

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Holiday Inn Express
Montrose, Colorado
January 20, 2020**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Industrial
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Sonja Chavez	At-Large Member
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Jay Jutten	Montrose County
Dixie Luke	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Julie Nania	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier

Voting Members Absent:

Patrice Alonzo	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Ray Hanson	Delta Municipalities
John Justman	Mesa County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Chuck Mitisek	Ute WCD
Dan Murphy	Hinsdale Municipalities
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Ronald Shaver	At-Large
Steve Shea	Agricultural
Bill Trampe	Colorado River Water Conservation District
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Craig Godbout (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), David Kanzer (Non-Voting At-Large), Bob Hurford (CDWR Liaison)

Public: Frank Robertson (Ouray Ice Park), Peter Foster (WWE, City of Ouray), Paul Kehmeier (Colorado Department of Agriculture), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Chris Atheny (Gunnison), Jim Plumhoff (UVWUA), Hannah Holm (Hutchison Water Center at CMU), Perry Cabot and Nora Flynn (CSU), Luke Gingerich (J-U-B Engineers), Grant Zimmerman (West Water Research), Randy Sackett (SGM), Michael A Cox (Western Slope Ag News), Gary Kraai (Crawford Water Conservation District), Lauren Blair (Aspen Journalism), Tony LaGreca (Colorado Water Trust), Zane Kessler (CRWCD), Ken Dolezal (Citizen), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW Liaison), Camille Richard (Lake Fork WCD).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Curry.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared not to be present and no formal actions could be taken. Kathleen Curry announced there is a strategy for the action items that are time sensitive, and would be explained later in the meeting.

Approve Agenda

There was not a quorum to approve the Agenda. Kathleen added a discussion for a support letter for the Fish Lakes grant request. The Minutes and Bylaws will be added for approval at the next meeting.

Approve November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum to approve the November 18, 2019 minutes.

Report from the CWCB Representative – Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson reported on the CWCB meeting held in Denver on November 18 and 19, 2019. There were 4 items of importance:

1. The Board voted to modify the appropriation date on the instream flow for Disappointment Creek. San Miguel County had appropriated water last year, and there were negotiations with them. When they filed for the appropriation they ended up with an earlier date than San Miguel County, so they reversed that date.
2. The Board approved a full slate of water plan grants.
3. There was quite a discussion and testimony from folks in the Arkansas Basin about the Arkansas conduit project, a large project to pipe water to the lower Arkansas valley. Steve said it was shocking to hear how bad the water is in the lower Arkansas. The Board approved a loan and they are looking for Federal funding as well. Hopefully funds will be approved at State and Federal levels for funding to be allocated to the project.

4. The Board spent quite a bit of time on stock water and preexisting rights on instream flow. The discussion was instigated by the Division Engineer and the Yampa and White. Russ George made a comment that this is a cultural issue; cows have always watered from diversions. Steve noted there are stock ponds which have no decree and asked how far we want to carry this conversation. It is his understanding they are looking for a legislative solution.

Craig Godbout reported the balance in the Basin account is currently \$449,738, and the statewide account is \$5,340,060. These amounts include the January disbursements.

IBCC Activities and Discussion – Joanne Fagan, Bill Trampe

Joanne Fagan reported the committee is supposed to meet the first week in March. The last meeting was in November. There was no report.

Educational Committee Report and Policy Discussion – Dave Kanzer, Colorado River Water Conservation District

Dave Kanzer and the Educational Committee have been working on formalizing a policy on how to distribute funding for water education activities, specifically at this time busing school kids to the Eureka Water Center at CMU in Grand Junction. Dave and Neal Schwieterman drafted a memo detailing some ideas. They tried to simplify the process on how to distribute the funds equitably, including a criteria for ranking. Once a policy is approved they will put it on the website. The money will go straight from the CWCB to the school district(s). Neal has done some outreach and there are some other matching funds as well. Neal will be the main committee member working with the school districts. The Education Committee requests the Roundtable to delegate authority to the Committee for distribution of these funds. No action can be taken at this meeting, but the Roundtable showed general support for the idea. Dave will post a draft of the policy on the website for review and comment.

Later in the meeting a “straw poll” was circulated to members to approve “delegation of authority” to the PEPO committee to expend up to \$1,000 before June 30, 2020 to support water education activities. Kathleen Curry will email the absent members to complete the vote on this item.

