expand the treatment capacity to best utilize the 5 cfs pre-Compact water right by proposing a multiphase project to design and construct a new plant. Funding for the final phase of engineering and design of the WTP is the current request. The total estimated project cost is \$2,143,000.

## **WSRF Grant Request – Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP)**

James Dickhoff, Mandy Eskelson, and Chris Pitcher presented the Town of Pagosa Springs' request on behalf of the Upper San Juan WEP for \$16,618 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$149,562 from the WSRF Statewide Account to support Yamaguchi South in-river improvements. The primary purpose of the project is to enhance the recreational experience for both anglers and river enthusiasts, improve public access to recreational features, improve fish habitat quality and promote sediment movement through this section of the San Juan River. The total estimated project cost is \$664,720.

## **WSRF Grant Request – Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP)**

Carrie Padgett presented the AWP's request for \$20,525 from the WSRF Basin Account to support Phase I of Animas River stream management planning. Over 18 months, AWP will organize a stakeholder group, led by a steering committee, with the structure, capacity, and collective interest in pursuing a coordinated stream management. That group will review current data and information, then develop a work plan for subsequent phases of stream assessment and stream management planning. The total project cost is estimated at \$82,098. AWP will also pursue grant funding from the CWCB's Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Southwestern Water Conservation District's Grant Program.

## **WSRF Grant Request – Lone Cone Ditch & Reservoir Company**

Tom Meehan presented the Lone Cone Ditch & Reservoir Company's request for \$25,000 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$36,000 from the WSRF Statewide Account to support engineering and design for dam outlet structure repair. Specifically, SEH Engineering will update the 2019 engineering study, complete the design up a new intake structure, outlet conduit, valve vault and outlet structures to replace the existing outlet. By moving the outlet and dredging the existing footprint of the reservoir, it is anticipated the storage will increase by 1,750 acre-feet. The applicant is requesting that the 25% match requirement be waived. The total project cost is estimated at \$66,000.

## **Roundtable Consideration**

Gigi Richard moved that the Roundtable support CSAS' request for \$15,000 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$90,000 from the WSRF Statewide Account. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Al Pfister moved that the Roundtable support PAWSD's request for \$18,680 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$168,120 from the WSRF Statewide Account, contingent on meeting CWCB guidelines regarding the funding of water/wastewater treatment. Gigi Richard seconded. Justin Ramsey recused himself. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Carolyn Dunmire moved that the Roundtable support the Town of Pagosa Springs' request on behalf of the Upper San Juan WEP for \$16,618 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$149,562 from the WSRF Statewide Account. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Mely Whiting moved that the Roundtable support the Animas Watershed Partnership's request for \$20,525 from the WSRF Basin Account. Al Pfister seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Ken Curtis moved that the Roundtable support the Lone Cone Ditch Company's request for \$25,000 from the WSRF Basin Account and \$36,000 from the WSRF Statewide Account, contingent upon the corresponding update to the WSRF as submitted and a \$5,000 match. Jim Wells seconded. Bill Frownfelter recused himself. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **11. Letters of Support for Colorado Water Plan Grant Application**

### **Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories**

There was Roundtable consensus to send CWCB a letter of support for the Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories' Colorado Water Plan grant application, which would support snowpack monitoring flights across the state and in the Dolores River basin. Ken Curtis abstained as DWCD may benefit from the project.

### **Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

There was Roundtable consensus to send CWCB a letter of support for the Upper San Juan WEP's Colorado Water Plan grant application to support the Yamaguchi South Project described earlier in the meeting.

### **4CORE Greywater Ordinance**

Molly Morris described 4CORE's Colorado Water Plan grant application to assist La Plata County in drafting an ordinance to allow greywater use per Regulation 86. There was Roundtable consensus to send CWCB a letter of support for the Four Core greywater ordinance effort in La Plata County.

### **Mancos River Restoration Project**

There was Roundtable consensus to send CWCB a letter of support for the Mancos River Restoration Project.

After some discussion, there was Roundtable consensus to consider WSRF applications twice annually.

## **12. Upcoming Events**

Regular Roundtable Meeting	January 20, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting	April 28, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting	July 28, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting	October 27, 2022

## **13. Adjournment**

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.