

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Dolores Water Conservancy District
Cortez, Colorado
January 9, 2019

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large Member	Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD
Jarrold Biggs	La Plata Municipalities	Ed Millard	Montezuma County
Greg Black	At Large Member	Carrie Padgett	Domestic Water Representative
John Currier	Colorado River WCD	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
John Ey	Florida WCD	Mike Preston	At Large Member
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Karen Gugliemone	San Miguel Municipalities	Peter Waugh	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative (phone)	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	Bob Wolff	Southwestern WCD
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Public:

Elaine Chick (Water Information Program), Hilary Cooper (San Miguel County Commissioner), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Marcie Demmy Bidwell (Mountain Studies Institute), Jill Dillon (Animas Consolidated Ditch Company), Anthony Edwards (San Juan County), Mandy Eskelson (Public), Ellen Foster (Public), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Logan Gafford (Water User), Steve Garchar (Dolores County Commissioner), Drew Gordonier (SWCLA, MVIC), Ashley Greco (U.S. Representative Scott Tipton), Stevie Haight (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Natural Resources), Megan Holcomb (CWCB), Brice Jones (Public), Rich Landreth (City of Cortez), Amanda Kuenzi (Mountain Studies Institute), MB McAfee (Public), Ann McCoy-Harold (Senator Gardner's Office), Louis Meyer (SGM-Bikis), Steve Miles (High Desert Conservation District), Brent Newman (CWCB), Jerald Peabody (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Natural Resources), Gigi Richards (Fort Lewis College), Scott Roberts (Mountain Studies Institute), Steve Ruddell (Animas La Plata WCD), Don Schwindt (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Aaron Somogyi (Florida WCD), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Recorder), Eric Sprague (Dolores WCD), Robert Stump (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Dave Stiller (Public), Andrew Straub (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Greg Vlaming (High Desert Conservation District), Peter Waugh (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Selwyn Whiteskunk (Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Councilmember), Danny Wilkin (MVIC), Nina Williams (Haycamp Farm)

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 October 10, 2018 were approved. Roundtable meeting documents and other files for reference are housed online for public and Roundtable use at <https://waterinfo.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable/>.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

Steve Harris reported that the last IBCC meeting was held in Durango, at which the main topics were the drought contingency plan and water plan implementation funding. The Gates and Walton Foundation have developed a short report with recommendations for funding the state water plan, which was posted on the website and emailed to the Roundtable. The IBCC provided technical review of this effort and their recommendations. All 2018 candidates for elected office were provided a factsheet about the IBCC. In the November 2018 election, two road funding measures were soundly defeated. The next IBCC meeting will be on February 28 in Denver. The Colorado Cattlemen's Ag WIP meeting will be held on January 25.

Celene Hawkins reported that the CWCB Board has been hard at work on Colorado River issues. She anticipates that state water project/program funding will be a principal topic for their January meeting, and welcomed Roundtable feedback and comments.

Roundtable members were invited to check out a book from the Water Info Program mobile library, and bring it back next meeting. Elaine Chick introduced herself as the PEPO liaison.

Roundtable Officer Elections – July 10, 2019

There was Roundtable consensus that, per the bylaws, elections would take place at the Annual Meeting, now designated as July 10, 2019. Brandon Johnson moved to set the Annual Meeting for July 10, 2019, at which the Roundtable will hold officer elections. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

As of December 2018, the fund balance was approximately \$334,118.

2. Update: Projects Bill, Other CWCB Developments

Megan Holcomb, CWCB, announced that Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner, was appointed today by Governor Polis as Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. She also detailed the proposed CWCB Projects Bill for 2019, which serves as the agency's request for appropriations by the Colorado General Assembly. The 2019 request includes \$20 million for water plan implementation, which includes \$5.5 million for water plan update efforts. The bill also includes increases in watershed restoration funding and \$2.5 million for WSRF supplemental funding to offset variability in severance tax revenues. There was discussion around the expectations for Roundtables to update their individual Basin Implementation Plans. The Pinnacol group funding effort is reorganizing after several state funding measures were soundly defeated in the November 2018 election, so stay tuned. The next WSRF, CWP funding application deadline is February 1. Karen Gugliemone and Mely Whiting are participating in the Water Plan Implementation Working Group. The Statewide Water Supply Initiative will be released in July 2019 at coloradowaterplan.com, with pieces being released in advanced as they become available.

3. Colorado River Management (Drought Contingency Planning, Demand Management) DCP-DM Subcommittee Update .

Mike Preston summarized the three meetings of the Drought Contingency Planning – Demand Management (DCP-DM) Subcommittee thus far. The role of the Roundtable is to be a forum to digest information for dissemination through individual agencies, stakeholders, and water users, as well as frame southwest-Colorado specific questions regarding Colorado River management. Carrie Padgett has developed educational materials, which were further discussed and refined during today's subcommittee meeting.

Overview of Key Elements, Roundtable Questions & Discussion

Newsflash: since the October 2018 Roundtable meeting, the CWCB adopted a policy in November that outlined state authorities and guidance for compact compliance, support for Colorado's participation in the proposed DCP, and their position on exploration of a demand management program. Most of the principles proposed by the SW Water Conservation District and the River District were incorporated in the CWCB policy, as supported by the SW Basin Roundtable. Then, at the Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference in early December, Reclamation Commissioner Burman notified the seven basin states that if they do not agree to a DCP by January 31, 2019, Reclamation will begin a process to address drought on the Colorado River, which may include imposed shortages. At that same conference the Upper Basin states did accept their draft DCP, but Arizona and California have not signed onto the Lower Basin DCP.

Carrie Padgett summarized the information compiled for the DCP-DM subcommittee, which included a synopsis of Colorado River management historical documents and agreements that make up the "Law of the River," current Colorado River hydrology, flowcharts on Compact curtailment and demand management to guide discussion, as well as questions brought forward by the subcommittee. There was the suggestion to add the relevance of ESA compliance to Big River management, as well as provide further information about weather modification and phreatophyte removal. Carrie directed the Roundtable's attention to the draft DCP, and walked through components of the draft agreements.

The Upper Basin DCP provides states with two planning opportunities: how to maintain target elevations at Lake Powell with CRSP reservoir reoperations and how a demand management program might support compact compliance. CWCB emphasized that compact administration is being discussed separately from demand management, which would be a voluntary, temporary, and compensated program. Brent Newman and Celene Hawkins answered questions and provided state perspectives on the DCP on behalf of the CWCB. Brent invited water user input on CWCB's consideration of a demand management program. Celene emphasized that the CWCB is not evaluating pre-emptive or anticipatory curtailment, and in fact has encouraged transparency in the State Engineer's consideration of any curtailment on the Colorado River. Bruce Whitehead directed the Roundtable to a DCP update from the SW Water Conservation District, which is in the packet and available on the website. SWCD will also continue outreach, in coordination with the River District.

John Currier, River District, conveyed details of Phase III of the Risk Study to the SW Basin Roundtable. Phase III may inform the demand management discussion, as well as a foundation for any input the West Slope can provide to the State Engineer regarding compact curtailment rulemaking. Dolores WCD, Florida WCD, Pine River Irrigation District, and La Plata Archuleta Water District have committed funds to allow additional model runs for Phase III.

Mike and Carrie added that the DCP-DM subcommittee will be meeting at least quarterly to review new information and continue to digest Colorado River management issues. Carrie offered to present to any local water entities as part of her BIP grant. There was discussion of the West Slope Roundtable Caucus which has been scheduled in Grand Junction for May 2, 2019; details will be emailed to the Roundtable once set. The Statewide Roundtable Summit will be in Winter Park on September 25-26, 2019.

4. Public Comment

Public comment was incorporated into the DCP discussion.

5. WSRF Funding Requests & Concept Proposals

WSRF App – Town of Silverton Water Supply, Storage Investigation

John Sites described the WSRF funding application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account from the Town of Silverton to support a water resources study. The investigation will evaluate the Town's current Boulder and Bear Creek water supplies, which are at risk from physical hazards, a changing climate, and their relatively junior water rights dates. The goal is to identify redundant new sources of surface and groundwater supplies, as well as feasible water storage locations, and then provide cost estimates and implementation schedules and strategies. The Town of Silverton has committed \$12,500 to the project, and applied for \$20,000 from the SWCD. The total project cost is \$50,000. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRF application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account to support the Town of Silverton's water resources study. Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF App – Telluride Valley Floor Restoration Phase II

