

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
 Zoom Videoconference
 March 25, 2021

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	At Large Industrial	Ed Millard	Montezuma County
Leland Begay	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Keith Caddy	Montrose County	John Ott	Water Quality Control Commission
John Currier	Colorado River WCD	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Gretchen Rank	At Large Member
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Recreation	Gigi Richard	At Large Member
John Ey	Florida WCD	Ellen Roberts	La Plata County
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Amy Huff	SW Water Conservation District	Val Valentine	Mineral County
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Kathy Rall	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Bob Wolff	Animas La Plata WCD

Public:

Steve Anders (U.S. Geological Survey), Stacy Beough (Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update Local Expert Team), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Kris Holstrom (San Miguel County Commissioner), Helen Katich (U.S. Senator Hickenlooper’s Field Representative), Hayley Kwasniewski (Montezuma School to Farm Project), Jojo La (Colorado Water Conservation Board), Carrie Padgett (BIP Update Local Expert Team), Kelly Palmer (U.S. Forest Service), Robert Sakata (CWCB Board Member, South Platte), Russ Sands (CWCB), Danielle Snyder (Brown and Caldwell), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Sam Stein (CWCB), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Greg Vlaming (High Desert Conservation District), Kat Weismiller (CWCB)

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The participant list was read.

2. Administrative Reports

Officer Reports

Celene Hawkins, CWCB Board Member, reported on the CWCB’s demand management workshop and the March CWCB board meeting. The CWCB is finalizing the first draft of a demand management framework matrix to advance the feasibility investigation. The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan has been triggered and the Colorado River basin is now in monthly monitoring. The Upper Colorado River Commission continues to evaluate the feasibility of demand management and prepare for 2026 renegotiation of the Interim Guidelines. CWCB is considering refinements to the CWCB grant programs to improve consistency and consolidate funding. The emergency wildfire recovery program will continue as part of the CWCB’s flood section. Sports betting tax revenues to support the water plan will be available to spend by July 2022 at the earliest.

Ed Tolen, Roundtable Chair, will be emailing out a Code of Conduct that CWCB is requesting all Roundtables adopt. The Code will be considered by the SW Basins Roundtable at its April 22nd meeting.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The current WSRF Basin fund balance was \$437,503. All the WSRF grant applications from southwestern Colorado were approved by the CWCB at their March meeting.

3. CWCB Update

Sam Stein, CWCB, expected the final demand management feasibility matrix to be released in the coming weeks. He explained that a review of Open Meetings Law, base communication needs, and legal requirements in the context of virtual meetings prompted the CWCB to request that the Roundtables adopt the Code of Conduct. First drafts of the Basin Implementation Plans are due in June, after which time they will be shared at engagecwcb.org for Roundtable review, then public comment in August. Sam explained that there is approximately \$66,000 per basin available in the WSRF Statewide account. This amount is expected to increase for the next fiscal year, at which time the CWCB will send out guidance in the fall to Roundtables. CWCB is hosting a variety of water plan workshops this spring.

4. IBCC Update

Al Pfister, Ed Millard, and Mely Whiting summarized the February IBCC meeting, which included discussion of alternative transfer methods, forest health, the water plan, and demand management (DM). A recent survey indicated that 60% of Colorado residents were unaware of the state water plan. IBCC meetings are now recorded and available on YouTube and the PowerPoint presentations are good summaries of the topics discussed. The CWCB will be reviewing the state of the science on the forest health and water nexus, consolidating the information collected, discussing the results with the Roundtables, and then proposing actions, tools, and projects. There was significant discussion of Andy Mueller's proposal that the IBCC conduct intrastate inter-basin negotiations regarding proportionality considerations of the DM feasibility investigation. The IBCC will also be discussing the DM framework matrix, awaiting a DM "strawman" to consider, and reviewing existing work completed on the impacts of temporary ag dry up to identify any unanswered questions. Ed Millard indicated he would not be speaking anymore during the IBCC update and instead relaying his perspective and research through his personal platforms on Twitter and directly to Montezuma County.

5. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update

Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering, summarized the BIP update accomplishments to date, next steps, and upcoming meetings. The Roundtable has been holding monthly BIP subcommittee meetings and special Roundtable meetings, which included a forest health workshop, a project list workshop, and recent review of the draft 2015 BIP goals, strategies, and principles. Among the BIP deliverables so far are the BIP update workplan, locally focused GIS datasets, and results from the technical update by subbasin. Currently, the project list includes 212 projects, with 43 new projects added in this recent update. The next steps will be to refine and define measurable objectives in the BIP, add local project success stories, and finalize Volumes I and II of the BIP.

6. Colorado Water Plan Update

Jojo La, CWCB, highlighted upcoming workshops on the "Engage CWCB Timeline" and described the agency's focus area mapping efforts to identify environmental and recreational needs and attributes to support future decision making. She demonstrated use of the focus area map for the southwest basin and invited Roundtable members to join the Environmental and Recreational workshop to be held on April 7th from 8:00am-12:30pm.

7. Review of WSRF Applications

San Juan RC&D (on behalf of SW Basin Roundtable) – Roundtable Website: BIP Education & Outreach

Elaine Chick presented the request for \$8,600 from the WSRF Basin Account to support development and maintenance of an independent website for the Roundtable. Currently, the Roundtable has a page on the Water Information Program website which is not sufficient for its needs. This website will provide the ability to highlight the progress and successes of the BIP. An interactive story map page will illustrate BIP projects, data, and links to efforts in southwestern Colorado that are instrumental in informing Roundtable members, stakeholders and interested parties. The Roundtable meeting minutes, agendas, and presentations will be posted. PEPO will have a page or two offering outreach and educational efforts.

Al Pfister moved to approve SW Basin Roundtable support for the two WSRF applications from the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council for development of a SW Basin Roundtable website and the Montezuma School to Farm Project’s effort to address a middle school gap in water education. Gigi Richard seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The Roundtable adjourned for a short break.

Montezuma School to Farm Project – Water Education: Addressing Middle School Gap

Hayley Kwasnieski presented the request for \$25,000 from the WSRF Basin Account to support Montezuma School to Farm Project’s current infrastructure to deliver greater impacts to middle school students in the county centered on water conservation education. The “Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap” project will implement 6th-8th grade lessons on water conservation, aid staff in developing effective middle school curriculum program procedures and improve growing spaces where this critical work takes place.

8. Upcoming Events via Zoom

Regular Roundtable Meeting	April 22, 2021
Roundtable BIP Update	May 27, 2021
Roundtable BIP Update	June 24, 2021
Regular Roundtable Meeting	July 29, 2021

13. Adjournment

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.