

**Interbasin Compact Committee
Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
Delta
July 17, 2023**

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Alvey	North Fork WCD
Steve Anderson	Agricultural
Mike Berry	Tri-County WCD
Kathleen Curry	Saguache County
Bobby Daniel	Mesa County
Cary Denison	Environmental
Allen Distel	Bostwick Park WCD
Joanne Fagan	Ouray Municipalities
Nancy Fishing	Montrose County
Steve Fletcher	At-Large Member
Jonathan Houck	Gunnison County
Austin Keiser	Grand Mesa WCD
Wendell Koontz	At-Large Member
Mark LaValley	At-Large Member
John McClow	House and Senate Ag Committees
Michael Murphy	Hinsdale County
Scott Murphy	Montrose Municipalities
Bill Nesbitt	Gunnison Municipalities
Jim Plumhoff	Industrial
Steve Pope	At-Large Member
Mark Ritterbush	Mesa Municipalities
Mark Roeber	Delta County
Neal Schwieterman	Recreational
Dave Trayor	Ute WCD
Adam Turner	Local Domestic Water Supplier
Martha Whitmore	Ouray County

Voting Members Excused/Absent:

Bruce Bair	At-Large Member
Sonja Chavez	Upper Gunnison River WCD
Mike Cleary	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Richard Udd	Delta Municipalities
Vacant	Hinsdale Municipalities
Vacant	Colorado River Water Conservation District

Liaisons and Non-Voting Members Present:

Sharon Dunning (Assistant Recorder), Raquel Flinker (CRWCD), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Bob Hurford (DWR), Jedd Sondergard (USBLM), Ryan Unterreiner (CPW).

Public:

Henry Wood (Hinsdale Municipal), Shana Harness (Grand Mesa Natural Resource Consulting LLC) Fred Phillips (Fred Phillips Consulting), David M Gardner (City of Gunnison – Public Works), Mike Rogers (City of Gunnison – Water and Wastewater), Cindy Dozier (Club 20 Exec Committee, RMRI), Andy Mueller, Zane Kessler, Amy Moyer, Dave Kanzer, Brendon Langenhuizen, Marielle Cowdin, and Lindsay Dafrates (CRWCD), Paul Kehmier (State Ag Department), Randi Kim (City of GJ), Tanya Ishikawa (UWP), Emily Ontiveros (Fred Phillips Consulting), Russ Sands and Emily Zmak (CWCB), Ashley Garrison (CWCB – Water Plan Grants), Robert Sakata (CWCB, SPRT), Fay Hartman (American Rivers), Suzie Bilberry (Delta Conservation District), Richard Hood (JVA Engineers), Evan Jones (Division IV Assist Engineer), Jason Ullman (DWR), Ken Curtis (Delores WCD), Luke Laurita (unknown), (CRWCD), Savannah Nelson (PEPO Coordinator).

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wendell Koontz.

Roll Call/Introductions

After roll call a quorum was declared to be present.

Agenda Approval

Kathleen Curry requested an addition to Other Business for the City of Grand Junction’s request for a letter of support.

Wendell Koontz announced a correction to the next scheduled meeting date to be September 18, 2023.

Tom Alvey requested a correction to a grant request name from Short Ditch Extension to Miner’s Trail.

Tom Alvey moved to approve the agenda as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2023 Meeting

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting as submitted and the motion passed unanimously.

Education Committee Report (Savannah Nelson)

Savannah Nelson reported on PEPO activity since the last GBRT meeting. The committee has been working on continuing the public education newspaper campaign. The next topic will be defining the role of agriculture in the basin. Last month they sent out the Gunnison Basin Newsletter and they are focusing efforts on ramping up social media.

Members can receive the newsletter by signing up on the website. Savannah will start sending an email to the GBRT membership summarizing new topics before they are sent to newspapers.

Grant Review Committee Report (Tom Alvey)

Tom Alvey introduced two grant requests: Uncompahgre Multi-Benefit and Miners Trail. Both WSRF requests are part of larger projects.

a. Miners Trail

The Miners Trail project request from Delta County is for piping a section of Short Ditch as part of a larger trail project which will allow safe access from the Town to the North Fork High School. The request is for \$35,000 in basin funds and \$105,000 in state funds of a total pipe project cost of \$302,000. The total project is estimated at \$2.7 million. The trail will follow a section of the Short Ditch and piping will provide a path for the trail, as well as providing benefits to the water users of Short Ditch, saving water, and reducing salinity. Short Ditch has received some funding from the GBRT, but this is a separate project which benefits a BIP identified area. The committee recommends approval.

Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the request from Delta County for \$35,000 in basin funds and \$105,000 in state funds for piping a section of Short Ditch. Mark Roeber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Uncompahgre Multi-Benefit Project (American Rivers)

The Uncompahgre Multi-Benefit applicant is American Rivers. The request is for only the headgate improvement part of the project on the Uncompahgre River south of Ridgway, which would improve the channel and restore some riverbank around the headgate as well. The headgate serves the Ward Ditch and 6 landowners. The total project cost is \$1.6 million, with funds requested from BOR, State Restoration money and the River District. The basin fund ask is \$50,000 to go toward only the headgate improvement portion, which is a total cost of \$487,000. Uncompahgre ditch improvements were listed in the BIP. The committee recommends approval.

