

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting-DRAFT
Hybrid Meeting from DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Cortez, CO
July 25, 2024

Members Present:

Carolyn Dunmire	At-Large Recreational Rep	Charlie Smith	San Juan County
Ken Beegles	At Large -Industrial	Larry Dozier	At-Large
Ken Curtis	At-Large	Ed Tolen	At-Large Domestic Water
Karen Gugliamone*	San Miguel Municipalities	Buck Skillen*	At Large Environmental
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointment	Steve Wolff	SWCD
Rob Hagberg	SJWCD	Peter Butler	LaPlata County
Gary Kennedy*	MWCD	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Dave DK Kanzer*	CO River District	Kevin Kissler	City of Cortez
Ryan Gray*	DWCD	Kenny Heldman*	Montrose Municipalities
Candace Jones	SJWC	Jim Wells*	San Miguel Water Conservancy District
Pete Nylander	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Robin Young*	Archuleta County Natural Resources

Public:

Laura Spann (CWCB), Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB), Wendy Weygandt (Recorder), Elaine Chick (PEPO), Emily Zmak* (CWCB), Ty Koppenhafer* (Jones & DeMille Engineering), Peter Ortega (UMUT), Letisha Yazzie (UMUT), Joshua Godwin* (Public) Steve Bowman (Montezuma Water), Shannon Mullane* (CO Sun), Aaron Ball* (Aspen Trails), George Gavrieldes*(S. Ute), Brent Gardner-Smith* (Public), Robert Sakada (Co Dept. of Ag), Michael Kimball (Town of Sawpit), Kate Sawyer (RCAC), Mike Preston (UMUT), Gary Kennedy (MWCD), Blake Mamich*(The Journal), David Schiowitz (SGM), Nate Peters(Conservation Legacy), Linnea Spears-Lebrun*(Public), Andrea Harbin Monahan* (CWCB), Cheryl Cwelich (River Network), Stephen Mead (Town of Silverton)

*Indicates Zoom Participant

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

- Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments.

- Robert Sakada introduced himself and explained that he accepted a new job as the Colorado Ag Advisor for the Department of Agriculture. He wants to engage individuals tied to agriculture and encourages people to reach out to him. The USDA reported a reduction in 32 million acres of agricultural land. He expressed concern for farmers who are stubborn and don't ask for help. He understands the stresses that befall on those in agriculture which can leads to higher rates of suicide. He said that behavioral support is available and he can help act as a liaison to match various needs with services.
- Roundtable Chair
 - Ken Curtis made a motion to approve Ed Tolen as the Roundtable Chair. Steve Wolff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Roundtable First Vice Chair
- Roundtable Second Vice Chair
 - Gary Kennedy made a motion to accept Brandon Johnson as the First Vice Chair and Kevin Kissler as the Second Vice Chair. Ken Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IBCC Representative
 - Larry Dozier made a motion to accept Steve Wolff as IBCC Representative for a two year term. Ken Beegles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IBCC Alternate
 - Steve Wolff made a motion to accept Adrian Bergere as the IBCC Alternate. Karen Gugliamone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Administrative Reports

- Review and approve minutes from April 25, 2024 meeting
 - Ken Curtis moved to approve the minutes. Steve Wolff seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Officers Report
 - C9 Summit will be held at Crested Butte on October 1 & 2. See Ed Tolen for information. CWCB can reimburse 10 basin members per basin for lodging and mileage; this excludes IBCC members and CWCB Board members so that more participants are encouraged to attend. The CWCB is seeking public comment to the handbook (<https://engagecwcb.org/c9-summit>). The handbook will be finalized this fall.
- WSRF Basin Roundtable Fund Balance is currently at \$552,309. (\$80,000 approved by SWBRT for Upper 42 Road Water Association was not used). WSRF allocation of \$300,000 will be awarded after the CWCB September board meeting for WSRF. These funds will be available the first week of October.
- PEPO Liaison Report-Elaine Chick
 - The Children’s Water Festival that was scheduled for May 15 was pushed back to closer to the end of the school semester. The date is to be determined.
 - The new SWBRT website is now live. The link: swbasinsroundtable.org. It is unnecessary to pursue ADA compliance. Wendy, Carrie, and Elaine will schedule a training session next week to review the new website.
 - The PEPO Education Subcommittee recruited Ken Beegles, Kevin Kissler, Mo Rock and Steve Wolff to promote outreach.
 - The video preview will be completed by fall focusing on agriculture. More video topics to come in the future.
- CWCB Update-Jeff Rodriguez
 - REMINDERS:
 - C9 Summit is scheduled October 1 from 12:30-8:30 pm and October 2 from 8 am to 5 pm.
 - Location Crested Butte Arts Center
 - The draft agenda and registration can be accessed: <https://engagecwcb.org/c9-summit>
 - CWCB on EngageCWCB will be finalized in the Fall of 2024
 - <https://engagecwcb.org/cwcb-guide>
 - Water Conditions Monitoring Meeting
 - Next meeting 8/27/2024
 - 9:30 AM
 - Virtual meeting
 - Water Plan Grant Cycle 1
 - 41 applications
 - \$11.6M (half of what was allocated)
 - Updated web page
 - Water Plan grant webpage will highlight applications submitted
 - CWCB Deadlines
 - WSRF Deadline August 1
 - Wildfire Ready Watersheds
 - Accepting Applications; September 30 deadline
 - \$3 million in funding is available through year end
 - Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com>
 - Direct questions/interest to Steve Reeves (steven.reeves@state.co.us)
 - Colorado River Webinars
 - August 8, 2024