Hilary Cooper described the WSRF funding application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the Statewide Account to support the Telluride Valley Floor River Restoration, Phase II. The San Miguel River currently flows through an area heavily impacted by 23 acres of deposited tailings and 900 feet of channelization. The goal of this phase is to consolidate, stabilize, and cover existing tailings, remove river interaction with tailings, create a naturally functioning river system, and mitigate past channelization impacts through water quality improvements. A funding request will also go to the Colorado Water Plan implementation grant program for \$215,000. Project funding partners include the Town of Telluride/State of Colorado (Idarado Mining Co-Consent Decree), the Valley Floor Preservation Partners, Colorado Water Plan Implementation Funds and Trout Unlimited. The total project cost is \$3,333,882. Al Pfister moved to approve the WSRF application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the Statewide Account to support Phase II of the Telluride Valley Floor River Restoration. Charlie Smith seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF App – San Miguel Stream Management Plan Stakeholder Engagement Process

Kenny Heldman, Carrie Lile, and Stacy Beaugh presented the WSRF funding request for \$12,530 from the Basin Account to support the San Miguel Stream Management Plan Stakeholder Engagement Process, as a follow up to the San Miguel Environmental Needs Assessment. The process will involve stakeholders across diverse interests up and down the watershed. There will be one-on-one, small group, and public meetings to provide feedback on the

Environmental Needs Assessment. The estimated project cost is \$50,122. The Nature Conservancy has committed \$6,265 to the project, and a request has been submitted to the SWCD for \$6,265. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRF application for \$12,530 from the Basin Account to support San Miguel Stream Management Plan Stakeholder Engagement Process. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF App – Animas Consolidated Ditch Company Ditch System Rehabilitation/Mitigation

Ed Zink described the WSRF funding application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$125,000 from the Statewide Account to support 416 fire mitigation efforts by the Animas Consolidated Ditch Company. The ditch system was significantly impacted by the summer 2018 fire and subsequent flooding which deposited an estimated 50,000 cubic yards of silt and debris. The ditch company is proposing a collaborative effort to mitigate these impacts, specifically 1) remove debris and repair ditches from 2018-2023, 2) manage and reduce impacts of future debris flows by installing 12 projects to improve ditch design, and 3) prevent silt and debris flows by rehabilitating the burn scar in cooperation with La Plata County, CDOT, USFS, and the NRCS. The ditch company has committed \$45,000 in cash, and \$30,000 in-kind, and has submitted a funding request to the SWCD for \$75,000. The total project cost is \$300,000. Steve Harris moved to approve the WSRF application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$125,000 from the Statewide Account to support 416 fire mitigation efforts by the Animas Consolidated Ditch Company. Bob Wolff seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF App – Forest to Faucets Teacher Training Program

Amanda Kuenzi described the WSRF funding application for \$17,500 from the Basin Account to support the Forest to Faucets Teacher Training Program from 2019-2021. The program is administered by Mountain Studies Institute, San Juan Mountains Association, Fort Lewis College, and the Water Information Program. The next three years of workshops will meet the need of training teachers in place-based water education, reaching 15-20 educators each year, who in turn reach 300-500 students each year. The 2019 workshop will return to the Animas watershed, to bring awareness to the complex issues intertwined with post-wildfire impact to our watershed, river ecology, forest health, and water management. In addition to commitments from the program organizers, funding requests have gone to the SWCD and USFS. The total project cost for three years is \$85,326. John Ey moved to approve the WSRF application for \$17,500 from the Basin Account to support the Forest to Faucets Teacher Training Program. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRF App – 416 Fire Aquatic Monitoring

Scott Roberts described the WSRF funding application for \$18,000 from the Basin Account to support the 416 Fire Aquatic Monitoring. To investigate impacts on water quality and aquatic life following the 416 fire, they formed a research team made up of scientists from MSI, Colorado School of Mines, and the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. Funding will support continued efforts to 1) evaluate water quality impacts to Hermosa Creek and the Animas River from the 416 fire, 2) document the recovery of water quality and aquatic life to share with the public and further understand watershed health post-fire, and 3) establish monitoring sites on Hermosa Creek and Junction Creek to serve as watershed comparisons of differing forest health treatments and fire history. The following partners have committed funding to the project: Colorado School of Mines, USFS, Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team, CDPHE, City of Durango, Trout Unlimited, and SWCD (pending). The total project cost is \$89,100. Charlie Smith moved to approve the WSRF application for \$18,000 from the Basin Account to support the 416 Aquatic Monitoring Group. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

7. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	April 10, 2019	Durango	Durango Public Library
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	July 10, 2019	Cortez	Dolores WCD
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 9, 2019	Durango	Durango Public Library

8. Adjournment

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