



Task Force Meeting #1 – Meeting Notes

Monday, July 31, 2023

1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting Attendance

SB-295 Seat	Appointed Representative	Attended?
Rep. of a statewide environmental nonprofit organization with expertise in water rights and Colorado River interstate governance	Orla Bannon <i>Western Resource Advocates</i> Alternate: Bart Miller attended	Yes
Rep. of an industrial water user located on the western slope	Jackie Brown <i>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</i>	Yes
Rep. of a statewide agricultural organization that is the owner of water rights	Mike Camblin <i>Colorado Cattlemen's Association; Rancher</i>	Yes
Non-voting Chair	Kathy Chandler-Henry <i>Eagle County Government</i>	Yes
Rep. of a statewide environmental nonprofit organization with expertise in water rights and Colorado River interstate governance	Aaron Citron <i>Aurora Water</i>	Yes
Rep. of a front range municipal water provider that diverts water from the Colorado River	Alex Davis <i>Dept. of Agriculture</i>	Yes
Commissioner of Agriculture	Kate Greenberg <i>Dept. of Agriculture</i>	Yes
An agricultural producer that owns water rights within the boundaries of the Colorado River Water Conservation District	Daris Jutten <i>Uncompaghre Valley Water Users Association</i>	Yes
Representative of a local government located within the boundaries of the Colorado River Water Conservation District that provides water for municipal purposes.	Randi Kim <i>City of Grand Junction</i>	Yes
Agricultural producer that owns water rights within the boundaries of the southwestern water conservation district	Gerald Koppenhafer <i>Montezuma Irrigation Company; farmer</i>	Yes



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Rep. of Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Lee Miller <i>SCWCD</i>	Yes
Rep. of Colorado River Water Conservation District	Andy Mueller <i>CRWCD</i>	Yes
State Engineer; non-voting member	Kevin Rein <i>Dept. of Natural Resources</i>	Yes
Executive Director of Dept. of Natural Resources <i>Designee</i>	Kelly Romero-Heaney <i>Dept. of Natural Resources</i>	Yes
Rep. of Northern Colorado Water Conservation District	Kyle Whitaker <i>Northern Water</i>	Yes
Rep. of Southwestern Water Conservation District	Steve Wolff <i>Southwestern Water Conservation District</i>	Yes
Rep. of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Letisha Yazzie <i>Ute Mountain Ute Tribe</i>	Yes
Rep. of Southern Ute Tribe	Lisa Yellow Eagle <i>Southern Ute Indian Tribe</i>	Yes
Rep. of a local govt. within the boundaries of the southwestern water conservation district that provides water for municipal purposes	Melissa Youssef <i>City of Durango</i>	Yes

Welcome

Chair Kathy Chandler-Henry welcomed the group and discussed the work they and thanked them for being a part of the Task Force.

Task Force Introductions

The Chair introduced herself and her role as chair.

The Chair then led the group in a round of introductions

- Each Task Force member was asked to give their name, which seat they will represent on the task force and the names of any alternate they might use if they cannot join a meeting