BIP/Demand Management Committee Report – John McClow

John McClow reported last Thursday they received a procurement process packet from Brown and Caldwell. They are now under contract and are instructing us on how we will employ our local expert for our BIP update. They have provided us with a draft RFP template which includes an anticipated scope of services for the local experts. We were invited to modify that scope of work in any way we think is appropriate and the Committee did that today. We are required to submit the revised scope of services to Brown and Caldwell this week and they will incorporate it into their RFP template, which will be posted on our website on January 28. We are also authorized to send it directly to those who have already expressed an interest. We have 6 possible local experts. The RFQ will remain open until February 28.

The Committee will then rank the responses we get from the experts and submit our ranking to Brown and Caldwell. In March, Brown and Caldwell will interview our top candidate and if our candidate meets their criteria they will be offered a contract from Brown and Caldwell to commence work. We should have a local expert employed in early April. The highest priority for the expert is to update project list for the BIP. Our current Tier 1 list includes 33 projects. The list will be distributed to everyone. If anyone has project additions to suggest they should submit them to the Committee. The Committee will come up with a prioritized list to submit to the local expert.

Tom Alvey and Kathleen Curry encouraged everyone to let the Committee know of any additional projects to add to the list as soon as possible.

Request for Support Letter for Fish Lakes Water Plan Grant

Kathleen Curry indicated the letter of support and the two grant applications being requested are time sensitive. The Bylaws gives the Roundtable the ability to conduct some business via email. A paper vote will be circulated for these requests for members to include their name and signature if in support of the recommendations. This paper vote will enable Kathleen to email only the 9 or 10 voting members who are not at the meeting tonight to get formal action.

Cary Denison and Allen Distel discussed the request for a letter of support for the Fish Lakes Water Plan Grant. They are seeking a water plan storage account grant, which needs to be submitted by February 1, and a letter of support would help. They will be requesting a match for the grant with a WSRF application. The project is essentially to revive storage in a reservoir which will supply extra water in the basin for fishery and recreation use on the Cimarron River. Their intention is to apply for \$175,000 from the Water Plan and \$139,000 from WSRF. The Cimarron Canal Reservoir Company plans to match with \$75,000 in kind and \$4,100 in cash, and TU wants to put in \$2,000 in kind.

Fish Lakes is located about 4 miles northwest of Silverjack Reservoir, at a little over 9,000 feet in elevation. Fish Creek drains into the Cimarron Canal.

A show of hands indicated all members were in support of the letter. The paper vote was circulated to members to indicate their support. The remaining votes will be done by email to get formal action. Kathleen will distribute the letter by email to RT members.

Instream Flow Administration and Pre-Existing Uses Discussion

This subject came up at the last meeting and discussion was delayed to get some background on the issue. The topic has been under discussion for a couple of years, and the River District, CWCB, State Engineers office and Cattleman's Association have all been working on it. Kathleen sent out some background information to the Roundtable Members in preparation for this discussion.

Zane Kessler from the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and working at the capitol building on behalf of the River District, discussed the topic and where it is at this point. He sent out a copy of the draft bill with a brief update on where things stand. He anticipates the bill will be introduced tomorrow.

This is an issue that arose in Division 6 regarding some preexisting stock watering rights. Instream flows are administered subject to preexisting uses, whether decreed or not. In Division 6 there were some historic water rights which were curtailed because they were impacting the instream flow during the winter time.

Several entities have been working on this, and in November they took it to the CWCB to address their concerns, after which the draft bill was created. The bill clarifies the State Engineer's authority to administer preexisting uses in the way they've been administered over the last 40 years. Mr. Kessler thinks this legislation will protect preexisting rights. He asked for the Roundtable's support for the effort.

Kathleen Curry stated the Roundtable does not typically act on legislation, we don't have a quorum, and there is no introduced bill yet. If there are any further questions members should contact Kathleen or Mr. Kessler.

CSU Water Archive Interviews

This is a CSU water archive project. The project underway is interviewing people for oral histories that will be kept on file. They are looking for west slope input. If anyone has any ideas for people in this basin who should be interviewed email those ideas to Kathleen and she will pass them along.

