

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable
Colorado River Subcommittee Meeting-DRAFT
Hybrid from Durango Public Library
Durango, Colorado
October 27, 2022

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large-Industrial
Peter Butler	La Plata County
Ken Curtis	DWCD
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large-Recreation
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Liaison
Dave Kanzer	Colorado River WCD
Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Buck Skillen	At Large
Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Bruce Whitehead	Animas LaPlata WCD
Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District

Public:

Taylor Adams (Hydros), Sara Burch (San Juan Citizens Alliance), John Currier (Public), Michelle Garrison (Colorado Water Conservation Board and “CWCB”), Peter Ortega (UMUT), Amy Ostdiek (CWCB), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Jonathan Romeo (Public-Durango Telegraph), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District), Wendy Weygandt (Montezuma Valley Irrigation, SWBRT Recorder), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife Liaison), Chuck Wanner (4CBCH), Bob Wolff (ALP-WCD)

1. Introductions

Subcommittee chair Ken Curtis, called the Colorado River Subcommittee meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. CWCB & Colorado River Conditions, DCP & DROA Updates-Amy Ostdiek & Michelle Garrison, CWCB

Upper Basin 5 Point Plan was implemented in response to the Commissioner of Reclamation announcement to conserve 2-4 million acre feet of water. The Upper Basin is living within the means of the river. The Lower Basin usage has not demonstrated a significant reduction. The Lower Basin pulls more water than what is going into Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

3. Upper Division States 5-Point Plan for Additional Actions to Protect Colorado Storage Project Initial Units

500+ Plan(Amended via email)

This plan was intended to conserve 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead in 2021/2022 and another 500,000 acre-feet of water in 2023. The August 24-Month Study shows a net benefit of approximately 320,000 acre-feet out of an intended 1,000,000 acre-feet after contracting for over 400,000 acre-feet of conservation. One of the reasons was that some entities called for release of previously stored ICS water. Another reason was that with rising crop prices (drought in much of the US and some other countries, war in Ukraine and other factors), the compensation offered was yielding fewer participants than expected or needed to accomplish the 1,000,000 acre-feet goal.

Identify transit losses from Lake Mead and develop plans to conserve.

Lower Basin Plans-Discussion are readily taking place along the lines of voluntary, and paid reduction in water use.

Upper Basin Plans appear to be slower in response to the drought. Their identified plan is forthcoming.

4. SWCD Phase III Risk Study-Taylor Adams, Hydros, Steve Wolff, GM, Southwestern Water Conservation District

Increasing drought leads to increased compact-call in the southwest basins-(as a “lumped” presentation). Pre- and Post- Compact-call effects consumption in each basin. StateMod to explain inconsistencies in tributary water users based upon the 1922 date. Various scenarios used to estimate results on risk factors on depletions. Consumptive use with call and without the call used to draft the final results.

5. Future Workgroup Topics-January 19, 2023

Invite:

Michelle Garrison and Amy Ostdiek

Kevin Rein, State Engineer

Wright Water Engineers on measurement rules, compact compliance

Hydros-schematics on storage, direct diversion, individual ditch

Robert Genualdi, Colorado Division of Water Resources

6. Wrap Up & Adjournment

Subcommittee chair Ken Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.