

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2018**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 26, 2018 at the District's offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, Colorado.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Kathleen Curry, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Michelle Pierce, George Sibley, and Andy Spann.

Board members not present: Rebie Hazard, Brett Redden, and Julie Vlier.

Also present:

Tom Grant, Wet Meadows Project Coordinator
Ashley Hom, U.S. Forest Service
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited
Frank Kugel, General Manager
John McClow, General Counsel
Bev Richards, Administrative Assistant
Jill Steele, Office Manager
Bill Trampe, Colorado River Water Conservation District
Bob Robbins, rancher
Jason Peterson, Peterson Ranch

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Michelle Pierce said that the board has received an updated non-operating expenses list, an update on Meridian Lake Reservoir, a Crested Butte News item, and information on the inaugural Water in the West Symposium.

Bill Nesbitt moved and Kathleen Curry seconded approval of the amended agenda as circulated. The motion carried.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Chief District Judge J. Steven Patrick administered the oath of office to new City of Gunnison Board member John Perusek.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Nesbitt moved and Julie Nania seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

5. LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

John McClow said no statements of opposition have been filed yet to the District's two applications regarding Lake San Cristobal and Meridian Lake Reservoir.

John said that he provided the board with a status sheet of bills the Colorado Water Congress is monitoring. He included a summary of SB18-143 because the legislative committee wanted to get input from the board on the bill.

Kathleen Curry said that SB18-143 raises fees for parks and wildlife in order to increase revenue. She anticipates it will be a controversial bill, but one that is needed.

The board approved of the legislative committee supporting this bill.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Frank Kugel gave a water supply update. He said he and Tom Rozman are scheduled to measure the Park Cone snow course tomorrow.

Frank said he went to Meridian Lake Reservoir this weekend to do his monthly inspection, and he was struck by the lack of snow. He showed the board pictures from last year and this year. George Sibley asked if Frank thinks MLR will fill this year. Frank said he think it will be close, but it likely will not fill.

7. SNOTEL LITE SITES IN TAYLOR PARK - DAVE GOCHIS

Dave Gochis, of NCAR in Boulder, gave a presentation on the Taylor Park SNOTEL lite sites. He said that the UGRWCD, NRCS, CWCB, DOE, RMBL, and the NASA Airborne Snow Observatory have all cooperated in this effort. The instruments cost approximately \$10,000 per station. He showed a map of locations of SNOTELs and instrument sites.

Kathleen Curry asked if once these are installed and data from this summer is collected, will it be used in the forecast center. Mr. Gochis said that it will.

8. DINNER BREAK

9. FOREST HEALTH ISSUES IN THE GUNNISON BASIN - SAM PANKRATZ

Sam Pankratz, with the Colorado State Forest Service in Gunnison, gave a presentation on the health of Colorado's forests. He said that the Colorado State Forest Service is an outreach extension agency through CSU. He said he wants to establish collaboration and learn more about this group. He is looking for input as to where the priority watershed areas are.

Bill Nesbitt asked if they are still using pheromone packets. Sam said yes. These packets are hung from trees, and once the pheromone reaches a critical mass, it ceases to be attractive. This method has been used successfully with the Douglas Fir Beetle.

10. BOARD/STAFF/COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Bill Nesbitt said that the District purchased a 2.1% bond with funds from the NuVista certificate of deposit which recently matured. He thinks the District will more than meet its budget for interest on investments.

Taylor Park Reservoir: Frank Kugel said the second fill is approaching 18,000 acre feet. He and John have considered whether there is an opportunity to reduce outflows, but the refill decree does not provide for any reductions in the flows between November 1 and March 31. Current release rates are bound by May 1, 2017 reservoir inflow forecast and the October 31, 2017 storage level.

Watershed Management Planning:

George Sibley said the group met on February 12 and received a thorough report from Wilson Water Group, and had a drop-in visit by Chris Sturm of the CWCB. They are putting together a modeling process for use in this watershed which could potentially be used in other sub basins.

Camille Richard held an outreach meeting in Powderhorn. It was decided to include the Lake Fork and Cebolla Creek together as one watershed unit.

The group is working on a spreadsheet for each sub basin. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, and at that time, they will look at the spreadsheets of assessed needs to date and look at the work that needs to happen to finish up these first three sub basins, hopefully by the end of 2018.

