

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
Roubideaux Room, 320 West 5th Street, Delta, CO
March 21, 2022**

Voting Members Present:

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| Thomas Alvey | North Fork WCD |
| Steve Anderson | Agricultural |
| Bruce Bair | At-Large Member |
| Mike Berry | Tri-County WCD |
| Justin Blair | At-Large Member |
| Sonja Chavez | At-Large Member |
| Kathleen Curry | Saguache County |
| Cary Denison | Environmental |
| Allen Distel | Bostwick Park WCD |
| Joanne Fagan | Ouray Municipalities |
| Nancy Fishering | Montrose County |
| Steve Fletcher | At-Large Member |
| Jonathan Houck | Gunnison County |
| Austin Keiser | Grand Mesa WCD |
| Wendell Koontz | At-Large Member |
| John McClow | House and Senate Ag Committees |
| Scott McInnis | Mesa County |
| Chuck Mitisek | Ute WCD |
| Bill Nesbitt | Gunnison Municipalities |
| Jim Plumhoff | Industrial |
| Mark Roeber | Delta County |
| Neal Schwieterman | Recreational |
| Adam Turner | Local Domestic Water Supplier |
| Richard Udd | Delta Municipalities |

Voting Members Excused/Absent:

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|-----------------|--|
| Mike Cleary | Crawford Water Conservancy District |
| Dan Murphy | Hinsdale Municipalities |
| Michael Murphy | Hinsdale County |
| Scott Murphy | Montrose Municipalities |
| Julie Nania | Upper Gunnison River WCD |
| Mark Ritterbush | Mesa Municipalities |
| Martha Whitmore | Ouray County |
| Vacant | Colorado River Water Conservation District |

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sam Stein (CWCB), Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Dave Kanzer (CRWCD), Jedd Sondergard (BLM).

Public:

Paul Kehmeier (CO Dept of Ag), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Cindy McKee (PEPO), Robert Sakata (CWCB South Platte RT), Suzie Bilberry (Delta CD), Megan O’Grady (DNR), Nora Flynn, Russ Sands and Elizabeth Schoder (CWCB), Andy Mueller (CRWCD – GM), Tom Browning (CWCB Retired), Ed Millard (South West RT/IBCC), Heather Sacket (Aspen Journalism), Cindy Dozier (Club 20, CDFWA, RMRI), Marielle Cowdin (CRWCD).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order shortly after 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Steve Anderson.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Agenda Approval

Tom Alvey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the January 17, 2022 Meeting

John McClow requested a correction to the CWCB report regarding the spelling of Lottis Creek and to indicate it is also in the Taylor watershed. Tom Alvey also requested a correction to the inaccurate statement that he stepped down from the Roundtable.

Sonja Chavez moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2022 meeting as corrected. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IBCC Report (Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber, Cary Denison)

Joanne Fagan reported on the IBCC had a meeting on February 23, 2022. The following topics were discussed:

- Several roundtables are dealing with interstate issues.
- Most roundtables have been focusing on their BIPs and trying to get everything completed.
- Many roundtables are working on their watershed management plans.
- All roundtables will be getting an extra \$25,000 for PEPO in the next 3 years.
- Work on the Water 22 website continues.
- There was an update on big river issues and they are working on a drought response operation agreement.

- Russ Sands gave an update on the water plan.
- Forest health updates.
- A presentation on federal funding.
- A discussion on what IBCC would do next and a subcommittee will be formed to figure out a workplan for IBCC going forward.

The next IBCC meeting will be a hybrid meeting on June 30.

Cary Dennison encouraged members look at the PowerPoint presentation on the meeting. He noted some IJA funds are potentially planned for projects in the Gunnison Basin.

CWCB Report (Steve Anderson)

Steve Anderson reported there was an All-Chairs meeting on March 1 where they discussed the Water Plan Update, which was also discussed at the CWCB meeting. Russ Sands is hopeful to have a draft for public comment out by July 1. Everyone will have a chance to comment at that time.

There has been a change in leadership at CWCB. Jackie Brown from the Yampa/White is now the Chair, and Greg Felt from the Arkansas is the Vice-Chair. At the CWCB meeting they discussed the Water Plan and Colorado River issues. Steve feels demand management is on the back burner for the moment. There was also discussion on federal funding and the Interstate group is going to start working on drought resiliency. They are going to start having the CWCB meetings around the state again. The next meeting will be in May.

