

## Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting

Zoom Videoconference

November 19, 2020

### Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large Industrial	Gigi Richard	At-Large Member
Bruce Smart	Dolores WCD	Ed Millard	Montezuma County
Jarrold Biggs	La Plata County Muni	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Carolyn Dunmire	Recreation	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Blake Mamich	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Gretchen Rank	At-Large Member	Ellen Roberts	La Plata County
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	John Currier	Colorado River WCD
Becky Guilliams	Hinsdale County	Ed Tolen	At Large Member
Justin Ramsey	Archuleta County Muni	Val Valentine	At Large Member
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Keith Caddy	Montrose County
Bob Wolff	SW Water Conservation District	Mely Whiting	Environmental

### Public:

Russ Anderson (Michael Baker International), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Clyde Church (La Plata County Commissioner), Mandy Eskelson (Mountain Studies Institute), Marcel Gaztambide (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Rachel Vaughn (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Mike Preston (Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative), Carrie Padgett (Harris Water Engineering), Russ Sands (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Danielle Snyder (Brown and Caldwell), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Tyson Williams (HydroSource Inc), Charlie Rhoades (Rocky Mountain Research Station), Stacy Beaugh (Facilitator, Local Expert Team), Aaron Kimple (MSI), A Lewallen (Public), Amanda Kuenzi (MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Beth Albrecht (Public), Beverly Richards (Upper Gunnison WCD), Curran Trick (Public), Dana Hayward (MSI), Danny Margoles (DWRFC), Don Schwindt (Public), Doug Secrist (Public), Elvy Barton (Public), Eric Howell (Colorado Springs Utilities), Eric Janes (Hydrologist), Jason Lawhon (USFS), Joe Tedder (San Juan WCD), Julie Nania (Gunnison BRT), Kelly Palmer (USFS), Kara (Public), Larry Hicks (Public), Louis Meyer (SGM), Lo Williams (USFS), Mark Shea (Arkansas BRT), Nancy Smith (Public), Scott Roberts (MSI), Shannon Hatch (USBR), Sonja Chavez (Upper Gunnison River WCD), Stephanie Kampf (Colorado State University), Steve Anderson (Public), Steve Garchar (Public), Steve Monroe (Public), Steve Ruddell (Public)

#### 1. Goals for the Day, Anticipated Outcomes and Meeting Agreements (3:10-3:20) Stacy Beaugh

- To understand the role the local forest health collaboratives are playing and how they are tackling water.
- Learn about the relationship between southwest Colorado and Statewide efforts.
- Exchange information and learn about the data and knowledge around the interconnection between forests and water (i.e. forest density and water storage, etc.).
- Position the Roundtable to determine their role and interest in the forests/hydrology.
- Engage in productive and motivating time that positions the Southwest Roundtable and Local Expert Team to move forward in maximizing the opportunity and impact of the BIP Update Process.

2. **Forest Hydrology Technical Presentation and Q&A (3:20-4:20)**

- Dr. Stepanie Kampf gave a presentation on research work that has been done at the Colorado State University Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory concerning the effects of forest disturbances (thinning, forest fires, etc.) on snow accumulation and runoff.
- Dr. Charlie Rhoades presented that has been done on the impacts to water quality due to forest fires.

3. **Forest Health Initiatives Presentations and Q&A (4:20-5:15)**

- Presentations were made by:
  1. Danny Margoles Dolores Resilient Watershed Forest Collaborative,
  2. Anthony Culpepper, Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative;
  3. Dana Hayward, San Juan Headwaters Collaborative; and
  4. Aaron Kimple, Regional and State Initiatives.

4. **Review of WSRF Applications and Letters of Support (5:30-6:00 pm) - Ed Tolen**

