



Task Force Meeting #4 – Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 14, 2023
 12:00 pm-4:00 pm
 Grand Junction, CO
 In-person Meeting

Meeting Attendance

Attended?	Appointed Representative	SB-295 Seat
Yes	Orla Bannan Western Resource Advocates <i>Alternate: Bart Miller</i>	Representative of a statewide environmental nonprofit organization with expertise in water rights and Colorado River interstate governance.
Yes	Jackie Brown Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Representative of an industrial water user located on the western slope.
Yes	Mike Camblin Colorado Cattlemen's Association; Rancher <i>Alternate: Erin Karney</i> Colorado Cattlemen's Association	Representative of a statewide agricultural organization that is the owner of water rights.
Yes	Kathy Chandler-Henry Eagle County Government	Non-voting Chair
Yes	Aaron Citron The Nature Conservancy <i>*Attended and Participated Virtually</i>	Representative of a statewide environmental nonprofit organization with expertise in water rights and Colorado River interstate governance.
Yes	Alex Davis Aurora Water	Representative of a front-range municipal water provider that diverts water from the Colorado River.
Yes	Kate Greenberg Department of Agriculture	Commissioner of Agriculture
Yes	Daris Jutten Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	An agricultural producer that owns water rights within the boundaries of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD).
Yes	Randi Kim City of Grand Junction	Representative of a local government located within the boundaries of the Colorado River Water Conservation District that provides water for municipal purposes.
Yes	Gerald Koppenhafer Montezuma Irrigation Company; Farmer	Agricultural producer that owns water rights within the boundaries of the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SCWCD).
Yes	Lee Miller SCWCD	Representative of Southeastern SCWCD.
Yes	Andy Mueller CRWCD	Representative of CRWCD.
Yes	Kevin Rein Division of Water Resources	State Engineer; non-voting member.
Yes	Kelly Romero-Heaney Department of Natural Resources	Designee of the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources.



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Attended?	Appointed Representative	SB-295 Seat
Yes	Kyle Whitaker NCWCD	Representative of Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD).
Yes	Steve Wolff SWCD	Representative of Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD).
Yes	Letisha Yazzie Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Representative of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.
Yes	Lisa Yellow Eagle Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Representative of Southern Ute Tribe
Yes	Allison Baker City of Durango <i>*Allison joined virtually with participants</i>	Representative of a local government within the boundaries of the SWCD that provides water for municipal purposes.

1. Welcome.

- a. Chair Chandler-Henry welcomed the Task Force members and public to Grand Junction.

2. Approval of Agenda (9:35 in Recording)

- a. **MOTION:** Andy Mueller motioned to approve, Daris Jutten seconded. Motion unanimous.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/31 meeting (11:30 in Recording)

- a. Andy Mueller suggested moving to minutes that captures action items, not detail since there is a recording.
 - i. Siobhan requested that members send an example of format if they have one.
 - ii. Amend notes to reflect that Gerald was present
- b. **MOTION:** Andy Mueller motioned to table approval of minutes until next meeting to give facilitators a chance to rework notes to the new format. Kate Greenberg seconded. Motion unanimous.

4. Roll Call (14:40 in Recording)

- a. Members responded by answering: *What is a lesson you have learned about applying intrastate drought resilience tools or programs that we should keep in mind for our discussion today?*
- b. Aaron Citron present online.
- c. Allison Baker present online in public zoom.

5. Public Comment (extended until 1:15pm due to late start)

The public provided comments to the Task Force both in person and virtually. In the meeting recording, the comment period begins at 32:00 and ends at 1:10:50 in the [Zoom Recording](#). Public Comment closed out at 1:15pm by Chair Chandler-Henry



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Attendees who provided comments in person	Attendees who provided comments virtually
Hannah Holm	Madison Muxworthy
Dawn Weigard	John Coffee
Wendell Koontz	Callie Scritchfield
Jim Marshall	
Jorde Matthews	
Joe Bernal	
John Evans	
Hattie Johnson	
Scott Braden	
Jason Nguyen	

6. Updates(1:11:23 in Recording)

- a. Chair Chandler-Henry shared Letisha Yazzie and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe’s invitation to hold our in-person meeting in Towaoc on Thursday, October 26th. Letisha offered to arrange a tour of the Ute Mountain Farm. Several members of the Task Force spoke positively in support of meeting there.
 - i. Langdon Group will move forward in setting up Oct. 26th meeting in Towaoc.
- b. Chair Chandler-Henry announced that the Thursday, November 9th meeting in Glenwood Springs will be extended and now start at 9:30am going until 4:00pm.
- c. Kelsea Macllroy (Langdon) shared that the Office of Legislative Legal Services stated that it was a legal gray area for the Task Force to accept outside donations. But in consultation with the Speaker, an alternative to receiving additional funding was that if Task Force members did not need Travel reimbursement from the state, these savings from reimbursement could be used to support in-person meetings. She could provide updates on the budget at future meetings.
- d. Kelsea shared a request from the State that all requests for travel reimbursement be sent to the accountant no later than the 20th of the following month.
- e. Kelly Romero-Heaney reiterated her concern that Commissioner Becky Mitchell be present for the Interstate Tools conversation. Kathy reported that she had spoken with the AG’s office. Likely that Intrastate tools conversation will take most of next meeting as well, so may be a non-issue.