- Check CWCB calendar for links and times; past months are also posted
- Technical Assistance & Local Capacity
 - Accepting applications
 - Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants: direct questions to Michael Regan (michael.regan@state.co.us)
 - Technical Assistance and Local Capacity programs (ARPA Funds)
Need to be contracted by 12/31/24

5. IBCC Update

- Jeff Rodriguez reported on the last IBCC meeting. The June meeting under Director Mitchell's support embedded two documents into the IBCC Guide. The two documents that were adopted highlighted IBCC membership roles and what criteria make a good IBCC project.
- Drought Resilience Action Plan: No & Low Regrets Water Document promotes building collaboration and identifies strategies for resilience under various scenarios of droughts that are closer together with warmer trends. Low Regrets can work alongside the Water Plan.
- Is CASM worth stabilizing funds for? Air monitoring is very expensive. Colorado currently has less than 20 flights a year and it may need more than 200 flights to cover the state. It has been noted that snowpack estimates using ground and satellites can be sometimes off by as much as 40%. Could other topics be explored that could move forward for IBCC talking points?
- Steve Wolff offered that Federal funding for water restoration will soon be available. The state will have a say in how these funds are used. Be thinking about what is critically important to our regions? The Bureau of Reclamation will further define these funding opportunities later this year.
- Topics that define how organizations are linked through collaboration to best reduce the 740,000 AF/year statewide water gap may be best to receive Federal funding. What measures can be taken to "link water stronger"? The goal is to build cross-basin collaboration and momentum for project funding.
- Bruce Whitehead noted that policy was created by the CO 2005 Roundtable to fund the IBCC direction for intrastate compact discussions. IBCC is currently a think tank for CWCB. Sideboards provided in the CWCB Guide are different from what Jeff proposed in his presentation. The IBCC has the freedom to talk about anything. CWCB may not be able to work on individual projects; because it is not staffed as such. If the legislature has already adopted projects, topics may not go beyond that discussion. IBCC can approve topics to take to CWCB for further approval. CWCB can assess the complexity and reasonability to take to Legislature. Jeff's checklist is not an operational sideboard; but makes a good project list for IBCC. Director Mitchell is trying to create more structure to formulate strategies that can be agreed upon as a state to make Colorado more resilient. IBCC created seven points that were adopted in the Water Plan conceptual framework. It had broad support throughout the state. IBCC does not have structure with other state tools. IBCC never will have interstate involvement, but it does play a critical role for CO Water conversation and offers a place to discuss regional topics. IBCC legal representation was questionable.

6. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee-Ken Curtis

- Ken Curtis summarized Amy Ost diek's report. Amy is the new state liaison that will be working with the Bureau of Reclamation to assist with the new funding opportunities offered through the Inflation Reduction Act (3 Buckets of funding).
- Amy addressed four topics:
 - The Upper Colorado River Commission met in June and will submit a final credit report Aug 12 to report on big river issues.
 - There is a pot of money available through the SCPP for use in the Upper Basin States that expires at the end of this year. Senators Bennett & Hickenlooper have proposed a bill to extend SCPP through 2026. Legislation is pending.

- There was a recent proposed tribal settlement among the Hopi, Navajo, Arizona, and Paiute. Although Amy mentioned this, she did not have a lot to report on.
- There is a new infographic coming out to create a common set of data between the Upper and Lower Basin. The Bureau of Reclamation report paired well with the information from CWCB. This report is due every five years.

7. WSRF Grant Requests

- Aspen Trails Metropolitan District (\$26,250)-Aaron Ball
 - Steve Harris made a motion to approve task #1 for \$26,250 for a feasibility study to identify a water source that can be recharged. Bruce Whitehead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Conservation Legacy dba Southwest Conservation Corps (\$22,667 basin funds & \$134,155 statewide funding)-Nate Peters
 - Ken Beegles made a motion to approve the request with the contingency of removing invasive tamarisk and russian olives and replanting native trees, shrubs and grasses that focus on low impact water usage. Peter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Town of Sawpit (\$10,713 Basin, \$80,345 Statewide)
 - Steve Harris made a motion to approve the request with the contingency to first find a viable source; then augmentation sources. Peter Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Upcoming Events

- September 24, 2024 WSRF Applications due
- October 24, 2024-Roundtable Meeting & WSRF Grant Awards-LaPlata County Fairgrounds and Event Center
- WSRF grant applications are due December 23, 2024 for the January meeting
- January 23, 2025-Cortez
- January 29-31, 2025 Colorado Water Congress
- April 24, 2025-Durango
- July 24, 2025-Cortez
- October 23, 2025-Durango
- Other Announcements

11. Wrap Up and Adjournment (At or Before 6:00 PM)

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.