- **Upper San Juan WEP Phase III proposal**
  - Mandy Eskelson, Mountain Studies Institute
  - Requests \$2,462; \$22,151 Statewide funds; cash and in-kind matching 97,793
  - 10% of WSRF request
  - Planning and decision making informed by stakeholders and scientific analysis
  - Ag infrastructure assessment expanded to multiple watersheds
  - ID and prioritize multi-benefit water projects for upper San Juan River
  - Completes SMP/IWMP planning process
  - Supports basin and statewide goals
  - Analysis and priorities with other major water uses
  - Urgency to not have a gap between phase II and phase III
- **416 Fire Aquatic Monitoring proposal**
  - Ashely Rust, CO School of Mines speaking for Scott Roberts, MSI
  - Requests \$1,720 Basin funds and \$17,180 Statewide funds
  - Two-year collaboration, out of funds and wants to extend the funding to continue monitoring
  - Evaluate water quality impacts from Hermosa and Animas Rivers to inform the use of the water for multiple benefits
  - Document recovery of water to share with public and further understanding
  - Third year would extend the project into more of a long-term study
  - ID short and long-term impact from fire and moments of recovery
  - Increase education of graduate students; expect to produce three peer review manuscripts
  - Project has produced unique results – mobilized metals and how long they persist in the watershed
  - Has there been any action on the ground as a result? Community and public outreach, shared results and working closely with: City of Durango, Colorado Parks and Wildlife on their cutthroat reintroduction, Animas Water Co., Animas Consolidated Irrigation, produced an online story map
- **Forest to Faucets proposal**
  - Amanda Kuenzi, Mountain Studies Institute
  - Requests \$1,566 from SW Basin Account, \$14,096 from Statewide funds, total program costs \$78,343, cash and in-kind

- Provides teachers with an outdoor option for water education
- Improve water literacy for teachers, train the trainer model
- Get an exponential impact from investment, by teachers bringing education to hundreds of students each year
- Meets RT education priority
- 15-20 teachers, reaches the teachers on a 3-year rotation by basin
- Curriculum customized to each basin
- Interested in the potential opportunity for kids to influence their parents decision making on water use
- Where does MSI work? Step in where it is appropriate for each of the communities; sometimes MSI is in a leadership role and others its more of a support role
- Deliverables – altering 2021 program due to COVID, keeping outdoor field trips and blending classroom model into virtual
- Maxed out on funding from SWCD, so that is why they’re going to the Roundtable; usually have funding from a diversity of sources depending on the basin of focus
- Continuous updates to curriculum for the teachers is part of the program, based on changes with statewide standards, updates to education kit that is provided to the school
- **Town of Silverton proposal**
  - John Sites, Director of Public Works, Town of Silverton and Louis Meyer, SGM
  - Total project cost \$55,000, goal is to work locally for the funds and not go to statewide account
  - Requesting \$21,000 of Basin funds and \$21,000 pending from SWCD, and match from Town of Silverton
  - Water security project study, strengthen foundation for currently vulnerable surface water supply- Boulder and Bear Creeks
  - Most impactful option is to develop a well field, developed test wells
  - Anticipating additional risks to supply (i.e., fire) and population growth
  - The request is contingent upon receiving the SWCD funds
  - This phase is to test wells and prove them out, then will tie into distribution at the next phase of the project
  - Test wells are permitted under state engineers office, if they prove out the Town will go to water court and proposes to use the wells as an alternate point of diversion

## Discussion

- The statewide funds consider whether it’s a fit with the Basin Implementation Plan and the Water Plan, chapter 9; Silverton’s project is on the IPP list in two places
- Silverton’s project could be a fit to tie system redundancy and wildfire recovery
- Concern that there is only an average of \$66K left per basin in Statewide funds for 2021; current total from all applicants to Statewide we would be about \$72K
- Town of Silverton: Approve \$2,100 from the Basin Fund and remainder from the Statewide Fund, contingency if they don’t get the statewide funds, the Roundtable could consider backfilling anything that’s not funded at state level; we won’t know whether the state funds are approved until the CWCB March meeting

- If not funded by Statewide funds, then the application would go back to the SWBRT in March and then CWCB in July which would give the applicant enough time
- It could be the case that some or all of these applicants could come back in March if they aren't approved for the Statewide funds
- Water Plan Grants don't require approval today, the SWBRT would provide a letter of support to their application; unsure of what, if any, Water Plan grants they would qualify for
- Concern that Upper San Juan has requested a lot of funding from SWBRT this year; however, if you look at the past there have been other projects have been funded at much higher level
- Upper San Juan IWMP process is advancing priorities set forth by the RT and the BIP

### **Motions/Approvals**

- Ed Millard made a motion to approve the Town of Silverton for \$2,100 of Basin Account funds and a request of \$18,900 of Statewide funds; with the consideration of additional Basin funds if not approved by Statewide funds. Seconded by Jerrod Biggs. Motion passes.
- Ed Millard moves to approve the 416 Aquatic Monitoring for the amounts in the request. Gigi Richard seconded. Motion passes.
- Jarrod Biggs made a motion to approve the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Program per the amounts in the request; Carolyn Dunmire seconded. Motion passes.
- Al Pfister made a motion to approve Forest to Faucets Program per the amounts requested. Ed Millard seconded. Motion passes.

It was suggested that the Roundtable address a conflict with the July CWCB board meeting.

### **9. Adjournment**

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