

Interbasin Compact Committee  
Southwest Basins Roundtable  
**Colorado River Subcommittee Meeting-DRAFT**  
Hybrid from Dolores Water Conservation District  
Cortez, Colorado  
July 25, 2024

**Members Present:**

Ken Curtis	DWCD
Steve Wolff	SWCD
Peter Ortega	UMUT
Bruce Whitehead	ALPWCD
Ed Tolen	At-Large Local Domestic Rep
Dave Kanzer*	Colorado River District
Ken Beegles	At-Large Industrial Rep
Candace Jones	San Juan Conservancy District

**Public:** Wendy Weygandt (Recorder), Ryan Gray (DWCD), Don Schwindt (DWCD), Steve Harris (Harris Engineers), Kevin Kissler (City of Cortez), Amy Ostdiek (CWCB), Laura Spann (CWCB), Robert Hagberg,

**1. Introductions**

Subcommittee chair Ken Curtis, called the Colorado River Subcommittee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. CR Updates-Amy Ostdiek, CWCB**

- Clarify UCRC motion to study CU credit in Powell or other reservoirs
  1. June meeting; August submission
- Update on final Upper Basin plans for new stream gages & eddy covariance towers. There will be a press release on the upper division states submittal and their alternative plans.
- AZ/Tribal settlement with the Navajo, Southern Paiutes & Hopi-Not a lot to report on
- SCPP bill introduced by Colorado Senators Bennett & Hickenlooper
  1. System Conservation Pilot Program has pending legislation for reauthorization through 2026
  2. Inflation Reduction Act Funding- 3 Buckets-Amy Ostdiek is the contact for Colorado
    - a. Bucket 1: Short term Conservation
      - i. \$450 million in funds will extend to 2031
      - ii. Includes an environmental component
      - iii. Bureau of Reclamation makes decisions
      - iv. Bucket 2W projects needs further clarification. The Bureau of Reclamation will release more

information as it relates to the Upper Division States

- b. Bucket 2: Durable Conservation (B2W)
- c. Bucket 3: Ecosystem Restoration (B2E)

3. Roundtable updates & discussion on above topics, Shoshone, last month's presentations from SWCD (Pete) & CRD (DK) and more

- 2015-2022 used preliminary data. 2005-2015 CWCB preliminary data paired with the Bureau of Reclamation data very well.
- In June, Reclamation released an updated Consumptive Uses and Losses report, providing data through 2015 that clearly demonstrated the imbalance between the upper and lower basin states water usages.
- Under the 1922 Compact, the Lower Basin is apportioned 7.5 million acre-feet, plus an additional 1 million acre-feet
- The draft-infographic showed the Colorado mainstem, tributaries, and transit loss and evaporation used by the Lower Basin well exceeded the apportionment. The Upper Basin used well below the 7.5 million acre-feet.
- Shared link from Amy Ostdiek:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtract.html>
- Structural deficit is the difference between supply and demand
- ICF takes more from Lake Mead; complexity of lower basin accounting
- EC tower-Kremmling gauges through UCRR and a few others in Colorado
- UCRC reports what water passes through Lee's Ferry. Upper Basin does not view it as a delivery obligation.
- Powell & Mead provide a supply driven release over a 10 year average.
- The infographic will be finalized and released in a couple of weeks.
- Steve Harris validated the consistency of the usage between the Upper and Lower Basin but noted that information is reported differently.

**4. Wrap Up & Adjournment**

Subcommittee chair Ken Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.