

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Durango Public Library
Durango, Colorado
April 13, 2016

Members Present:

Ken Beegles	Industrial Representative	John Porter	Southwestern WCD
John Ey	Florida WCD	Mike Preston	At-Large Member
Steve Fearn	San Juan County	Jenny Russell	San Miguel County
Karen Guglielmono	San Miguel Municipalities	Don Schwindt	Dolores WCD
Sonny Frasier	Dolores Municipalities	Brian Sheffield	At-Large Member
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Doug Stowe	Dolores County
Dan Huntington	La Plata WCD	John Taylor	Hinsdale County
Phil Johnson	Montezuma Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At-Large Member
Gary Kennedy	Mancos WCD	Chuck Wanner	Water Quality Control Commission
Eric Kuhn	Colorado River WCD	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
James Lambert	Montezuma County	Mely Whiting	At-Large Member
Carrie Lile	Domestic Water Representative	Bruce Whitehead	Animas-La Plata WCD
Al Pfister	San Juan WCD	Ed Zink	La Plata County

Liaisons Present:

Craig Godbout (Colorado Water Conservation Board)

Public:

Eric Bikis (SGM), Bill Frownfelter (Russell Planning & Engineering), Kate Greenberg (National Young Farmers Coalition), Robert Hanning (Town of Mountain Village), Celene Hawkins (The Nature Conservancy), Glen Humiston (Bauer Lake Water Company), Don Janz (Bauer Lake Water Company), Ken Leib (US Geological Survey), Barbara McLachlan (Candidate for State Representative), Steve Miles (High Desert Conservation District), Denise Rue-Pastin (Water Information Program), Bob Scott (Bauer Lake Water Company), Aaron Somogyi (Florida Water Conservancy District), Laura Spann (Recorder, Southwestern Water Conservation District), Lexi Tuddenham (Sheep Mountain Alliance), Julie Westendorff (La Plata County Commissioner), Ben Wolcott (Bauer Lake Water Company)

Introductions & Review Agenda

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

1. Administrative Reports

Minutes Review and Approval

Minutes from January 13, 2016 were approved. Roundtable meeting documents and other files for reference are housed online for public and Roundtable use at <http://swwcd.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable>.

Officer and IBCC Representative Reports

Steve Harris and Bruce Whitehead reported that the IBCC met on February 23. There was consensus that the IBCC should continue with a focus on water plan implementation and evaluation of alternative water supplies. There was significant discussion about the reduction in severance tax revenue (possibly up to 50% in 2017), which is used to fund the Statewide and Basin WSRA's. The next meeting is scheduled for May 24 in Salida. CWCB has scheduled an investment workshop for IBCC members and interested parties to discuss funding needs and sources.

Basin WSRA Fund Balance

Craig Godbout reported that the fund balance was \$460,057. With the current and anticipated reduction in available funding, Mike suggested forming a subcommittee to reevaluate criteria for Basin Account requests. There was significant Roundtable discussion of what to look at when developing criteria and evaluating how applications are considered. CWCB will also be reevaluating the Statewide Account criteria.

PEPO Liaison

Denise Rue-Pastin provided background on the Public Education and Public Outreach (PEPO) Liaison to the Roundtable. CWCB expressed concerns during the water plan process that the Liaison not be a contractor, but a volunteer. Funding currently available for PEPO activities can then be used toward events and materials. Steve Harris nominated Ed Tolen to replace Denise Rue-Pastin as PEPO Liaison. There were no other nominations. There was consensus to appoint Ed Tolen as PEPO liaison.

2. Election – At Large Seat

One open at large seat remained on the Roundtable after members agreed to add a voting seat for the Co. Water Quality Control Commission representative, currently Chuck Wanner. In March, public notices soliciting interested applicants were published in area newspapers, distributed to Roundtable members, and emailed to all remaining applicants from the October 2015 election. Applications were due on March 30, and one letter of interest was received from Celene Hawkins, The Nature Conservancy. Celene addressed the Roundtable. There was consensus to elect Celene Hawkins by acclamation to the at-large seat.

