

COLORADO RIVER SUB-TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

Location: Online - Zoom
Date: December 8, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Lisa Yellow Eagle – Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Letisha Yazzie – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Steve Wolff – SWCD
Celene Hawkins – The Nature Conservancy
Becky Mitchell, State of Colorado

Members of the public present on Zoom:

Bruce Whitehead
Joannie Green Turner
Ken Curtis
Luke Mecklenburg
Pete Nylander
Tahlia Bear
Clark Adomaitis
Ed Millard
Jessica Gelay
Peter Ortego
Josh Kuhn

0:02:18 in recording **Call to Order & Roll Call**

0:03:03 in recording **Review and approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved

0:03:31 in recording **Review and approval of 11/29 Meeting Notes**

Kelsea will send out to group for review during a break.

0:04:06 in recording Public Comment Period

No members of the public either in-person nor online elected to make a comment.

Time reserved later in meeting for public comment period.

0:06:17 in recording Discussion Final Proposals for potential recommendations to the Colorado General Assembly

A. Discussion on Proposal A - Request for funding to conduct a study on a potential pilot program to compensate tribes for future forbearance of water development. (7:04 and 41:58)

Lisa read the proposal out loud.

Discussion on the specificity of where funding should come from and suggested edits to the proposal were made with all members expressed overall support for the proposal.

B. Discussion on Proposal B - Adjustments to Allowable Water Uses on Reservations (49:43)

Temporary skip until Letisha is done driving.

Letisha read the proposal and stated there is no legislative action requested. Discussion continued about moving it to the Narrative section and suggested edits.

Lisa stated that at this time Southern Ute Indian Tribe would be part of this proposal because the Tribal council had not reviewed the proposal.

Agreed to revisit and potentially move to narrative section.

C. Discussion on Proposal C – Seek a Resolution from the Colorado General Assembly to Address Funding for the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project (PRIIP) (17:41)

Discussion on suggested edits with group in general agreement on support for proposal.

Agreed to revisit for a vote after edits are made.

D. Discussion on Proposal D – Gross to Net Word Change in Colorado Ute Settlement (59:24)

Letisha read out proposal.

Discussion on proposal and suggested edits.

Discussion on whether it is narrative or proposal.

SUIT did not have time to review and Lisa does not have authorization to commit.

Agreement to revisit after edits are made.

E. Dedicated Assistance – DELETED

REMOVED.

F. Discussion on Proposal F – Ability to Waive Match Requirement (25:54)

Discussion on proposal and suggested edits.

Discussion on whether it is narrative or proposal.

Agreement to revisit after edits are made.

**G. Discussion on Proposal G – Cultural Protection of Instream Flow
(1:22:52)**

Letisha read out the proposal from the working document.

Discussion on proposal and suggested edits.

Discussion on whether it is narrative or proposal.

1:29:00 in recording

Next Steps (1:29:00)

Group agreed to take a break to work on edits on various sections and will resume at 2:40pm after Public Comment.

Lisa – will edit A and C

Letisha – will edit B, D, G

Celene – will edit F

1:31:08 in recording

Public Comment Period

Ed Millard made comments.

1:31:08 in recording

BREAK

2:32:52 in recording

Meeting Recommended

2:33:58 in recording

Approval of 11/29 Minutes

Motion: Celene motioned with typo correction of “waive.”

Becky seconded.

Unanimous.

2:36:04 in recording

Discussion and Voting on Proposal A.

Lisa reviewed the changes she made to the proposal.

Motion to move forward as a recommendation: Steve, Becky

Letisha: Yes

Steve: Yes

Celene: Yes

Becky: Yes

Lisa: Yes

2:41:28 in recording

Discussion and Voting on Proposal B.

Letisha reviewed the edits made.

Edits were accepted.

Agreement to move to Narrative.

2:47:07 in recording

Discussion and Voting on Proposal C.

Lisa reviewed the suggested changes based on discussion.

Edits were accepted.

Motion to move forward as a recommendation: Celene, Becky
Letisha: Yes
Steve: Yes
Celene: Yes
Becky: Yes
Lisa: Yes

2:48:29 in recording **Discussion and Voting on Proposal D.**
Letisha reviewed edits based on discussion.
Remove resolution request and state that the UMUT would like to work with the legislature on this.
MOVE TO NARRATIVE.
Letisha will rework and submit on Monday by 1pm.

3:00:34 in recording **Discussion and Voting on Proposal E.**
Celene reviewed the edits based on discussion.
Edits were accepted.
Motion to move forward as a recommendation: Steve, Letisha
Letisha: Yes
Steve: Yes
Celene: Yes
Becky: Yes
Lisa: Yes

3:05:02 in recording **Discussion and Voting on Proposal F.**
Letisha reviewed the changes made based on discussion.
Edits were accepted.
Motion to move forward as a recommendation: Celene, Letisha
Becky: Yes
Celene: Yes
Steve: Yes
Letisha: Yes
Lisa: Yes

3:10:29 in recording **Discussion on Final Report formatting and deadlines**
Kelsea reviewed the procedures and format for the final report.
RESOURCES to include in Final Report:
- Tribal Water Study
- Tribal Water Rights presentation to Task Force PPT
- Settlement Documents – Lisa will send out if not on website
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3:21:18 in recording **Public Comment**
No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned.