

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Zoom Videoconference
July 23, 2020

Members Present:

Jarrod Biggs	La Plata County Muni	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Greg Black	At Large Member	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Keith Caddy	Montrose County	Mike Preston	At Large Member
John Currier	Colorado River WCD	Kathy Rall	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Justin Ramsey	Archuleta County Muni
John Ey	Florida WCD	Ellen Roberts	La Plata County
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	Guy Stees	La Plata WCD
Karen Gugliemone	San Miguel County Muni	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Ed Tolen	At Large Member
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Val Valentine	At Large Member
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
David Liberman	Animas La Plata WCD	Bob Wolff	SW Water Conservation District
Ed Millard	Montezuma County	Robin Young	Archuleta County

Public:

Stacey Beagh (Strategic by Nature), Justin Catalano (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Megan Davey (Outlier Farm), Jordan Dimick (SGM), Carolyn Dunmire (Montezuma Land Conservancy), Kennan Ertel (Montezuma County Commissioner), Pete Foster (Wright Water Engineers), Mardi Gebhardt (Redmesa Reservoir & Ditch Company), Lindsay Griffith (Brown & Caldwell), Gregg Johnson (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Helen Mary Johnson (US Bureau of Land Management), Blake Mamich (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Kelly McCaw (Florida Consolidated Ditch Company), Louis Meyer (SGM, Inc), Kelly Palmer (U.S. Forest Service), John Porco (San Juan WCD), Gigi Richard (Four Corners Water Center at Fort Lewis College), Carrie Padgett (Harris Water Engineering), Russ Sands (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Jude Schuenemeyer (Montezuma Valley Orchard), Don Schwindt (SW Water Conservation District), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Sam Stein (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Kat Weismiller (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife)

Introductions & Review Agenda

Roundtable Chair Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The attendee list was read and Zoom instructions were reviewed.

1. Administrative Reports

Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes from April 23, 2020 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/>.

CWCB Board Report

Celene Hawkins summarized highlights from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's July meeting, which included discussion of the state fiscal situation, consideration of grant requests postponed from the May meeting, and Colorado River matters, including a brief discussion of the written update on the demand management feasibility investigation. The CWCB was able secure important funding for ongoing grant programs as part of the Projects Bill, but the combined impacts of declining severance tax revenues and the COVID-19 pandemic means these funds will likely need to be stretched for use in coming years.

IBCC Report

IBCC Representatives Ed Millard, Mely Whiting, and Al Pfister deferred their report until agenda item 3.

PEPO Liaison

Elaine Chick, Water Information Program, reported that all filming and interviews for the PEPO video focused on the southwest basins have been completed. The final video should be released in October 2020.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

As of July 2020, the fund balance was \$489,511.

2. Elections

Mike Preston stepped down as Roundtable chair, and opened nominations for chair. Several Roundtable members thanked Mike Preston for his service and leadership via the chat box. Mely Whiting nominated Ed Tolen for Roundtable Chair. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. John Currier moved that nominations cease. Al Pfister seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. There was unanimous consent to elect by acclimation Ed Tolen as Roundtable Chair.

Ken Curtis nominated Brandon Johnson as First Vice-Chair. Ed Millard seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. There were no other nominations. Brandon Johnson was elected First Vice-Chair by acclimation.

Mely Whiting nominated Al Pfister as Second Vice-Chair. Justin Ramsey seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. There were no other nominations. Al Pfister was elected Second Vice-Chair by acclimation.

3. Report on Joint IBCC Meeting, June 17th

Mely Whiting, Al Pfister, Ed Millard and Russ Sands summarized the June Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting, which was focused on how a proposed demand management program could be equitable. The IBCC's discussion is summarized in a short report included in the written demand management update presented to the CWCB board at their July meeting. The Roundtable has been asked to provide input on what the IBCC should address next and what types of information members would like to see for presentations, including continuing the demand management equity discussion and other topics. A broader question is what is the IBCC role in the state. It was suggested that IBCC meet more often and serve as a collaborative forum for drafting policy documents. It was suggested that the IBCC serve as a compact negotiator among intra-state basins. There was consensus to conduct a survey of the Roundtable members to get input on what IBCC should focus on.

4. Demand Management Subcommittee

Ken Curtis reported on the morning DCP-DM Subcommittee, which would like to change its name to the Colorado River Issues Subcommittee. It was suggested that the Drought Subcommittee might be a good name also. The purpose of this ad-hoc committee is to provide additional information and discussion regarding Colorado River issues that might not otherwise fit into a full Roundtable meeting. Membership includes Roundtable members and the public and all meetings are open. Ken Curtis has taken over coordination and chairing of this Subcommittee from Mike Preston and Carrie Padgett. At today's meeting, the subcommittee heard a presentation from the Western Water Assessment at the University of Colorado, specifically focused on hydrology and climate modeling for southwestern Colorado. The subcommittee also heard an update from demand management workgroup members and from the CWCB regarding their review of the recent written update, upcoming public comment period and the public work session. The group also discussed a concept regarding individual accounts in the Lake Powell storage pool and there was brief discussion of the Water Assets Management water and land purchases in the Grand Valley.

The CWCB will open a public comment platform on the demand management feasibility report. A virtual public workshop will be scheduled in advance of the September meeting to review the report in detail. The CWCB board's discussion of the report will also be open to the public.