3. SW Basin Roundtable Implementation and Outreach

BIP Implementation Grant Update

Carrie Lile reported that the two-year WSRA application for \$131,000 to support BIP Implementation and Outreach Phase III was approved by the CWCB at their March meeting. Work will begin on July 1, 2016, and be guided by goals, strategies and measurable outcomes outlined in the BIP, with special focus on education and outreach. Education and outreach will include hosting local workshops, meeting with local entities, and providing materials for that outreach. BIP implementation tasks will include technical and process support on multi-basin projects, multi-benefit projects, evaluations of environmental and recreational needs, and support IPPs. To date, Carrie, Ann and Denise have been brainstorming ideas and fielding calls, as the project funds have not been released yet. Work has started with the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance to develop workshops on meeting agricultural water needs.

Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study

Eric Kuhn provided an update on the Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study, the WSRA funding for which was approved by the CWCB at their March meeting. CWCB added a second CWCB representative and one representative from each Front Range Roundtable to the technical committee. The purchase order has been received by the River District, the fiscal agent for the study. The next step is to develop a schedule consistent with the goals of the study, which includes a hydrology “stress test” for the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins and an evaluation of climate change impacts. Various Roundtable members (Bruce Whitehead, Celene Hawkins, Ken Curtis, Carrie Lile, Steve Harris) will participate on the 40-member technical committee from southwestern Colorado in two or three times and meetings rather than trying to schedule one meeting. Any member is welcome to participate in the webinar meetings. The study should be completed by October. Eric responded to Roundtable questions. Mike Preston directed Roundtable members to the work order and a summary of the study process.

Alternative Water Sources - Testimony on HB 1256 to Evaluate Storage on South Platte

Bruce Whitehead provided a summary of HB 1256 (South Platte Water Storage Study) sponsored by State Representative J. Paul Brown. Mike Preston testified remotely before the House Ag Committee in support of the bill, and its consistency with the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). The Southwest BIP calls for evaluation of alternative water sources, including storage on the Front Range, and asserts that this is a statewide issue that should be taken up by the CWCB. The Southwest BIP states that by giving the State multiple alternatives to consider and evaluate, the State can play a neutral role in conducting the evaluation of alternatives and structuring the process by which an alternative can be selected and advanced. Roundtable members clarified that Southwest Basin Roundtable support extends to evaluation of storage options on the South Platte, but not necessarily the development of said storage. There was consensus to commit up to \$10,000 from the Basin Account, if needed, to support evaluation as part of HB 1256.

San Miguel Stream Management Pilot Project

Mely Whiting reported that the CWCB approved \$32,000 in funding to support an assessment of environmental and recreation water needs within the San Miguel River basin. The project consists of the following steps: 1) review E&R

attributes within the San Miguel River basin identified in the BIP for completeness, 2) identify potential water gaps to support those attributes, 3) assist the project sponsors and other stakeholders in defining desired outcomes for E&R uses within the project area and identify projects to achieve the desired outcomes in a cooperative setting, and 4) evaluate effectiveness of implementation of said projects. Roundtable members will be included step-by-step in the process via the data gaps subcommittee. Once agreement on the science has been reached, focus will be on San Miguel basin partners who will most be impacted by the work. The estimated project cost is \$128,000, of which the Roundtable funded \$30,000.

Mike requested permission to support phreatophyte removal efforts across the basin. There was consensus that the Roundtable support phreatophyte removal as a general policy.

Irrigation Efficiency Improvements - Efficiency Assessment of Dolores Project Irrigators

Mike Preston reported on efforts to improve irrigation efficiency by the Mancos and High Desert Conservation Districts, coordinating with the Dolores Water Conservancy District. The goals are providing technical support for farmers that could then lead to financial support for technical upgrades. At least 16 irrigators have volunteered for efficiency assessments so far. Steve Miles, High Desert Conservation District, added that they hope to have data by the end of the season to request NRCS funding and pursue other support.

Roundtable Member Project Preferences Survey

David Martin, former intern with The Nature Conservancy, has undertaken a survey of Roundtables across the State. About 14 Southwest Roundtable members have responded so far. David is interested in getting the broadest possible input to compare published project lists directly to what members specify anonymously in the survey. He will share results with the Roundtables, and is not affiliated directly with the water plan process.

