

Interbasin Compact Committee  
**Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting-DRAFT**  
 Hybrid Meeting from DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
 Durango, CO  
 April 25, 2024

**Members Present:**

Carolyn Dunmire	At-Large Recreational Rep	Robin Young	Archuleta County
Ken Beegles	At Large -Industrial	Larry Dozier	At Large
Ken Curtis	At Large	Aimee Tooker*	Montrose County
Lorelei Cloud	CWCB Representative	Ed Tolen	At-Large Domestic Water
Karen Guglielmone*	San Miguel Municipalities	Buck Skillen	At Large
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Steve Wolff	SWCD
Rob Hagberg*	SJWCD	Geoff Burbey	LaPlata Water
Adrian Bergere	At-Large	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Gary Kennedy*	MWCD	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Dave DK Kanzer*	CO River District	Buck Skillen	At-Large Environmental
Ryan Gray	DWCD	Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipalities
Candace Jones	SJWC	Peter Butler	LaPlata County
Pete Nylander	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Candy Meehan*	At-Large Representative

**Public:**

Laura Spann (CWCB), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Wendy Weygandt (Recorder), Elaine Chick\* (PEPO), Ryan Unterreiner(CPW), Monika Rock (SWCD), Russ Sands(CWCB), Emily Zmak\* (CWCB), Amy Ostdiek\* (CWCB) Peter Foster (SWCD), Carrie Padgett (HWE), Ty Koppenhafer\* (Jones & DeMille Engineering), Peter Ortega (UMUT), Lisa Yellow Eagle (Southern Ute), Letisha Yazzie (UMUT), Skylar Zilliox\* (Brown and Caldwell), Kelly McCaw (MCDC), Ezra Lee (MCDC), Kevin L. Hronich (MCDC), Lane Klusman (MCDC), Wayne Semler (MCDC), Mike Tilko\* (Mott MacDonald), Patrick Bachmann\* (CPW), Andy Antipas (SGM, Inc.), Wes Coleman\* (MWCD), Mickey O’Hara\* (Public), Joshua Godwin\* (Public)

\*Indicates Zoom Participant

**1. Introductions & Review Agenda**

- Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comments**

- No public comment

**3. Election to Fill Roundtable Seats**

- At-Large Environmental Representative-Previously held by Mely Whiting
  - Steve Harris moved to approve Buck Skillen as At-Large Environmental Representative. Ken Beegles seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Two general At-Large Representatives - previously held by Bill Frownfelter and Buck Skillen
  - Steve Harris moved to approve Larry Dozier and Candy Meehan as At-Large Representatives. Buck Skillen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**4. Administrative Reports**

- Review and approve minutes from January 25, 2024 meeting
  - Correction to minutes: 1. Approve posting location of meeting notice (not approve posting resolution). 2. PEPO Water Law in a Nutshell will be scheduling an 8 hour in-person full day in Norwood this fall and a 4-hour online presentation this summer.
  - Steve Wolff moved to accept the revised motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Peter Butler seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Officer election will be held in July. Ed Tolen announced that he does not wish to run again after the July election. Please consider ideas for nominating a new first vice chair, at-large representative, and IBCC alternate.
- Officers Report

- Bruce Whitehead will check on the funding status of the Upper Road 42 Water User Association and report back.
- WSRF Basin Roundtable Fund Balance is currently at \$552,309. (\$60,000 approved by RT for Upper 42 Road Water Association). Bruce Whitehead is attending a meeting today to see if other funding will be approved for the Water Association and will update accordingly.
- IBCC Update
  - Commissioner Becky Mitchell took over as Chair to the IBCC at the February meeting held in Golden . That meeting was credited for having good conversation points. Both she and Russ Sands will be coming to Durango on June 18 to promote statewide interest. IBCC sent a survey to the Roundtable chairs soliciting input.
  - IBCC Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZWRRT3N>
- PEPO Liaison Report-Elaine Chick
  - The Children's Water Festival is scheduled for May 15-15 volunteers are needed. More information can be found on the [waterinfo.org](http://waterinfo.org), click on events, navigate to the volunteer tab.
  - The first scheduled video will be on Agriculture. Elaine will meet with Ken after the Water Festival.
  - Elaine Chick and Carrie Padgett are working on the new website and a share screen presentation revealed detailed draft topics: Who We Are; Water Plans; Funding; Education; Meetings; Activities; and Tribal Water Rights. Elaine reminded everyone that the website is not ADA compliant and documents go back to 2018. Peter Butler suggested tabling discussion as a result of most organizations lacking the resources to support the Bill that passed in 2021. Jeff Rodriguez repeated CWCB does not pay for software and computers
    - Steve Harris moved to going back one year from the July 2024 meeting and only including some documents with greater importance and only documents generated by the Roundtable. Ken Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- CWCB Update-Jeff Rodriguez
  - Project Bill HB24-1435 (Currently in the Senate)
    - Appropriations on bill page
      - \$23.3 M for Water Plan Grant
      - \$2 M for Turf Program extension
    - Proposed effort to combine the two funding pools for the local capacity offering assistance with grant writing (very popular) and technical assistance (less popular) with utilizing a CWCB contractor is being entertained.
  - Reminders
    - CWCB Deadlines
      - WSRF Deadline June 1
      - Water Plan Grant Deadline July 1
      - 1051 reporting June 30 (One year grace period may be allowed if CWCB is notified)
    - Wildfire Ready Watersheds
      - Accepting Applications
      - \$3 million in funding is available through year end
      - Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com>
      - Direct questions/interest to Steve Reeves ([steven.reeves@state.co.us](mailto:steven.reeves@state.co.us))
    - Technical Assistance & Local Capacity
      - Accepting applications
      - Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants: direct questions to Michael Regan ([michael.regan@state.co.us](mailto:michael.regan@state.co.us))
      - Technical Assistance and Local Capacity programs (ARPA Funds)  
Need to be contracted by 12/31/24