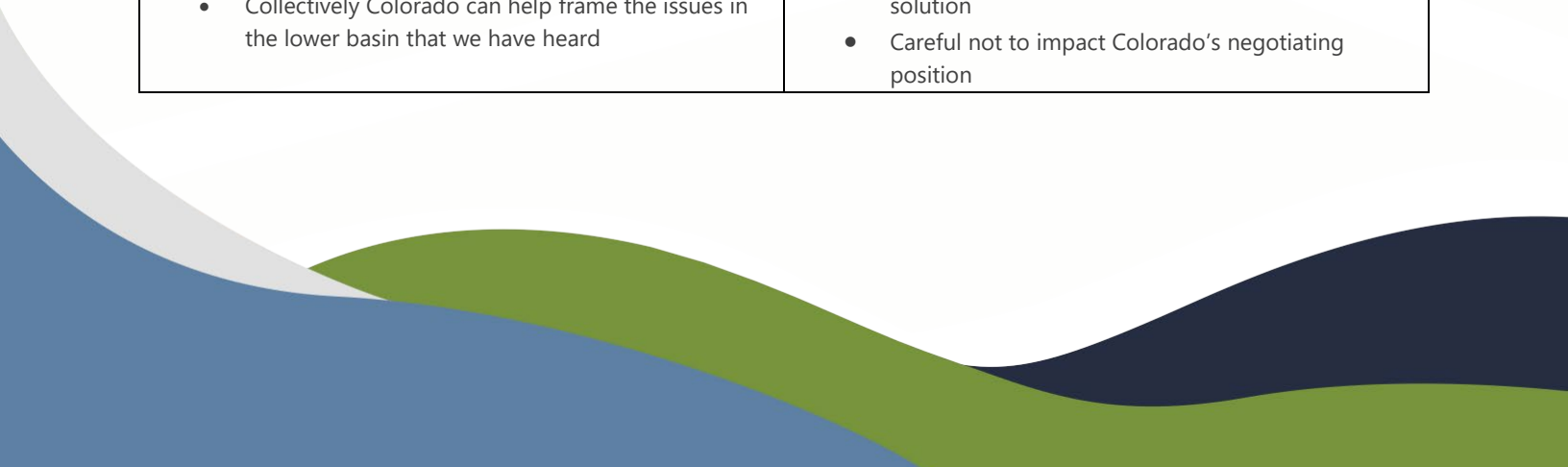


themselves. (To watch introductions in full detail, see the meeting recording from approx. 4:23 to 1:15)

- Members were also asked to share:
 - o What is your number one hope? What do you hope this task force can accomplish?
 - o What is your number one concern? What concerns do you have?

Summary of Hopes and Concerns shared by Task Force Members

Hopes	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to come together and do fact-finding • Rely on great work already done on demand management (2) • Put our heads together on the work that still needs doing. • Any question of water is a question involving agriculture and wants to do the best job possible representing both the State and Agriculture • Excited to help the state have a true understanding of tribal water rights and the ways the tribes function • Hope that this group can work well together and come up with good solutions • Advocate for tribal water rights and make sure that they can provide education on that subject for anyone needing the information • Collectively Colorado can help frame the issues in the lower basin that we have heard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive for consensus and to garner support from all corners of the state. • Short timeframe is concerning but hopefully we can build on work that has already been done • A lot of solutions lie at the local and regional level- it needs to be a balance- concern program may not do that properly and not represent everyone equally • Our mission is to make recommendations for new legislation needs - not sure if the state needs any new legislation • We know the lower basin will be watching – we don't want to give them fuel for the interim guideline extension • Its very hard to land on good solutions, especially in a short timeframe • Concerns that demand management isn't the right solution • Careful not to impact Colorado's negotiating position





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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on hydrology and our state would be prepared to implement to protect our ag industry in a way we can all support• Hope to build on a lot of work that has been done- protect Colorado water users and the proliferation of water use downstream• We do no harm• Can accomplish what we've been tasked with and to gain an appreciation of the work that has already been done• Understand any ripple effects our recommendations might have and to add resiliency in the Colorado River system• Improved relationships among those that work on issues of water• Maintain maximum utilization of water resources• SW Colorado has senior water rights on 2 rivers, we want to maintain access to water and retain power over those rights and a continued seat at the table in these discussions• Think about the rivers themselves and how they provide climate change resilience and not as a secondary thought, but as a primary function• Come up with a plan for today and the future- he'd hate to see our ancestors curse us• That members come to this with intent to listen to each and work on clear communication listening and talking -work to find paths forward that work for the state• The water world in CO small family- take advantage of the opportunity to strengthen opportunities for the state of Colorado as a whole• Advocate for west slope ag and communities• We can provide the best and most diverse advisory role• Clarity on how a compact call would be administered in CO, so much uncertainty- more definition on how that would be administered would help plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If we fail to come up with collaborative solutions, do we risk losing power to make decisions going forward?• Our ability to really see each other's perspectives• To keep Ag lands profitable with all of these changes• That people won't be able to see beyond their own agendas and that we might miss the opportunity to make positive change because of this• Let's not discard earlier work or reinvent the wheel• Upper basin we operate under hydrology, biggest problems are outside the upper basin• Don't allow speculation on this water. Make sure that does not happen• Talk of demand management as a forgone conclusion - keep an open mind- some can be explored and others have not been on the table.• Can we be responsive to some of these lofty goals? Can that be accomplished through legislation? What needs to be in it to make it work on the ground? |
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- Lets be open to the idea that there might be legislation that can be helpful and not dismiss that idea out of hand
- We can work through this and strengthen our hand and look forward giving it to serious consideration
- That we can leave task force in December feeling like a more united Colorado and negotiations that we have an understanding in the state of Colorado
- We can provide the best and most diverse advisory role.
- Speak with a unified voice- identify common objectives- people in a safe place to state their positions
-

Sub Task Force Introductions

Rebecca Mitchell: DNR appointee- Colorado Commissioner to Upper Colorado River Commission

Rebecca's Hope: Echo what has been said- as I go into negotiation CO stands united- guiding negotiations coming up, they have not worked for the tribes, unity of the entire state.

Rebecca's Concern: Making sure this is not something that takes away from that unity

Jointly appointed to Sub task force

Steve Wolff and Celene Hawkins

Facilitation Team Introductions

The Langdon Group (TLG)

- Kelsea Macilroy – Project Manager and Co-Facilitator
- Siobhan Locke (Pronounced: Shavon) – Lead Facilitator
Explained the role as the facilitator and how TLG will assist the task force complete its work
- Jordan Brock- Process and Logistics Support

Task Force Meetings Overview and Process:

Kelsea Macilroy from The Langdon Group presented an overview of the upcoming meetings and tentative agenda for the next meeting, Which includes:

- Overview of SB-295
- Task Force Objectives



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- Data needs
- Task Force Sharepoint

**Ultimately, the Task Force will inform meeting agendas and topics – timeline framework will be presented and discussed at meeting #2*

Other Information:

- Website will be live next week. This will be a place for the public to view process details, view agendas and meeting notes, recordings of meetings, submit public comments and questions and see information that the Task Force is reviewing.
- For this week, if there are concerns or questions, send them to Kathy or Jordan and Kelsea, who will pass them on to the Task Force members. People can submit email addresses to get on the list for information. Will also have all the agendas, information, documents, notes, will be accessible.
- Two in-person engagement opportunities- one on the front range and one on the west slope – dates and locations are being determined now and will be available in coming weeks.
- Kelsea requested that the public enter their contact information in the Q&A (on the Zoom meeting) if they would like to join the email list.

Questions/Group Discussion:

Group Discussion on Information Needs

Siobhan: What information do you all think we will need to function efficiently as a group? Do we need experts to present? What documents will be important for all to have access to?

Email to Jordan Brock if needed.

Group: All work from CWCB has been transferred.

No more comments were given from group on this topic.

Siobhan: Once you get access to the Task Force Sharepoint -please upload any materials the group needs.

Kelsea: Information the task force digs into will also be posted on the website for the public.

Group Discussion on Meeting Topics and Structure

Randi Kim: do we have a structure for a meeting- anticipate tackling topics or evolve as we go?

Kathy: we did dedicate 30 mins at the beginning of each meeting to go over information, task force to go over what they would like.

Kelsea: meeting topics will be for the task force to collectively determine.

Randi: I'm just thinking with the end in mind: if meetings are educational that would take up a lot of time:

Siobhan: that makes sense- we think that, we expect there will likely be "homework" between meetings



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so we use our time together most effectively. Also, any member who might use a designee, please share information internally so whoever shows up to the group is up to speed

Kelly Romero-Heaney: DNR can bring subject matter experts in on this work, experts from CO parks and wildlife and whoever else is needed.

