

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the District's offices, 234 North Main Street, Suite 3B, Gunnison, Colorado.

Board members present: Ralph Grover, Gary Hausler, Rebie Hazard, Bill Nesbitt, Jim Pike, Steve Schechter, George Sibley, Ken Spann, and Dennis Steckel.

Board members not present: Steve Glazer and Brett Redden.

Others Present:

Butch Clark
Nolan Doesken, State Climatologist
Frank Kugel, General Manager
Seth Mensing, Crested Butte News
John McClow, General Counsel
Denis Reich, CSU Cooperative Extension Water Resources
Richard Rozman, Colorado Division of Water Resources
Jill Steele, Office Manager
Bill Trampe, Colorado River Water Conservation District

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice President Dennis Steckel called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Dennis Steckel said that Taylor Local Users Group discussion will be added under agenda item 9.

Ken Spann moved and Gary Hausler seconded to approve the agenda as modified. The motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Gary Hausler moved and Steve Schechter seconded to approve the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

4. LEGAL MATTERS

John McClow said that the board has received a copy of the final draft of the IGA for the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise including all attachments. This will be addressed during the Project Committee update.

John also provided the board with a copy of comments submitted on behalf of the District on the Aspinall draft EIS.

John said he attended the scoping meeting in Denver on Aaron Million's proposed project. He included information showing four alternative project configurations in the board's folders tonight.

John said he recently attended a Water Resources Review Committee meeting. The majority of the discussion was about the state's budget.

John said that at the previous board meeting, the board discussed holding a reception for the CWCB when they meet in July in Mt. Crested Butte. The IBCC will meet in Mt. Crested Butte July 20. The Water Resources Review Committee will meet with the IBCC from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. on July 20. Then that committee will meet with the CWCB the following morning. John proposed expanding the scope of the planned reception to include the Committee and the IBCC and to provide wine and beer.

The consensus of the board was for staff to gather information on costs and district budget line items and report back to the board.

5. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

John McClow gave the board a list of state programs showing what funding will be cut or eliminated in order to balance the budget. He said the Governor is likely to call a special session this summer so the legislature can make more cuts.

John McClow gave the board a status list of legislative bills of interest.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Water Supply Update

Frank Kugel said that the Gunnison River flows are significantly higher than normal for this time of year. A peak reading of 2000 cfs was measured at the Gunnison River gage at Gunnison this past week, compared to a average daily reading of 700 cfs. This is likely due to the recent dust deposit on the snow causing it to melt more quickly. Runoff is happening very quickly and the Bureau is being encouraged to maximize storage in their reservoirs during the early runoff.

7. COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE – BILL TRAMPE

Bill Trampe said he did not attend last week's CRWCD meeting. He said that the CRWCD has followed UGRWCD's lead regarding the Aspinall EIS. Dave Kanzer gave a selenium report to the CRWCD board. It was the same one they gave to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

Gary Hausler asked Bill if there is any update on the CRWCD's position on Aaron Million's project. Bill said staff is still composing comments to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Dennis Steckel asked Bill if he had any comment on the State of the Gunnison River public meeting. Bill said that he did not know the details as Jim Pokrandt handles the meeting and information.

George Sibley said these meetings are to educate and inform residents on the state of the river. He is waiting to hear from Jim with more information.

Bill Trampe added that the meetings are part of the River District's public outreach effort.

8. NOLAN DOESKEN, STATE CLIMATOLOGIST

Dennis Steckel introduced Nolan Doesken, State Climatologist. Mr. Doesken said that State Climatologist used to be a federal position in the state until its elimination in 1972. In 1973, Colorado used funding from the Colorado Ag. Experimental station for the position, which has been housed at CSU in the science department since 1974. Mr. Doesken became Assistant State Climatologist in 1977, and three years ago he became State Climatologist.