Alternative Water Transfer Methods (ATM) Strategic Planning – Luke Gingerich

Luke Gingerich of J-U-B Engineers, gave a presentation and discussion on alternative water transfer methods (ATMs). Grant Zimmerman from Westwater Research, Nora Flynn from Colorado State University, and Perry Cabot from CSU Extension are also part of this project. The goal would be to access Ag water without transferring ownership. There is an Advisory Committee and currently there is no Gunnison Basin representation. Kathleen Curry indicated she would like to be involved.

They are early in the process and would like input from the Roundtable. Mr. Gingerich is asking members to respond to a survey. Responses can be anonymous. Kathleen will send out the link to the survey to Roundtable members. These will just be personal opinions, and not Roundtable recommendations.

Mr. Gingerich will come back sometime this summer with results.

WSRF Grant Applications – Tom Alvey

City of Ouray, Non Potable Water Supply Project

The City of Ouray is requesting \$33,150 from both the Basin and State accounts, for a total of \$66,300 in WSRF funding for a total project cost of \$102,000. The project would study adding a new pipeline to complement the existing potable water pipeline from Weehawken Springs, the only municipal supply for Ouray.

The need for increased municipal supply is noted in the BIP, as well as the Upper Uncompahgre Needs Assessment. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the application, with the funding split changed to \$25,000 from the Basin and \$41,300 from the State WSRF funds.

Craig Godbout verified the request is for a feasibility study, and is preapproved for a loan to borrow money from CWCB for \$3,000,000 total. The main pipeline is about half of that. There is potential for hydroelectric.

There was general support shown for the grant application and a paper vote was passed around to the voting members.

Lake Fork Valley Conservancy for the Lake Fork River Enhancement Project Phase III

The Lake Fork Valley Conservancy for the Lake Fork River Enhancement Project Phase III, is requesting \$20,000 in Basin funds and \$131,355 in State funds for a total of \$151,355 of a total project cost of \$276,555. This project would connect the two other projects the Lake Fork Conservancy has completed on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. It would involve restoration channel work on 3,200 feet of the Lake Fork, additional interpretive trail development and participation in the future Lake Fork Recreation Corridor. This project was identified in the BIP as part of the Environmental and Recreational Needs Assessment and the two earlier projects were partially funded with WSRF funds. The Screening Committee recommends approval of the application.

Camille Richard of the Lake Fork Water Conservancy District reported on how the past 2 phases held up during the 2019 runoff. There was a high runoff and once the water level dropped she was pleased to see how it held up. The water stayed in the channel, and she stated it was incredible how well it survived. There was only damage to one structure where a couple of anchor rocks were dislodged.

There was general support shown for the grant application and a paper vote was passed around to the voting members.

Comments from the Audience

Hannah Holm announced CMU Water Center's annual 3-day water series will be held this year on February 11, 18 and 25. Hannah provided flyers on the courses.

Other Business

Scott Murphy asked if proxies were an option. Tom Alvey commented there was no provision for it in the Bylaws, but it was not a bad idea. He felt the low attendance at this meeting was unusual though, and might be because of the holiday. Jonathan Houck commented it might give even more of a reason for absence.

Kathleen Curry commented she has a large amount of administrative work to do after this meeting. There is a lot going on. Sonja Chavez asked about the potential for a paid position to help. Steve Anderson commented other Roundtables have a compensated administrative position.

Action Items

Dave Kanzer will put the Education Committee’s draft funding distribution policy on the website. Kathleen Curry will email absent members to vote on “delegation of authority” to the Education Committee.

Kathleen Curry will send Roundtable members the link to the survey for Alternative Water Transfer Methods (ATM), J-U-B Engineers.

Kathleen Curry will email to absent voting members to vote on the request for a letter of support for the Fish Creek grant application, and will email the final letter to all members.

Kathleen Curry will email to absent voting members to vote on the grant requests for the City of Ouray Non Potable Water Supply Project and the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy Lake Fork River Enhancement Project Phase III.

Future Meetings

The Roundtable Chairs with the CWCB on Tuesday, January 28.

The CWCB meets January 27 and 28 in Denver.

The Water Congress meeting is January 29-31 in Denver.

The next Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting is Monday, March 16, 2020. The Demand Management/BIP Committee meeting will be at 1:30 in advance of the Roundtable meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder