**Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables**

**Rio Grande Basin Roundtable**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Rio Grande Water Conservation District**

**8805 Independence Way**

**Alamosa, CO**

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

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

Helen Smith, Dale Pizel, Rio de la Vista, Kevin Terry, Wayne Schwab, Jim Erlich, James Heath, Cindy Medina, Judy Lopez, Cleave Simpson, Christi Bode, Andrea Bachman, Bethany Howell, Kellie Hill, Stan Moyer, Nicole Langley, Charles Spielman, Ruth Heide, Greg Higel, John Stulp, Gene Farish, Ann Bunting, Eugene Jaquez, Karla Shriver, Robert Getz, Cary Aloia, Larry Sveum, Bob Kirkham, Cathy Morin, Mick Daniel, Adam Moore, Judi Perez, Megan Holcomb, Chuck Finnegan and Brenda Felmlee.

**Approve Agenda**

Chairman Coombs proposed to add an update from Judy Lopez on the Public Education/Public Outreach meeting.

Jim Erlich made the motion to approve the change with a second from Karla Shriver. The motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

Judy Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes with a second from Cindy Medina. The motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Andrea Bachman announced an upcoming fundraiser for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project called Rio Reels which is centered on films about the Rio Grande. The event will be held in conjunction with the Southern Colorado Film Festival at Adams State University on October 27th, 2017.

Mick Daniel of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors gave the Rio Grande Roundtable and open invitation for input on future projects that SLVGO will be planning for the improvement of recreation and infrastructure. Daniel also pointed out an opportunity for future partnerships through NASA through one of his former employees.

Wayne Scwhab of Trinchera Irrigation Company announced a clean-up day/ community picnic at Mountain Home Reservoir. The event will be held all day on October 14th, 2017. Nicole Langley also pointed out a survey for the improvement of Mountain Home Reservoir on behalf of Trinchera Irrigation Company.

Chairman Coombs suggested the use of the Rio Grande Roundtable mailing list for the promotion of events in the basin. Kevin Terry suggested that these updates come once a month through the chair. The concensus was to implement this idea. Chairman Coombs will give the updates to the Education Liason (Judy Lopez) by the first Tuesday of each month.

Chairman Coombs closed the Public Comment period.

**Education Update: Judy Lopez:**

The Public Education/Public Outreach meeting held in conjunction with the Sustaining Watersheds Conference in Avon was very productive.

1. The idea of a statewide collaboration on series of vignettes was discussed. The concept was well received by each basin represented.
2. Recreation and timed flows were also a key topic of discussion.

Lopez introduced Bethany Howell for Rio Grande Basin Education Committee funding request preview.

**Funding Request Preview: Bethany Howell**

Due to the overwhelming response to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program, CWCB asked the Rio Grande Basin to trim back the initial request that was submitted. The two items that had to be removed were the website and vignettes portion. The Education Committee is proposing to use Water Supply Reserve Fund monies to fund this missing portion.

1. The website would be updated to become a one stop shop for information about the Rio Grande Basin including and interactive map, and a Frequently Asked Questions section and a directory for local water offices. The goal is to reach a more diverse audience who does not know as much about water.
2. Additionally, the request include one year’s work from Christi Bode on vignettes that would help to tell the story of the Rio Grande Basin. There would two videos over the course of 1 year.
3. The total request would be for $22,400 which is an overestimation to avoid shortage issues. Adams State University and San Luis Valley Great Outdoors are also interested in cost sharing.
4. The official request will come at the November Roundtable meeting.

Jim Erlich encouraged an emphasis on agriculture for the themes of the vignettes. Discussion about topics continued. Judy Lopez proposed that the timeframe for the proposal be expanded to 3 years.

Howell was asked to revise the scope of work before the November request.

**December Roundtable Meeting?**

Upon concensus from those present, Chairman Coombs decided that there would be no December meeting. The November agenda items will be sent out via email for early review so that the meeting will run as smoothly as possible.

**CWCB Update: Megan Holcomb:**

At the September CWCB meeting, there were 23 funding requests. There are 8.9 that will be voted on at the November meeting. An additional 26 applications will be reviewed in November and January.

The 5 Ditches Project was approved and contracting is in process.

1 million in funding has gone to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWASI) which is set to be final in January.

The two year anniversary of the Colorado Water Plan is approaching and CWCB welcomes input from all of the basins to highlight their successes in implementing the plan. There is no set deadline for submission but November is preferable.

The Rio Grande Basin account is $256,000. With funding expenditures the balance will be $206,000.

**Division of Water Resources Update: James Heath**

1. Compact Conditions: Rio Grande has been increased to 690,000 ft. with 1% curtailment. The Conejos is at 38% curtailment.
2. The 2017 season was a good year for snowpack with the moisture patterns seeing more of a southward trend.
3. November 1st is proposed date for the end of the 2017 irrigation season. Feedback is needed if the date is to be made earlier or later.
4. The 2018 forecast shows an equal chance of high/low precipitation and above average temperatures.

**IBCC Update: John Stulp**

There has been a great deal of interest in the three rounds of funding that have been offered. The IBCC will meet on November 30th to discuss its future. Amendment 323 has been finalized with Minute 319 being extended. Mexico will now share with the United States in shortage/surplus situations. It is also important to keep Lake Powell at a healthy level for the benefit of the west. Basin to basin communication is happening. The IBCC looks to its members to bring ideas.

**Sub district update: Cleave Simpson**

Sub district 1: The board met to discuss a rule change and is evaluating the use of the CREP tool for groundwater recovery.

Sub district 2: The Plan of Water Management was presented to the RGWCD board and approved. The plan will now be presented to the State Engineer with a 10 day window for objections.

Sub district 3: In the same process as 2.

Sub district 4: the Board of Managers has been appointed and is now establishing the Plan of Water Mangement.

Sub district 5: The hearing for establishment is set for December 5th, 2017.

Sub district 6: The petition process should hopefully be submitted by the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Executive Committee meeting:

November 14th, 2017 1:00 p.m.

Next Roundtable meeting:

November 14th, 2017 2:00 pm.