Mr. Doesken discussed weather observations and rain gages. He said that it would be useful to have more rain gages and weather observation locations throughout the upper Gunnison valley in conjunction with this summer's

Mobile Doppler Radar research. Mr. Doesken handed out brochures for the CoCoRaHS weather observer project.

Ralph Grover said he will contact the people who run the cloud-seeding snow generators. Frank will be the contact for the board.

Mr. Doesken discussed the CoAgMet automated weather station network. He quoted a cost of \$8,000 per station for hardware and an assigned cost of \$2,000 per year per station for maintenance and upkeep. He recommended visiting www.coagmet.com for more information. He said that after gathering information for ten years, the director was going to the state for funding this year; however, it does not look likely that state funding would be approved.

Gary Hausler suggested referring this to the Projects Committee, to look into evapotranspiration in more depth.

Ralph Grover said the committee can look seriously at this once radar data from this summer is available.

Bill Nesbitt asked Nolan Doesken for his opinion on global warming. Nolan responded that increased CO2 emissions caused in large part by the human thirst for energy appear to be a significant factor in global warming.

Dennis Steckel thanked Mr. Doesken.

9. BOARD/STAFF/COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Discussion of Board Retreat

Frank Kugel said the board received a revised agenda for the retreat on Thursday, April 30, 2009. It will take place at the City Council chambers.

Treasurer's Report:

Board Treasurer Gary Hausler said he and Ralph Grover plan to discuss the possibility of moving funds to financial institutions out of town, perhaps in Montrose.

Ralph Grover suggested looking at banks in Montrose and in Grand Junction. He said that having accounts at different branches of the same bank does not get around the \$250,000 limit for federal insurance of funds.

Ralph Grover moved to direct the Board Treasurer to investigate financial institutions in Montrose, Grand Junction, Saguache, Hotchkiss, Crawford,

Paonia, Delta, and Olathe, to find four unaffiliated banks and report back to the board next month. Any funds deposited in those banks must be federally insured. Steve Schechter seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Committee

Gary Hausler said that the Executive Committee met with John and Frank to conduct employee reviews. The committee is pleased with the job they are both doing and how they are doing it. The committee members requested input from Frank and John on what they would like to see changed. One item discussed was technology. Staff can investigate other ways to get data and put the District on the cutting edge of technology.

Ralph Grover asked if the employment contracts have been revised to reflect regular reviews. John McClow said the current contracts specify one informal, and one formal review per year.

Ralph Grover said that board members should be able to tell a constituent how the board spends the District's money in a prioritized fashion.

The board discussed whether they are taking full advantage of the staff's talents and resources. Ralph Grover said that the board is not stretching itself.

Ken Spann said that the staff is there for the big things when needed. They represent the board very well in meetings. John is taking on a CWCB seat which is a huge, new task.

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

Ken Spann said that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable had a great presentation on selenium issues in the lower basin and how it is affecting the Aspinall EIS. He said he wants to know what the implications of the state funding will be to the roundtable process.

John McClow said that state staff has been able to protect IBCC employees' positions in the 2009-2010 budget. Currently, \$5.5 million in new money is allotted for the Water Supply Reserve Account.

Steve Schechter suggested it may behoove this board to hear the selenium presentation.

The consensus of the board was to put the selenium issue on a future agenda.

Project Committee

Ralph Grover said that in their packets, the board received a recommendation from the Project Committee in a memo dated April 14, 2009.

The Project Committee recommends adoption of the IGA for the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise contingent upon the signing of the document by the Town of Lake City and Hinsdale County. The motion carried unanimously.

Ken Spann asked if it is not the board's desire to augment up Ohio Creek from Lake San Cristobal by exchange. Frank Kugel said that is not possible because local calling rights need to be addressed.

The board discussed appointment of its two members of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise board.

Ralph Grover said has been approached about needing to clarify his "multiple interests." He is reluctant to be seen that way and therefore would prefer not to serve on that board.