## **5. CWCB Guide-Jeff Rodriguez**

- The initial draft was shared on January 24 and solicited input. The May draft is being revised for a more complete draft to be distributed in June 2024. Questions and feedback will be considered and will contribute to further edits. The goal is to have a near final draft by September 2024 or early 2025.
- The Guide includes topics on the CWCB board and staff, stakeholders; reference materials, links, and appendices; Call out boxes for related topics such as project databases and scope of work for the Recorder. It is designed as a tool for onboarding CWCB, IBCC and Roundtables.
- It is not trying to replace the SWBRT or IBCC.
- For 17 years there has not been an official guide.

## **6. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee-Ken Curtis**

- Interstate discussions have been quiet. Amy Ost diek and Michelle Garrison had nothing new to report.
- DK Kanzer provided an overview on the Colorado River District (CRD) Risk Study - Phase IV and the Shoshone Water Right Preservation.
- Steve Wolff and Peter Foster spoke to the efforts of the CRD Phase IV that focused on the risks of only the Southwest Basin. Peter Foster was hired to create models that would depict more accurate details of the nine sub-basins.
- It was a truncated meeting starting at 1 PM.
- The next meeting may feature topics from the Colorado River Commissioner. If there are no new breaking topics the meeting may be canceled.

## **7. Southwest Water Conservation District Update-Peter Foster and Steve Wolff**

- 2020 Irrigated Land
  - SWCD Boundary = 200,511 acres; SWBRT Boundary = 203,606 acres
- Continued discussion: Phase IV model is sparse on municipal modeling. Municipalities may have varying risk of water supply impact under potential compact administration depending on the priority of the water rights within their portfolio.
- Two diagrams: The Los Pinos River Diagram (large reservoir on the top end) and the San Miguel River Diagram (multiple small reservoirs dispersed throughout the system) highlighted both average year and dry year scenarios to their delivery systems. The visual is intended to show how the respective areas are dependent on area hydrology and proof that the Upper Basin does not have a Lake Mead or Lake Powell to sustain their needs.
- There were 64 SPPP projects in 2023: The total price: \$30,887,242. The total CCU was 37,810 ac-ft.
- Modeling of agricultural and municipal water users and it included unique aspects of Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute during periods of hydrological shortages during wet, average, and dry years.
- Many of the larger reservoirs within the southwestern basins serve critical needs and are at-risk during compact administration, particularly if administration results in full curtailment of post-compact rights over an extended period of time.
- After a preliminary review, some municipalities may be at risk under strict priority compact administration.
- Physical water availability already varies greatly between wet, average and dry years. It appears streamflows are further declining, which will likely further reduce the water available for beneficial use.
- Southwestern water users routinely face hydrologic shortages, which are greater in drier years and in areas where there is little to no upstream storage

### **8. Future SWBRT Direction-Survey Results**

- A total of five responses were provided. Two more responses came in since the printing of the responses.
- The Questionnaire will be emailed again and will remain accessible under the January meeting documents on the website: <https://waterinfo.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable/>. Members and interested parties are encouraged to complete the survey.
- Tabled until the next meeting.

### **9. Water Plan Grant Support Letter**

- Animas Watershed Partnership intent is to initiate the development of the AWP watershed planning (Phase 2-A) to support watershed health and recreation.
- Carrie Padgett reported on an upcoming project of which an application will be submitted by June 14 before the CWCB July 1 deadline. The project is expected to be under \$200,000. No action from the Roundtable members is needed at this time.

### **10. WSRF Grant Request**

- Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company (\$89,095 Roundtable WSRF)
- Kevin Hronich asked to have the infrastructure updated that was originally installed in 1962. The shareholders are 100% agricultural, there is a prescriptive easement, no permits are required, and the match will come from shareholder support.
  - Ed Tolen recused himself and Ken Curtis facilitated.
- Buck Skillen moved to approve the Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company request as presented. Ken Beegles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **11. Upcoming Events**

- May 1, 2024 - SWCD Infrastructure Partners Meeting
- July 25, 2024-Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards-Cortez
- October 24, 2024-Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards-Durango
- Other Announcements

### **11. Wrap UP and Adjournment (At or Before 6:00 PM)**

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.