5. Basin Implementation Plan Update

Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering, reviewed the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Subcommittee's work to date, the proposed BIP update workplan, the Project's List update, and a proposed Roundtable meeting schedule. The BIP subcommittee has held three meetings in June and July, at which they discussed the draft Work Plan, the Project's List and data needs, and the Project's List tiering matrix. Carrie also hosted a BIP 101 webinar to get everyone up-to-speed. The subcommittee will review the BIP update and Project's list initially and prepare recommendations for consideration by the full Roundtable. Carrie then reviewed the proposed BIP update work plan, which describes the process for updating the 2015 BIP, specifically 1) a general description of project data collected and data collection needs, 2) a plan for how the core duties will be carried out, 3) a description of additional studies to be conducted, and 4) a schedule and budget. Ed Millard moved to approve the proposed Roundtable meeting schedule through June 2021. Kathy Rall seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Ed Millard moved to approve the draft BIP update Work Plan with the option to amend it as necessary. Al Pfister seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. Public Comment

There were no comments by the public. Public input had been given as Roundtable discussions proceeded.

7. Review of WSRF Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRF App – Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project (1:34:36)

Jude Schuedemeyer presented the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project's application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account to restore the "Orchard Hub" property to heritage orchards while demonstrating crop conversion opportunities and water conservation methods to area farmers. This project will lay the groundwork for future education and outreach opportunities tied to water conservation in orchards through the following activities: 1) create an efficient irrigation system design for 20.95 acres of reestablished heritage orchard (divided into three phases of installation) that can be used as a transferable template to farmers in the region, 2) create an irrigation water management plan that utilizes soil moisture monitors to inform irrigation scheduling and application rates, and 3) install the first phase of orchard establishment and irrigation improvements on 6.20 acres of Orchard Hub property. The estimated total cost is \$72,000, with \$22,00 from The Nature Conservancy, and \$25,000 from the applicant. Jude answered questions from Roundtable members.

WSRF App – Redmesa Reservoir & Ditch Company

Jordan Dimick and Mardi Gebhardt presented the application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the Statewide Account to support the final engineering, geotechnical analysis, and permitting to rehabilitate and enlarge Redmesa Dam. The Dam Safety Branch of the State Engineer's Office has placed a zero-storage restriction on Redmesa Reservoir beginning March 1, 2021 if engineered plans and specifications are not submitted for review to rehabilitate Redmesa Dam. The total project cost is estimated at \$582,400. The Ditch Company commits to contribute \$50,000, \$75,000 from the SW Water Conservation District, and seek a CWCB loan for \$182,400. Jordan answered questions from Roundtable members.

WSRF App – Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation, Phase II

Pete Foster and Justin Catalano presented the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company (FCDC) application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$250,000 from the Statewide Account to support Phase II of the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project. Phase II includes the final engineering design, environmental, services during bidding, construction, and engineering services during construction. The FCDC is a mutual ditch company that provides water to 329 shareholders serving approximately 15,500 acres of irrigated agriculture with approximately 43,250 acre-feet of water per year. The estimated total project cost is \$1,200,000, pending request

to \$25,000 grant from the SW Water Conservation District and \$600,000 CWCB loan to the applicant. Pete answered questions from Roundtable members.

WSRF App – Dolores River Adaptive Management Support

Gigi Richard presented the Four Corners Water Center at Fort Lewis College application for \$25,000 from the Basin Account and \$140,617 from the Statewide Account to support the activities of the Dolores River Native Fish Monitoring and Recommendations (M&R) team as well as management decisions regarding the Dolores River. The project will 1) develop a geomorphic monitoring and data analysis protocol for the Dolores River downstream from McPhee Dam that is sustainable in the long term and has a responsive component that can be activated rapidly when hydrologic conditions are favorable; 2) perform the four years of monitoring and report the results and 3) create a sustainable and accessible online repository for past and future data collected on the Dolores River. The estimated total project cost is \$236,892, with cash and in-kind partners including Riversedge West, Dolores Water Conservancy District, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Conservation Legacy. Gigi answered questions from Roundtable members.

WSRF App – Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company Syphon Replacement

Kelly McCaw and Gregg Johnson presented the Morrison Consolidated Ditch Company application for \$50,000 from the Basin Account and \$8,875 from the Statewide Account to support replacement of the railroad syphon to deliver 107.76 cfs from the Pine River to over 165 shareholders. The Morrison Ditch is 35 miles long with 128 headgates. Specifically, the grant would be used for the construction, materials, and labor to replace the syphon, concrete structures, and the trash rack. NRCS is assisting with the survey and design of the syphon. The total estimated project cost is \$78,500, with the remaining \$19,625 from the applicant. Kelly and Gregg answered questions from Roundtable members.

There was Roundtable consensus not to take applications in October and form a WSRF subcommittee to meet prior to the October meeting on how to structure funding and a schedule for accepting applications.

Ed Millard moved to approve WSRF application for Redmesa Reservoir and Ditch Company. Guy Stees seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Charlie moved to approve the remaining WSRF applications, with exception of Morrison Ditch, which was approved for \$25,000 from the Basin Account, not \$50,000, subject to meeting all CWCB criteria and additional funding needs. Kathy Rall seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

8. Upcoming Events via Zoom

Special Roundtable Meeting	August 27, 2020
Special Roundtable Meeting	September 24, 2020
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 22, 2020
Special Roundtable Meeting	November 19, 2020
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	January 28, 2021
Special Roundtable Meeting	February 25, 2021
Special Roundtable Meeting	March 25, 2021
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	April 22, 2021
Special Roundtable Meeting	May 27, 2021
Special Roundtable Meeting	June 24, 2021

9. Adjournment

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.