Bart Miller: What is the framework for the meetings moving forward?

Kelsea: right now we are in the assessment phase, one-on-one interviews with each member are happening now and in coming weeks. These will inform meeting framework. Then we will walk through those identified topics as a task force. Public engagement event details are being determined now- want to make sure the public is well aware of these and that they are well represented at those events.

Group Discussion on Open Meeting Laws

Kelly Romero-Heaney: DNR is approaching the Task Force as subject to Open Meeting Laws

Siobhan: Yes, we will be following that, we are hoping to balance that with a structure that makes sure that information/conversations flow easily. Dialogue will be key to our progress.

Alex: Yes just had a question on openness, but looks like we will have someone at the next meeting.

Kelsea: Someone will be at our next meeting to provide clarity on how these laws need to apply to this group.

Group Discussion on Documents

Bart M: Materials that are shared: letter and 400 pages of material- is there a summary memo?

Kelly Romero- Heaney: Yes, there was one that went with the board and a list

Siobhan: is it part of the big document?

Kelly: Yes it will be at the beginning of the 400 pg report.

Kelsea on One-on-One Meeting Scheduling

Kelsea: Will be reaching out to folks next week to schedule one-on-one conversations. If you are at Water Congress, we can chat there.

Group Discussion on Process and Meeting Locations

Siobhan: When talking about hopes and concerns- we heard a lot of hopes that we will building on previous efforts- not reinventing the wheel. Chair, can you talk a bit about that?

Kathy: Yes thank you- we have a big responsibility and opportunity- we don't want to recreate the wheel- don't want to do anything that weakens our position in the negotiation with lower basin- Need for CO to be on the same page- team Colorado as we are looking at those- protect ag and water users. In-person will be better in person to get on the table. Please reach out to me anytime to share.



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Kelsea: would like to hold those 5 in-person meetings around the state- if you know a large room around the state that would work well for those around our state?

Aaron:- On board for water congress- not sure if you have them host us there.

Is the plan for the in-person meeting and then will the public how will that look?

Kelsea: Water Congress meeting space may work for the Denver area.

Live stream/webinar for the public will work.

Siobhan: How each of you will act as a liaison for the task force, and for example people with ag questions; the chair has offered to make sure we touch on that. Does that work for you all?

- Talk with chair if you have concerns.

Kevin Rein: Do we need to accommodate the public? Our office could accommodate a smaller group.

Kate Greenburg: CDA does have space in Broomfield- we are an option- Question on connecting with members of the task force- any members who are not a part of the task force can have that they could reach out to me directly.

Chair: yes, I had a conversation with the speaker and she wants to make sure groups of the public have a way to share concerns which is valuable.

Daris Jutton commented in the chat that he thinks alternates should be able to attend the meeting as well.

Siobhan: We would like to have one person at the table representing each group but doesn't see an issue with those alternates attending to observe

Chair: One to add- alternates will not be reimbursed for those that are not the main representative at the meeting.

Meeting Wrap-Up

Chair- Thank you for being here today, this quick kickoff meeting met the requirements of the legislation and we are working hard to make sure things keep moving quickly and ask for your patience as we do so in coming weeks. We look forward to diving in further on the 10th. Encourage anyone to reach out between meetings. Thank you so much for being with us, we know this is a time commitment. Look forward to having lunch with you all next time.