Gary Hausler suggested nominating Steve Schechter and Jim Pike. Both agreed that they would be willing to serve on the board of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise

Gary Hausler moved that Steve Schechter and Jim Pike be the representatives from the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise board. Bill Nesbitt seconded. The motion carried.

Strategic Planning Workgroup

Ralph Grover recommended that Frank distribute the strategic planning information and set a meeting.

Taylor Users Group

Frank Kugel said that the TLUG met on April 8, 2009. One thing that came out of it was the desire to raise the effective storage level in Taylor Park Reservoir. He spoke with Dan Crabtree and Eric Knight of the Bureau today. They are going to consider raising the storage target to perhaps to 1 or 1.5 feet below the spillway. The group is looking at modifying the current release target. On May 1 the release is scheduled to increase to 200 cfs primarily due to agricultural needs in early May, but the group is looking at keeping the

releases at the current level of 100 for awhile longer. There will be another meeting next week. The Four Parties meeting will take place May 15.

Ken Spann said the goal is to hold the river at 450 cfs for the month of June. It might be necessary to put a bump on it in mid-June or for the July 4th weekend. Diane Marriott wants to not have the reservoir too high due to erosion of structures at the Marina. Ken said it may be possible to address some of those concerns by funding some structural improvements.

Ken said he has a sheet from Rory Birdsey, sent to him by Ernie Cockrell. It shows reservoir releases and changes in storage over the winter starting in 1971. Since 2000, releases for winter time flows have been less than in previous years.

Ken Spann pointed out that the first and second fill accounts in the Gunnison River spreadsheet do not add up to the total amount in the reservoir. Frank will investigate this issue.

10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

John McClow said that April through July inflows to the Aspinall Unit are projected to be 700,000 acre-feet. The targeted peak flow in the Black Canyon will be 6,105 cfs.

Gary Hausler said that he volunteered to go to the annual American Water Resources Association meeting in Denver last Friday. The tone was very pro-transmountain diversion. There was an interesting presentation by a representative of the Republican River Water Conservation District.

Ralph Grover asked if the board wants his continued participation in the Lake San Cristobal project, and if so, will they approve payment of his travel expenses.

Jim Pike said he would like Ralph to stay involved as he is the most knowledgeable board member. He would ask the board to approve Ralph's expenses. Steve Schechter agreed. There were no objections.

Ralph Grover asked that a Lake San Cristobal meeting on May 27 be included on the District's calendar.

11. UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS

Denis Reich of the CSU Extension Water Resources Team introduced himself. He said that every summer the team conducts a tour of a region of interest in

Colorado. He wants to include the upper Gunnison basin in that tour. He said he would like to meet with the board to discuss any projects for inclusion on the tour. The tour will take place August 11 – 13, with the Gunnison portion planned for August 11 or 12. More information on the tour can be found at www.colostate.edu.

Butch Clark said there is a meeting in Salida this Thursday on geothermal development. Possible impacts include the effect on water quality when drawing and re-injecting water.

Butch Clark said there might be an opportunity to place a precipitation monitoring device at high elevation in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.

Bill Trampe said that the River District will conduct its water seminar during the first full week in July in Crested Butte.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Retreat: April 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the City Council chambers.

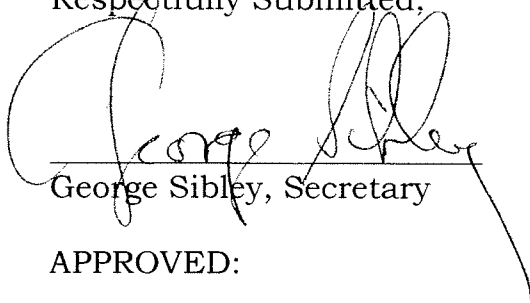
Strategic Planning Workgroup: May 18, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

UGRWCD board meeting: May 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT


Board Vice President Dennis Steckel adjourned the April 27, 2009 meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



George Sibley, Secretary

APPROVED:



Dennis Steckel, Vice President