Cary Denison moved to approve American Rivers' request for \$50,000 in basin funds for headgate improvement on the Uncompahgre River south of Ridgway. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

GBRT members discussed future availability and replenishment of state funding and other funding options.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Report (Steve Anderson)

Steve Anderson reported on the May meeting which was at the Northern Waters headquarters in Berthoud. Topics Steve covered were:

- Becky Mitchell is now the full time Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. There are 3 candidates being considered to take her place on the Conservation Board.
- BOR announced a supplemental EIS for their upcoming decision on how to split up water between Lake Meade and Lake Powell.
- They had a discussion on Colorado snow surveys and cloud seeding operations.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday in Crested Butte.

Jeff Rodriguez Updates

Jeff announced they have hired Emily Adrid as the Water Planning and Climate Impacts Specialist. Emily will be working closely with roundtables.

Jeff reported on CWCB updates for July, including upcoming funding deadlines, a Climate Change in Colorado report, and reminders about the upcoming C-9 Summit in November and the Drought Summit recap available on the website.

There was discussion about the draft agenda for the 2023 C-9 Summit. The meeting will be held in Denver in November. The main goal of the summit is to bring together and promote cross-basin collaboration.

Interbasin Compact Committee Report (Joanne Fagan, Mark Roeber)

Joanne Fagan sent out a written report with details about the last IBCC meeting. The IBCC committee discussed Director Gibbs' challenge and what Roundtables have done. Joanne said the GBRT is focusing on rehab projects to fulfill the challenge. There was some discussion about the future of the IBCC.

The next IBCC meeting will fold into the C-9 Summit meeting in November.

Colorado River District Update (Amy Moyer, Raquel Flinker, Zane Kessler)

At the last meeting of the Roundtable there were concerns by members of being out of the loop on big river issues and legislative issues. More information on the bigger picture was requested. Raquel Flinker, Amy Moyer, and Zane Kessler from the Colorado River District gave the following updates.

- a. Raquel Flinker gave a general update on funding sources, projects the Colorado River District has funded, the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), and the Lower Basin Plan (a 3-year voluntary and compensated reduction in water use).
- b. Amy Moyer discussed the Water Conservation Decision Support Tool. The River District and UVWUA are partnering to build this tool that will use data and analytics to help producers decide where and how voluntary and compensated conservation can achieve better outcomes.
- c. Amy Moyer talked about the West Slope Growing Water Smart Program. This workshop will take place October 23-25, 2023 in Grand Junction. Applications are due August 4, 2023. This is a training assistance program for land use planning strategies and water conservation.
- d. Zane Kessler updated the GBRT on the State Legislature which adjourned May 8, 2023, and the water bills that were enacted into law.

Drought Task Force Update (A. Mueller)

Andy Mueller gave an update on the Drought Task Force. The first meeting is coming up in the next week and a half. They have just announced the Chair and Facilitator will be Katherine Chandler-Henry. There will be up to 12 meetings between now and December, but the dates are not yet scheduled.

The Roundtable discussed how to keep informed, how to get legislative updates, and the possibility of going back to monthly meetings.

City of Gunnison Water Treatment Facility (David Gardner, Michael Rodgers)

David Gardner and Mike Rodgers of the City of Gunnison discussed their proposed improvements to their water treatment plant infiltration gallery and wells. They are asking for a letter of support from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable for a water plan grant request.

Jim Plumoff moved for the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to provide a letter of support to the City of Gunnison for their water plan grant request. Bill Nesbitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GBRT Recorder Position and Assistant Recorder Compensation (M. Berry)

Mike Berry announced he will be resigning from his position as recorder. Mike also discussed the assistant recorder position and compensation.

Mike Berry moved to increase the Assistant Recorder compensation to \$450 per meeting. Allen Distel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Other Business

The City of Grand Junction has requested a letter of support for a CWCB grant through the Federal Technical Assistance Grant Program for their Juniata Enlarged Ditch Piping project. Randy Kim and Mark Ritterbush were available to answer questions. Adam Turner moved the Gunnison Basin Roundtable provide a letter of support for Grand Junction's grant request. Kathleen Curry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Marti Whitmore mentioned the possibility of the Roundtable meeting monthly after September. The Roundtable will discuss this topic at the September meeting.

Future Meetings

The next regular Roundtable meeting is September 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Roubideaux Room in Delta.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Roundtable, it was moved and seconded to end the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Mike Berry, Recorder

Action Items

Provide a letter of support to the City of Gunnison for their Water Plan Grant request.

Provide a letter of support to the City of Grand Junction for their Federal Technical Assistance Grant request.