Adjourn Meeting

Appendix A:

Transcript of Attendees and Q&A from Zoom Meeting

Online Attendees:



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Abby Jones 01:58 PM
ajones@bhfs.com
Joan Green Turner 01:58 PM
joangreen@me.com
Hannah Holm 01:58 PM
hholm@americanrivers.org
Daneya Esgar 01:58 PM
Daneya Esgar, daneya.esgar@gmail.com
Megan Wagner 01:58 PM
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Chris Arend-DNR 01:58 PM
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Amy 01:58 PM
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Jackie Fisher 01:58 PM
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Ed Millard 01:58 PM
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Peter Ortego, UMUT 01:58 PM
Id like notifications portego@utemountain.org Peter Ortego
Ute Water 01:58 PM
lclever@utewater.org
Anonymous Attendee 01:58 PM
elizabeth.brawn.house@gmail.com, repmcluskie@gmail.com
Dylan Roberts 01:59 PM
Senatordylanroberts@gmail.com
Josh Kuhn, Conservation Colorado 01:59 PM
Josh@conservationco.org
Nellie Moran 01:59 PM
Max.nardo.senate@gmail.com
Tina Bergonzini- GVVUA 01:59 PM
tbergonzini@gvwua.com
Abby Jones 01:59 PM
jfriednash@bhfs.com
Jake Lebsack 01:59 PM
jlebsack@westernlandowners.org, Jake Lebsack



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Ute Water 01:59 PM
dpayne@utewater.org
Luke Mecklenburg 01:59 PM
Luke Mecklenburg, luke.mecklenburg@coag.gov
Cindy Dozier, Club 20 Executive Committee, RMRI 01:59 PM
cindy.dozier@yahoo.com
Jackie Fisher 01:59 PM
rob@candrfarms.com
Abby Jones 01:59 PM
jmeeks@bhfs.com
Zane Kessler 01:59 PM
Thank you. ZKessler@crwcd.org
Zane Kessler 02:00 PM
Zane Kessler
Craig Hughes 01:59 PM
chughes@hilltoppublicsolutions.com
kathleen curry 01:59 PM
kathleen@westslopestrategies.com
Tom Keyes 01:59 PM
tkeyes333@gmail.com, Tom Keyes
Garin Vorthmann 01:59 PM
garin@lobby4co.com
Anonymous Attendee 01:59 PM
repmcluskie@gmail.com
Abby Burk 01:59 PM
Hello and thank you - please add: abby.burk@audubon.org
Kelli Kelty 02:00 PM
kkelty@politicalworks.net
Ken Curtis, DWCD 02:00 PM
Ken Curtis, kcurtis@doloreswater.com
Shannon Mullane, CO Sun 02:00 PM
shannon@coloradosun.com
Jessica Gelay 02:01 PM
jessica.gelay@westernresources.org
Marianne Goodland 02:01 PM
marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com



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April Long - RWAPA 02:03 PM

april@rwapa.org

Pat Ratliff 02:04 PM

Pat Ratliff

Patratliff.associates@gmail.com

Jessica Gelay 02:04 PM

caitlin.weber@westernresources.org

Pat Wells (Northern Water) 02:04 PM

pwells@northernwater.org

Erin Karney 02:04 PM

erin@coloradocattle.org

Nate Pearson - GOVOffice 02:04 PM

nate.pearson@state.co.us

Speaker Julie McCluskie 02:05 PM

Repmclluskie@gmail.com

Heather Sackett 02:07 PM

heather@aspenjournalism.org

Lindsay DeFrates, CRWCD 02:12 PM

ldefrates@crwcd.org

Richard Orf 02:16 PM

richard@orfco.net

Beth Van Vurst 02:17 PM

beth@vanvurst-law.com

Anonymous Attendee 02:34 PM

Public is important and should be accomodated.

Colorado River District - Marielle Cowdin (she/her/ella) 02:38 PM

mcowdin@crwcd.org Marielle Cowdin, Colorado River District - thank you!

Anonymous Attendee 02:39 PM

Absolutely disappointed to hear that allowing the public to attend is not being contemplated right now.

Online streaming is not the same. Hotels have conference rooms, let's figure this out and allow access

to people who are interested in participating. This process should be open not exclusive and gatekept.

Maria Pastore 01:59 PM

mpastore@csu.org

This question has been answered live



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Megan Wagner 01:58 PM
julie@bbmk.com, Julie McKenna

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