Suggestions for Priorities and Approaches in Phase 3 Implementation

Mike Preston solicited input from the Roundtable members and public present, and none was provided. Denise Rue-Pastin added that the second Water and Land Use Planning Session will take place in November in Pagosa Springs. Water 101 will be September 22-23. Registration is now open for the Forest-to-Faucets teacher training workshop on June 22-23.

4. Success Sharing: WSRA Funded Project, Town of Mountain Village

Bill Frownfelter and Robert Hanning reported on the Town of Mountain Village Waterline Extension Project, which was undertaken to increase reliability and redundancy of the Town's water system, particularly to meet emergency water demand if there is a fire in the western portion of the Town. WSRA funding was approved by the Roundtable in the amount of \$30,000. The project was successful in meeting the desired goal and came in slightly under budget. Bill and Robert thanked the Roundtable for the support.

5. Review of WSRA Applications and Concept Proposals

WSRA Application: Animas Consolidated Ditch Company Culvert Replacement Project

Ed Zink presented the application for \$34,354 from the Basin Account in support of replacing a failing culvert that delivers 30 cfs of water to 1,000 acres of irrigated land in the Animas Valley. The existing culvert is sandwiched between an old historic home and CR 203. It is a difficult location and requires significantly more resources for construction than a typical culvert replacement. Due to the close proximity of the road and public utilities within the road's right of way, preconstruction surveying and engineering design are necessary. Roundtable members asked questions. Ed Tolen moved to approve the WSRA application for \$34,354 from the Basin Account. Gary Kennedy seconded. Ed Zink recused himself. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

WSRA Application: Jackson Lake, Bauer Lake #2 Ditch Upgrade Project

Don Janz, Bauer Lake Water Company, presented the application for \$60,000 from the Basin Account to support upgrades to the ditch from Jackson Lake to Bauer Lake #2. This project will incorporate several segments requiring repair work and upgrade improvements in order to achieve water transfer efficiency at an estimated cost of \$75,000. Bauer Lake Water Company has secured \$13,500 from the SW Water Conservation District. Roundtable members asked questions, and requested additional matching funds provided by the Bauer Lake Water Company. Bruce

Whitehead moved to approve the WSRA application for the reduced amount of \$55,000 from the Basin Account. Dan Huntington seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Concept Proposal: Treanor Ditch Lining and Red Mesa Headgate Automation Project

Eric Bikis presented the concept proposal for \$100,000 in support of installing synthetic liners in 1,400 feet of the Treanor Ditch and 1,600 feet of the Red Mesa Supply Ditch to help prevent seepage. Funding would also go to upgrade the existing Red Mesa Supply Ditch headgate by installing telemetric and automated equipment. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has already contributed an unspecified amount of in-kind services (time) to research this task and specify materials. The ditch lining would benefit irrigators and the State of Colorado by increasing water conservation and water-use efficiency as a result of significant reduction of seepage losses, and capture diurnal fluctuations to improve the predictability of Compact deliveries. Total project costs are estimated at \$283,024. LPWCD would request \$100,000, and match up to 50 percent, with remaining funding sought from other agencies. Roundtable members asked questions and provided suggestions, including outlining benefits to environmental and recreational uses, soliciting funding from BOR for salt reduction, applying for Statewide WSRA funding. There was consensus to recommend that a full application be submitted for consideration in the reduced amount of \$55,000 until more specific WSRA criteria is developed by Roundtable members.

WSRA Application: Morrison Ditch Company Automated Gaging Station

A representative from the Morrison Ditch Company was not present at the meeting to explain the request. There was consensus to table consideration of the application until the next meeting.

WSRA Criteria Subcommittee

Mike solicited volunteers to participate in a WSRA criteria subcommittee, which Carrie Lile will coordinate.

6. Upcoming Events

SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	July 13	Cortez	Dolores Water Conservancy District
SW Basin Roundtable Meeting	October 12	Durango	Durango Public Library

7. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.