**Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables**

**Rio Grande Basin Roundtable**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday March 13, 2018 2:00-5:00 p.m.

San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District

623 Fourth Street

Alamosa, CO 81101

Chairman Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Those who were present/signed in were:**

Emma Reesor, Ron Brink, Rio de la Vista, Nathan Coombs, Cindy Medina, Karla Shriver, David Marquez, Virginia Christensen, Wayne Schwab, Nancy Butler, Larry Sveum, Brenda Anderson, Robert Getz, Bethany Howell, Toni Smith, Kent Reinhardt, Cleave Simpson, Chuck Finnegan, Travis Smith, Kevin Terry, Nicole Langley, Heather Dutton, Cary Aloia, Charles Spielman, Casey Caldow, Adam Moore, James Henderson, Cathy Morin, Craig Cotten, Ruth Heide, Don Thompson, Eugene Jaquez, Judy Lopez, Keith Holland, Brenda Felmlee, Megan Holcomb, Erin Minks, Gene Farish, Patrick Ortiz, and Helen Smith

After it was determined that a quorum was present, Chairman Coombs proposed a vote to add more At Large seats. One would be for Acequias, one would be for Conservation and one would be a Water User.

At Chairman Coombs request, Travis Smith made the motion to approve these seats and was seconded by Karla Shriver. Following a brief discussion on quorum issues, the motion carried. A second vote on this matter will take place at the April meeting since it is required for a change to the by-laws. The names proposed to fill these seats are David Marquez (acequias), Judy Lopez (conservation), and Virginia Christensen (water user).

**Approve Agenda:**

Ron Brink made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Judy Lopez. The motion carried.

**Approve February 13, 2018 Minutes:**

Travis Smith made the motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Emma Reesor. The motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Adam Moore announced that the Colorado State Forest Service Forest Health Report is now available. A highlight included in the report is the effects of the Spruce Budworm in Mineral County.

Travis Smith suggested inviting the Forest Health Advisory Council to present at the May meeting.

Emma Reesor introduced Toni Smith who will be working with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project.

Patrick Ortiz with San Luis Valley Great Outdoors announced an upcoming project for the improvement of recreation along the Alamosa portion of the Rio Grande which will hopefully be connected to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. Ron Brink suggested this project also be added as an agenda item.

Chairman Coombs Closed the Public Comment period.

**Roundtable Project Tour Discussion: Judy Lopez**

The RGRT Education Committee is currently planning basin tours as well as entertaining the possibility of some that would be outside the basin and they welcome input for the Roundtable membership on ideas. A few current possibilities include the Closed Basin Project, Willow Creek and projects completed through the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Foundation. Judy Lopez and Helen Smith will be formalizing plans soon. Travis Smith suggested visits to other basin roundtable meetings as possible out of the valley event. More information will be coming soon.

**Funding Request: Terrace Reservoir Outlet Repair: Virginia Christensen**

Terrace Reservoir has received a “Conditional Full” storage rating from the State Engineer’s Office. Terrace Irrigation Company is seeking funds to assist in the expense of hiring an engineer for inspection. There is a $5,000 contribution from the Alamosa-La Jara Conservancy District. The official request was made for $15,000. Rio de la Vista made the motion to approve the request and was seconded by Wayne Schwab. The motion carried and the request was approved.

**IBCC update: Keith Holland, Cleave Simpson**

At the February 20th, 2018 meeting, funding was authorized for a storage study update on the South Platte. Three tasks groups are currently working on conceptual frame work, interbasin collaboration, and funding. The final draft letter to all 2018 candidates is expected next week. Chairman Coombs suggested the Rio Grande Basin obtain a copy of this letter. An extensive conversation on the merits of funding and the role of the roundtables followed.

**DWR Update: Craig Cotten**

The Rio Grande is forecasted to be at 54% of average at 350,000 acre ft. and the Conejos is projected to be at 170,000 acre ft. There is currently a 0% delivery obligation.

The projected irrigation season is currently April 1st to November 1st dependent on circumstances.

The Rio Grande Compact meeting will be held on May 29th, in Austin, TX.

The Supreme Court ruled that the United States could join as a party in the Rio Grande Compact.

**CWCB Update: Megan Holcomb**

The next CWCB meeting will be on March 21st, and 22nd in Broomfield. There will be 20 CWP Grant requests and 36 WSRF requests heard.

The Rio Grande Basin Account balance is currently at $319, 407. If all March requests are approved, the balance will be at $183, 852. The statewide account balance is $2.16 million. If all March requests are approved, the balance will be at $0. The 2017 Projects bill supplied 7 million to CWP grants.

The CWCB is currently working with the Colorado Water Trust on an instream flow request.

The meeting was adjourned.