

Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtable
Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2017

Attending - Those who signed in are as follows: *Greg Higel, Michelle Lanzoni, Cleave Simpson, Judy Lopez, Gene Farish, Matthew E. Gallegos, Brenda Felmlee, Mac McFadden, Anne Steinhoge, Rio de la Vista, Ruth Heide, Ann Bunting, Heather Dutton, Sharon Vaughn, Cindy Medina, Cary Aloia, Mike Gibson, Emma Reesor, Kevin Terry, Eugene Jacquez, Andréa Bachman, Zeke Ward, Helen Smith, Stan Moyer, Bethan Howell, Larry Sveum, Charlotte Bobicki, Jim Ehrlich, Wayn Schwab, Peter Clark, Marvin Reynolds, Junita Martinez, Peter Striffler, Charles, Spielman, Jenny Nehring, Mario Curto, Erin Minks, Keith Holland, Christi Bode, Adam Moore, Craig Cotton.*

Welcome and Introduction: Chair Nathan Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm at the offices of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, in Alamosa, CO. A quorum was established, those in attendance were introduced, and all were welcomed.

Approve Agenda: Cleave Simpson moved to approve the agenda, Mario Curto seconded, and the motion carried. The agenda was approved.

Approve November 8, 2016 Minutes: Cindy Medina motioned to approve the November minutes. Eugene Jacquez seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Rio de la Vista announced that the SLV Conservation and Connection Initiative Grant Workshop will take place on Thursday, January 12 at the RGWCD conference room. This granting program is a partnership between RiGHT, Wester Rivers Conservancy and Colorado Open Lands.
- Mick Daniels, the new director of SLV Great Outdoors, introduced himself to the Roundtable. Mick welcomed any thoughts or ideas about the future direction of SLVGO and invited the Roundtable to contact him through their website, www.slvgo.com.

Travis Smith announced that his term as the Rio Grande Basin's CWCB representative ends in February and he will not be reapplying. It's been a pleasure to serve as the representative for the Basin. During that time, there's been a lot of great accomplishments from the Basin, including the formation and development of the RGBRT. Because Travis is not reapplying, the process of reappointing a new Basin representative is underway and the new representative will be appointed by the Governor. Being a CWCB representative takes a lot of time and work, but it is an incredible experience. Travis encouraged those who are interested in applying to consider that you will be representing the whole basin, all water users and you will need

to continue to build relationships and partnerships across the basin and the state. The executive committee suggested that if any nominees are interested in an endorsement from the Roundtable, the Roundtable will consider all nominees and make a decision at that time. Cindy Medina commented that anyone can apply for the position.

Cindy thanked Travis on behalf of the Roundtable for his hard work for the Rio Grande Basin. He has done a phenomenal job and his willingness to work with the whole basin is much appreciated!

Election of Officers: Jim Ehrlich nominated Nathan to continue as Roundtable Chair and Eugene Jacquez seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Keith moved to elect Nathan as Chair, Mario Curto seconded the motion, which carried. Nathan was reelected as Roundtable Chair.

Rio de la Vista moved to reelect Heather Dutton as Vice Chair, Judy Lopez seconded the motion, which carried. Heather was reelected as Roundtable Vice Chair.

Judy moved to reelect Cindy Medina as Secretary. Keith Holland seconded the motion, which carried. Cindy was reelected as Roundtable Secretary.

Location of Meeting Postings: Nathan made a motion to keep the official location of posting of Roundtable meeting notices at the SLVWCD office, at 623 Fourth Street. Pete Clark seconded the motion, which carried.

Location of Regular Meetings: Nathan made a motion that the Roundtable continue to meet at the SLVWCD office conference room. Mario Curto seconded the motion, which carried.

Rio de la Vista thanked the SLVWCD for allowing the Roundtable to use their space for the meetings. Travis suggested that the Roundtable thank the SLVWCD formally. Cindy will send a thank you card to the SLVWCD on behalf of the Roundtable.

Radar Project Update, Nathan Coombs: Nathan provided an update on the radar project and basin efforts to improve streamflow forecasting. Because of the restraints of the Rio Grande Compact, we need to be able to predict streamflow, but there are lots of factors impacting the accuracy of flow projections. This has led to efforts to improve and refine our ability to predict streamflow. David Gochis has worked around the world and in the Rio Grande with WRF-Hydro modeling. Funding was secured to set up snow-lite sites in the Conejos headwaters in the biggest blind-spots for snow forecasting. Funding from the RGBRT allowed for the addition of a radar component at the Alamosa airport. Data from the snow-lite sites, radar and LIDAR was used to refine the accuracy of the WRF-Hydro model, so it could provide valuable information for the Division of Water Resources. Radar was the most useful tool in refining the model. Currently we are lacking data on mixed precipitation events (snow/rain). This year the radar was brough

back starting in December to get better understand the impacts of these spring precipitation events on streamflow. Joe Busto with CWCB has worked hard with the Rio Grande Basin to get a permanent, year-around radar at the Alamosa airport. This would have broad reaching benefits to the entire Basin. Currently, we are getting lots of data from the radar that is incredibly valuable to the water community. Having a permanent radar would be helpful with year around weather prediction, live winter weather tracking and streamflow forecasting. Getting a permanent radar is going to be a big project and we will need the support from the water community to ensure this project can become a reality. How can the Roundtable and SLV water organizations assist in this project that has a far-reaching benefit for the entire Basin? Nathan answered questions from the Roundtable and the Roundtable discussed possible funding options and partnerships to make the radar possible. Erin Minks suggested that there might be research funding available. Adam Moore suggested that the County emergency managers would be good partners on this project. The Roundtable discussed possible entities that would be able to take on this project once the radar is in place.

Travis Smith thanked Nathan and the Conejos Water Conservancy District for their leadership on this project. Also, thanks to the DWR and Joe Busto/CWCB for their efforts. These partnerships have brought us to a point where we are close to seeing the dream of a permanent radar become a reality.

Judy Lopez: Judy asked the Roundtable members to send a brief bio to Judy for the RGBRT website. Please send her your bio by the next meeting.

Division of Water Resources Update, Craig Cotten: Craig was present to provide an update from the DWR. Craig reported that both the Rio Grande and Conejos River systems ended the year with a credit on the compact. In 2016, the Rio Grande ran around 667,000 AF (108% of average), which is the highest we've had in the last three years. Of the flow, we were required to send about 190,000 AF to downstream states. The Basin ended the year with 6,000 AF of credit on the Rio Grande to insure there is no question with downstream states that Colorado met its obligation. The Conejos ended the year at around 280,000 AF (95% of average) and owed about 95,000 to downstream states. We ended the year with around 1,000 AF of credit of credit on the Conejos. Last year, the temperature in the Basin was 1.5 degrees above average and the precipitation was 1.68 inches above average. At this time last year, the Basin was at around 115-120% of average snowpack.

As of this morning the Rio Grande Basin is at 146% of average snowpack and the snow should continue to fall in the mountains all the way through Saturday. State wide the average snowpack is at 150%. We are looking good, but the snow will need to continue in order to have an above average year. DWR continues to work to reach a resolution with objectors in the groundwater Rules and Regulations. They are preparing for the trial, but hope to address all the objectors concerns before the trial date in 2018. The

Rio Grande Compact meeting will be held in Santa Fe on April 5. This meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Law of the Rio Grande Conference.

IBCC Update: Cleave Simpson reported that the last IBCC meeting was in late November. It was a joint Agricultural meeting and centered around Alternative Transfer Methods (ATM). The meeting was very informative and well attended. RGBRT has been working with Colorado Ag Alliance to put on a workshop in the Valley on February 28th. Please RSVP to Judy or Helen if you plan to attend.

SubDistricts Update, RGWCD: Cleave Simpson gave an update on the Subdistricts to the Roundtable. SubDistrict No. 1 is in its 5th year of operation. Since formed, it has successfully replaced 300,000 AF of depletions. Cleave reviewed the process of SubDistrict formation for the Roundtable. SubDistrict No. 2 formed in March and the board is working on the rules of operation. Hearings are coming up this week for SubDistrict No. 3. The remaining three SubDistricts are in the pipeline for formation. The Trinchera Water Conservancy District has their own SubDistrict process and are working on figuring out plan of water management, fee structure, etc.

RWEACT Update, Zeke Ward: Zeke reported that last year RWEACT's board participated in a visioning exercise to understand where the organization has been and where they are going. The West Fork Complex fire is no longer burning, but we need to plan for the future. There are lots of opportunities to continue to build partnerships to improve watershed health, community safety, and economic health in the headwaters. Zeke asked the RGBRT if they would continue their partnership with RWEACT. Mike Gibson moved to formally recognize and support RWEACT as a partner. Rio seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mike announced that Travis Smith has been appointed to Colorado Water Congress Board.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Roundtable Meeting: February 14, 2017 @ 2:00pm
Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 14, 2017 @ 1:00pm
Conference Room, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District
623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO 81101