

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
July 11, 2018

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large Member	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	Sarah Pisano	Montrose County
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Mike Preston	At Large Member
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Justin Ramsey	Archuleta Municipalities
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Tim Hunter	Recreational Representative	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At Large Member
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Eric Kuhn	River District	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Mely Whiting	At Large Member
Ann Oliver	At Large Member	Bob Wolff	Southwestern WCD
Carrie Padgett	Domestic Water Representative	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Public:

Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Russ Anderson (Michael Black International), Luke Barrett (Gurley Reservoir), Greg Black (Farmer), Jonathan Bruno (Coalition for the Upper South Platte), Sophia Cinnamon (The Nature Conservancy), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Jordan Dimick (SGM), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Mary Ann Graf (Webber Ditch Company), Kate Greenberg (National Young Farmers Coalition), Aaron Kimple (Mountain Studies Institute), Blake Mamich (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Shannon Manfredi (Animas River Community Forum), Louis Meyer (SGM-Bikis Consultants), Jason Moore (Coalitions & Collaboratives), Doug Pickering (Colorado Division of Water Resources), John Porco (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Rebecca Samulski (Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest), Russ Sands (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Don Schwindt (Dolores Water Conservancy District), John Sites (Town of Silverton), Buck Skillen (Five River Trout Unlimited), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Recorder), Andrew Straub (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Robert Stump (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Trent Taylor (Redmesa Ditch & Reservoir Company), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), David Varner (Dolores River Restoration Partnership)

Introductions & Review Agenda

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. Administrative Reports

Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes from April 11, 2018 were approved. Roundtable meeting documents and other files for reference are housed online for public and Roundtable use at <http://swgcd.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable>.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

Steve Harris attended a meeting of the IBCC Funding Task Force, and directed members to the draft funding conceptual document. The group has agreed that a funding mechanism is needed to generate an additional \$100 million annually for 30 years (totaling three billion dollars). An estimated 20 billion dollars of water infrastructure investment is needed by 2050, which would come from project proponents, CWCB, and other sources. The IBCC identified five priority areas to fund: 1) healthy rivers, 2) water quality, 3) conservation & efficiency, 4) sustainable agriculture, and 5) infrastructure. Any infrastructure project would have to be consistent with the relevant sections of the conceptual framework from the water plan that addressed transmountain diversions. There was discussion of whether CWCB or a new similar entity to Great Outdoors Colorado should be established to manage the funding. Separate from IBCC efforts, another water funding study group has been organized by the Walton Family Foundation to investigate

potential options. Roundtable members were encouraged to attend the October IBCC meeting in southwestern Colorado.

Celene Hawkins reported that there will be two application rounds for CWCB Water Implementation Grant Fund for FY2019, with the first deadline on August 1. She encouraged any project proponents to contact CWCB staff. As part of the agency's response to active fires in southwestern Colorado, CWCB funded the installation of a temporary radar on Missionary Ridge to assist the National Weather Service in anticipating flooding and forecasting other weather events. Permanent radar is a need in the region, and many local partners with significant funding will be needed to secure it.

Laura Spann invited Roundtable members to sign up for their free subscription to Headwaters magazine.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The fund balance was approximately \$344,118.

2. Elections

At Large Roundtable Seat

In June, public notice soliciting interested applicants for the open at-large seat vacated by Celene Hawkins (who now serves as the CWCB representative) was published in area newspapers and distributed to Roundtable members. Applications were due on June 27, and eight letters of interest were received. Applicants Greg Black, Bill Frownfelter, John Porco, and Buck Skillen addressed the Roundtable. Kari Distefano and David Fullmer were not able to present in person, but also submitted applications. Don Schwindt and Tom Hartnett withdrew their applications. Greg Black was elected to fill the at-large vacancy by secret ballot.

IBCC Alternate – Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Roundtable members provided revisions on a proposed bylaw amendment to allow for an alternate IBCC representative. Steve Harris moved to adopt the proposed Roundtable bylaws amendment as revised. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consensus.

IBCC Representative

Ed Zink moved to reelect by acclimation current IBCC representatives Bruce Whitehead and Steve Harris. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

IBCC Alternate

Mely Whiting and Ken Beegles expressed interest in serving as IBCC alternate. Don Schwindt is not a Roundtable member, and expressed interest as well. Mely Whiting was elected by secret ballot as IBCC alternate representative.

Roundtable Chair

Mike Preston was reelected as Chair by enthusiastic acclimation to serve another term while training the Vice Chair to assume the role in a near future.

Officers

Gary Kennedy moved to elect Ed Tolen as First Vice Chair. Mely Whiting seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Ed Tolen encouraged interested individuals to apply as PEPO liaison to replace him at the October meeting.

Brandon Johnson and Al Pfister expressed interest in serving as Second Vice Chair. Brandon Johnson was elected by secret ballot as Second Vice Chair.

There was consensus to approve Laura Spann's appointment as Roundtable Recorder.

3. IBCC, Next Meeting in SW Colorado

This topic was discussed as part of the IBCC and Officer report.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

5. Update on Weather Modification

Ken Curtis reported that the draft weather modification plume modeling study is nearly final. The Roundtable will be briefed on the results at a workshop prior to the October meeting.

