

**Lower Gunnison Project (LGP) Status Update**  
**Partially funded by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**  
**September 9, 2017**

Dear LGP Partners,

We hope this RCPP email update finds you all well as we approach the fall season. We've got a lot going on these first few weeks in September with the submission of the full proposal request for 2017 RCPP funds, so we are going to keep this brief. (Please note that we may be contacting our lead individuals within our focus areas frequently next week by email, phone, text, smoke signal, etc., with requests for additional information or items in need of clarification for the proposal. So, if you see a message from Sonja or me, we'd appreciate hearing from you ASAP.) Thank you!

As always, if you have any questions regarding the updates, you know where to find us.

**I. General Updates**

A. **2015 Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA):** The River District is waiting for a final budget estimate from the national NRCS watershed planning team so that the AFA can be finalized and signed.

B. **NRCS Watershed Plan (WP) Development Solicitation:** A final contractor, has been selected by the national NRCS Watershed Planning Team with final award contingent upon finalization of a contract amount.

C. **Education and Outreach (a few highlights):**

- Soil Moisture Monitoring Workshop: Thank you to Dr. Perry Cabot of the CO State University/ CO Water Institute for helping to organize a soil moisture monitoring workshop in Hotchkiss, Colorado on August 31.

- Uncompahgre Valley Water Forum: Our partners at the Shavano Conservation District held a water forum on September 1<sup>st</sup> in Montrose, CO at Friendship Hall. The Forum was well attended and included many presentations on everything from the role of the conservation districts, to the State Water Plan, Co River Compact, water banking, and perceptions and reality related to "Use It or Lose It".

- Gunnison Basin Water Website: The website developer has completed an internal webpage design and received preliminary approval from the website steering committee. Final edits and revisions to the webpage mock up are being done at this time. It is hoped that the site will be available for viewing by October 1<sup>st</sup>, however, it will not be 'complete' as content will continue to be uploaded monthly.

**II. Off- Farm Focus Area Updates**

A. North Fork Water Conservancy District

- Fire Mountain Canal (FMC) Piping Project: North Fork partners continue to coordinate and work closely on planning, design and pre-implementation activities along that include preliminary environmental and cultural resource compliance.

- The Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC) has been retained to carry out demand management and system optimization studies/planning related to the operation of the North Fork and FMC systems. ITRC will be presenting initial preliminary thoughts on system optimization options and seeking further public input from the community, various ditch companies representatives, the North Fork Water Conservancy District during the first week of October.

B. Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District and Cimarron Canal Company

- Planning continues related to the West Canal Piping Project; additional discussions and meetings are need to refine the timeline and approach

C. Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) / Uncompahgre Project Area

- Phase 9 Piping Project: The UVWUA continues to work with Reclamation on design/engineering issues. Preliminary planning is taking place to begin associated environmental and cultural resource compliance activities.

- West Side System Optimization: ITRC continues to work closely with the UVWUA and will be conducting additional site visits and meetings with UVWUA management the first week of October 2016.

D. Crawford Water Conservancy District

- Planning continues related to the Needle Rock headgate improvement project; additional discussions and meetings are need to refine the timeline, budget and approach

**III. On-farm Updates**

- Additional discussions and decisions are needed from CO NRCS and some key members of the on-farm team related to move the on-farm program forward. Issues related the potential cooperative funding of the DCT program remain unresolved.

- Ranking criteria are near final – these are available upon request and comments and input are welcomed and encouraged

- On-farm research and data collection continue in the Uncompahgre Valley and in the Rogers Mesa area of the North Fork Valley (activities led by Dr. Perry Cabot and performed by students hired by the No Chico Brush ATM grant)

**IV. Colorado River Annual Seminar**

- Please join us on September 16, 2016 in Grand Junction for our Annual Water Seminar, I have attached several informational attachments to this email for your convenience. We hope to see you there.

- Click this link for more info <http://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/2016/08/2016-annual-water-seminar/>

Thanks for your interest and cooperation,

Dave and Sonja

**Dave 'DK' Kanzer, P.E. | Deputy Chief Engineer**

[dkanzer@crwcd.org](mailto:dkanzer@crwcd.org) | [www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org)

T: 970.945.8522, 224 | C: 970.379-7891 | F: 970.945.8799

**Sonja Chavez | Water Resource Specialist**

[schavez@crwcd.org](mailto:schavez@crwcd.org) | [www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ColoradoRiverDistrict.org)

T: 970.945.8522, ext. 231 | C: 970.596.4066 | F: 970.945-8799