7. Sub-Task Force Report (1:23:38 in Recording)

- a. Lisa Yellow Eagle (Southern Ute Indian Tribe) and Letisha Yazzie (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe) reported out on the first Sub-Task Force meeting. They shared the dates of future Sub-Task Force meetings.

8. Revisit Criteria for Evaluation (Draft)(1:45:11 in Recording)

- a. After some conversation and clarification about criteria and what it’s purpose is,
- b. **MOTION:** Andy Mueller motioned to not adopt any other criteria than what is in the legislation. Randi Kim seconded.
 - i. Discussion: concluded that the rest of the list is important for gut-checking recommendations, but not necessary for criteria.
 - ii. Motion passed, unanimous.



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9. Discussion of Intrastate Tools(1:56:34 in Recording)

- a. Storage.
 - i. Topics discussed include: need for flexibility for stored water, need for more storage, how to get projects rolling faster, federal considerations, improvements through DNR to water supply permitting, how to make existing storage more available to other users without creating future holes, how can we tinker with what already exists, dam safety, general flexibility in use of water rights, challenge of flexible use of water rights, limitations on water banking to storage.
- b. Aging Infrastructure
 - ii. Topics discussed include: Difficulty of finding funding for aging infrastructure, clarifying if discussion is on storage infrastructure or diversion as well, CWCB funds for aging infrastructure – how to optimize funds, making a priority to support agriculture.
 - iii. Discussion on Technical Assistance Grant Program – very helpful at building out local capacity.
 - iv. Kelly Romero-Heaney offered to share spreadsheet from Kirk Russell (CWCB) with funds

Agreed Upon Concepts for Further Consideration: Continue Community and Technical Assistance Grants (HB22-1379).

Agreed Upon Concepts for Further Consideration: Allow Water Plan Grant funds to be used for aging infrastructure projects that support drought resiliency.

Agreed Upon Concepts for Further Consideration: Provide increased funding levels throughout state programs for aging infrastructure projects

- i. Discussion on distinguishing efficiency and conservation due to implications for different areas.

Agreed Upon Concepts for Further Consideration: Provide tools to facilitate flexibility in the use of water rights, including storage

- c. How to move recommendations forward. Conclusion is that time in future agendas will be set aside to refine recommendations. *Homework in the meantime is for members to take ownership and build out recommendations to bring back to the group for refinement.*

BREAK

- d. Water Sharing Agreements. No recommendation, request for more information.
 - i. Question for public: Are there barriers to using water sharing agreements that we aren't aware of? What are limitations? Why haven't water sharing agreements been implemented?
 - ii. *Homework: Read ATM Report from 2020*
 - iii. Lee Miller cautioned to stay away from expanding regional programs.
- e. Municipal Efforts.
 - i. Topics discussed included: Turf Removal is expensive with low output, but high impact in terms of awareness; waterwise landscaping; legislation around non-functional turf and tying it to land-use codes; Aurora code on future growth and landscaping.
 - ii. Look at Utah's legislation on turf removal



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- iii. Kelly Romero-Heaney informed the Task Force of the Governor's Sustainability Executive Order that requires Colorado state facilities to have waterwise Colorado-scaping going forward.

Agreed Upon Concepts for Further Consideration: Increase state funding for the current turf removal program or other programs, and tie state funding to disincentives for new non-functional turf and/or codes disallowing new non-functional turf.

10. Preview of Discussion on Interstate Tools (3:52:05 in Recording)

- a. Jackie Brown requested we continue Intrastate discussion at next meeting where she would like to present ideas from industrial water users.
- b. *Homework: start working on filling in Interstate tools spreadsheet*

11. Wrap-up (3:58:00 in Recording)

- a. Homework:
 - i. Education on various intrastate tools
 - ii. Begin populating Interstate tools spreadsheet
 - iii. Begin building out recommendations individually, for refinement at future meetings
- b. Suggestions for next meeting:
 - i. Is it possible to have a shared document that task force members can work on together and that public can view? Kelsea will look into.
 - ii. Request that Task Force members turn their nametags up when they would like a turn to speak.
 - iii. Remember some of these conversations/fights have happened before.
 - iv. Be more mindful of online participants
 - v. Can we get more educated on Water Sharing Agreements?
- c. Request that public comment on barriers they've come across in intrastate tools

12. Adjourn. (Meeting Adjourned at 4:00:30 in Recording)

- a. Next meeting: Thursday, September 28th, Granby, CO
- b. Amy Huff will be sitting in for Steve Wolff and participating virtually.