Russ Sands discussed the status of the Water Plan Update. They hope to have a draft by the end of June. They will then have a 90-day public comment period.

Education Committee Report (Cindy McKee)

Cindy McKee, Chair of the PEPO Committee, gave an update from their meeting on February 22. They are working on a plan for the roundtable's PEPO activities. This plan includes different outreach for water experts, residents, visitors, and children. They will be utilizing the roundtable's newsletter to push information out to local newspapers; updating the website regularly and simplifying it; using ads, posters, and flyers to get out information; and working with the school system to help support good education which is already available. Their next step is to refine what they would like to do and will come back to the roundtable with ideas. They are also putting together a communication plan which will easily transfer into the application for PEPO funding.

Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)

Sam Stein gave an update on the funds balance in the basin account. There will be \$130,500 in stimulus, which will be used first and must be allocated for projects by the May 2023 CWCB board meeting. The regular basin balance is \$362,438.

Tom Alvey introduced one grant funding request.

Hot Springs Reservoir Outlet Improvement, Double Heart Ranch.

The applicant, Double Heart Ranch, is the largest shareholder in Hot Springs Reservoir, a 600-acre foot reservoir tributary to Tomichi Creek east of Gunnison. The project would replace an aging outlet gate and controls on the reservoir as well as installing an automated system for operating the gate. The reservoir serves as supplemental irrigation for 600 acres with several owners. The existing gate is leaking and corroded and the control system is also aging. The project would result in efficiency improvements, better water management and benefits to the downstream habitat. The applicant has requested \$30,000 in Basin funds and is also applying for funding from the Upper Gunnison River Conservancy District. The Screening Committee recommends approval of \$25,000 from Basin funds with the applicants share increasing to approximately 25% of the total cost. The project maintains existing uses, improves aging infrastructure, aids agricultural use, and improves stream habitat.

Bill Nesbit moved to approve the Double Heart Ranch grant request for Hot Springs Reservoir Outlet Improvement for \$25,000 from basin funds. Mark Roeber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Colorado River Demand Management (Andy Mueller)

Andy Mueller, General Manager for the Colorado River District, presented on the River District's Conceptual Demand Management Market Structure. The Upper Colorado River Commission under the Upper Basin Demand Management Storage Agreement is studying the feasibility of setting up a demand management storage account in Lake Powell for the sole purpose of compact compliance for the upper basin's benefit.

Legislative Update (Kathleen Curry)

Kathleen Curry gave an update on the following water bills:

- Senate Bill 126 - Prioritize CWCB Construction Fund Money for the South Platte Basin
- Senate Bill 029 - Anti Speculation
- Senate Bill 114 - Fire Suppression Ponds
- Senate Bill 158 – Species Conservation Trust Fund
- House Bill 1151 – Voluntary Turf Replacement Program
- Multiple wildfire mitigation bills and federal money that has been become available
- On horizon: RIVR (recreation)

Cimarron Valley and River Watershed Coalition Letter of Support (Allen Distel)

Allen Distel representing the Cimarron Valley and Watershed Coalition requested a letter of support for a Technical Assistance grant request from the CRWCD Community Funding Partnership Program for an analysis for improvements to the Big Blue Ditch.

Tom Alvey moved the GBRT provide a letter of support to the Cimarron Valley and Watershed Coalition for TA grant request from the CRWCD Community Funding Partnership Program for an analysis for improvements to the Big Blue Ditch. Jim Plumhoff seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Allen Distel will draft the letter and send it to Steve Anderson.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business

Roundtable members discussed Nebraska building a canal for Platte River water rights.

Sonja Chavez announced she has been appointed to the Water Quality Control Commission.

Steve Anderson recognized Nancy Fishing who is now Director of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, the first woman to be elected to that board.

Future Meetings

The next regular Roundtable meeting is at 3:00 p.m. on May 16, 2022 at the Masonic Lodge in Montrose.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:18 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Allen Distel will draft the letter of support for the Big Blue Ditch and send it to Steve Anderson.