The board watched the first cut of the video that is being made as part of the watershed management planning process.

Board Retreat: Kathleen Curry said that the board had a great day on Thursday. The agenda was dominated by short-term and long-term drought planning. In the

morning, the board spent time figuring out what information is needed to deal with a shortage, especially as it relates to a potential Gunnison Tunnel call downstream. In the afternoon, the group talked about long-term drought planning. It was a much-needed chance for all to ask questions, share past experience, and develop a plan for the future.

At the next board meeting, the board will have a memo from Frank and John addressing some of the action items and requests that came up during the retreat.

Frank said the board discussed modeling of consumptive use in our basin, by priority dates, how much consumptive use is potentially available post-Gunnison Tunnel call, and how much water could really be gained by placing a call.

Kathleen said that March will be a time to make some decisions about what we are going to do, such as meet with the UVWUA. She said she would also like to have a visit with the Division Engineer to hear if they are gearing up for administration, and will they work with us updating the Gunnison River spreadsheet daily.

Frank said that is an excellent point and this would be a great opportunity to get the Division Engineer or his assistant up here to go through the spreadsheet, give a brief rundown on circumstances and discuss water administration.

Wet Meadows Project Update:

Tom Grant gave an update on the Wet Meadows project. This summer he plans to work in Dutch Gulch, Munson Gulch, Black Stage Pass, Flattop Mountain, Sapinero Mesa, the Van Tuyl land, and Cabin Creek.

Some funding he has secured for the project:

National Fish and Wildlife Federation \$150,000
UGRWCD: \$30,000
TNC: \$25,000
BLM: \$164,000
USFS: \$59,000
GOCO: \$25,000

He said that a lot of the funding is used for expert restoration consultants such as Bio Logic and Bill Zeedyk. Although purchasing rock is not expensive, moving it into the right place can be very costly.

Tom said that Katya, at the school, wants to do a school project out at Cabin Creek, on the Van Tuyl land this summer. She has funding for transportation. Perhaps she could submit a grant request for funding from the UGRWCD also. This would be for

a one-week, twelve-hour session, with hopefully a second session later in the summer.

George asked Tom if he had thought about making this a project the college could adopt in the school of environmental management. Tom said he had thought more about middle school and/or high school, but the university is a possibility as well.

11. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Kathleen Curry said that at the retreat, the board did not discuss if the city wells are impacted by a Gunnison Tunnel call. Frank said he will look into that.

Frank said the Grant Committee will meet in early March. He looks forward to getting the grant applications in by the end of the month, and he thinks the applications will exceed the \$150,000 available in the budget.

Frank said that the Gunnison Tunnel tour is this Wednesday, meeting at 10:00 at the west portal. George, Michelle, and John Perusek plan to attend.

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ashley Hom, forest hydrologist with the USFS, said that she is looking forward to attending more of these meetings.

Bill Trampe encouraged this group to work with the major irrigators to keep their tempers low. The longer you can keep the call off, the better, especially the Gunnison Tunnel call.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

Frank said that the grants committee, education committee, water administration committee, and watershed management planning committee will schedule meetings in the near future.

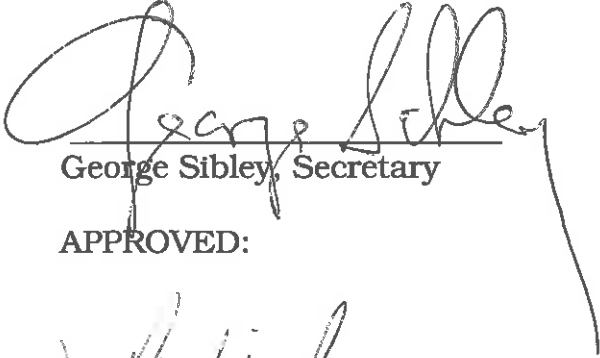
Frank said that the inaugural Water in the West Symposium will take place in Denver April 26 and 27, put on by CSU. Presenters include the Governor, the Mayor of Denver, and others. There is information in the board folders about this. He said that interested board members should let him or Bev know if they would like to attend. The deadline for reduced registration fees is March 2.

The IBCC and the four-basin roundtable groups will meet April 24 and April 25, 2018.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Michelle Pierce adjourned the February 26, 2018 meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Sibley". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

George Sibley, Secretary

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Pierce". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Pierce, President