6. Update Risk Assessment Funding Strategy, Next Steps

Bruce Whitehead summarized the proposed scope of work for Phase III of the Colorado River Risk Study, and discussion at the joint River District and SW Water Conservation District meeting on May 23. Essentially, Phase III will focus on basin-specific questions regarding varied hydrologic and demand management scenarios to inform policy discussions for each community. The goal is to create reliable, transparent information for decision-making. The two Conservation Districts acted to jointly fund the study and not seek WRSF funding, which will allow work to begin immediately. Instead, the Conservation Districts have requested the four west slope Roundtables' support for the Phase III study, and their continued engagement in its development. Roundtable members asked questions about the draft resolution. Steve Harris moved to adopt the proposed resolution in support of Phase III Risk Study. Tim Hunter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

7. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update

Update on Workshops

Carrie Padgett met with National Young Farmers Coalition about hosting additional ag workshops with the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (CAWA), the first of which were very successful last winter. In conjunction with the October Roundtable meeting, Carrie and Ann will host a discussion with ag interests to brainstorm topics to cover in upcoming workshops.

8. Forest Health Collaboratives in Southwest Colorado

Rebecca Samulski presented on the Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative's formation, achievements, and collaboration to address wildfire and post-wildfire impacts. Aaron Kimple, Mountain Studies Institute, described the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership efforts to promote resilient watersheds while enhancing regional economic viability and strengthening collaboration. He also explained the 2-3-2, a forest health initiative that spans Colorado and New Mexico and three national forests, to address similar goals. Mike Preston summarized his role on the Forest Health Advisory Council in supporting relevant policy efforts, which includes leveraging the Colorado Water Congress community. From his experience on the Front Range, Jonathan Bruno summarized post-fire response priorities, including protecting human life, working together, getting the information you need, securing funding from diverse sources, create short and long term recovery plans. Shannon Manfredi added that while there isn't a forest health collaborative for the Animas watershed, the Animas River Community Forum is well-equipped to be the vehicle to respond to the 416 fire.

9. Progress Report: Redmesa Reservoir Enlargement Final Feasibility Study

Trent Taylor, Redmesa Ditch and Reservoir Company, and Jordan Dimick, SGM, provided background on Redmesa Reservoir's spillway inadequacies and potential enlargement. In 2018, the State Engineer restricted storage to 32%. The Company provided a temporary fix which has allowed the reservoir to fill this year, and is currently developing solutions for compliance and enlargement, as well as seeking funding partners. A funding request to support this effort will likely come before the Roundtable at a future meeting.

10. Review of WSRF Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRF Application – RiversEdge West

David Varner presented the WSRF application for \$25,000 from the Basin Fund to support the Dolores River Restoration Partnership's efforts to carry out active restoration on key sites to ensure native plants replace invasives and monitoring treated sites to treat for tamarisk resprouts. Invasive plants have taken over the Dolores River riparian zone, impairing wildlife and fish habitat and decreasing water supply as relatively high consumptive plants. Initial treatment has been completed along 1,849 acres to date. The total project cost is \$50,700. Funding partners include \$8,800 from the Walton Family Foundation, \$10,000 from the Southwest Conservation Corps BLM Assistance

Agreement, and in-kind volunteer time totaling \$7,900. David responded to Roundtable member questions. Ed Tolen moved to approve the WSRF application for \$25,000 from the Basin Fund to support maintenance and monitoring by the Dolores River Restoration Partnership. Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF Application – Webber Ditch Diversion and Piping Project

Mary Ann Graf presented the WSRF application for \$35,000 from the Basin Fund and \$229,440 from the Statewide Fund to support ditch system improvements. The project will replace the existing diversion and headgate system with an improved structure for diverting, managing and measuring water to be delivered to members, and replace 2,100 feet of corroded corrugated pipe with PVC pipe. The Webber Ditch Company diverts 37 cfs out of the Mancos River to irrigate approximately 1,632 acres and serve 70 members. The estimated project cost is \$441,600. The project will seek a \$65,000 grant from SWCD. Mancos Conservation District will also provide in-kind funding. The Webber Ditch Company will provide \$100,700 in-kind and cash match. Mary Ann responded to Roundtable member questions. The rationale presented to approve a request beyond the Roundtable’s \$25,000 limit was that it would support leveraging significant federal salinity control funding. Ken Beegles moved to approve the application for a reduced amount of \$25,000 from the Basin Fund and \$229,440 from the Statewide Fund to support the Webber Ditch diversion and piping project. Ed Tolen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Concept Proposal – Town of Silverton Water Supply/Storage Investigation

John Sites presented the concept proposal to support a water resources/engineering study which will identify future potable water resources and storage sites necessary to improve reliability, health safety, and redundancy. The study will identify and review redundant sources of supplies, along with cost estimates and implementation strategies. An initial scope of work was estimated at \$45,000. The Town intends to supplement funding with request from other partners including the SWCD, CWCB, San Juan County, and matching town funds. There was Roundtable consensus to encourage the Town of Silverton to submit a full WSRF application at the October meeting.

10. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 10	Durango	Durango Public Library
-----------------------------	------------	---------	------------------------

11. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.