

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

2012 EDUCATION ACTION PLAN*

(Revised in February 2012 with new “Colorado Water 2012” activities)

Introduction

House Bill 05-1177 creating Colorado’s Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee decreed that each Roundtable would “serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs” (37-75-104(2)(d)). The Public Education, Participation and Outreach Working Group of the IBCC has asked each Roundtable to establish an Education Committee, charged to develop an “Education Action Plan” describing planned activities for a) informing and educating the Roundtable members, and b) informing and educating the general public about regional water issues and the Roundtables efforts to address them. This is the Gunnison Basin Education Action Plan for 2011.

Submitted for Roundtable consideration by the Education Action Committee:

George Sibley, Ed. Chair (At large); Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center); Austin Keiser (Grand Mesa); Denis Reich (CSU Extension Liaison); Gary Shellhorn (U.S. Forest Service Liaison); Michelle Pierce, Roundtable Chair (Hinsdale Municipal).

Goals (of equal priority)

- To provide educational resources to the members of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable that will help enable them in their decision-making processes.
- To provide educational resources to the general populace of the Gunnison Basin region that will increase their awareness of their water resources, the demands on those resources, the heritage of use of those resources, and the state and regional environment surrounding those resources and impacting their use.
- When possible and desirable, to create single programs that fulfill both of those goals.

To meet the first goal of informing the Gunnison Basin Roundtable members:

- a) All or part of the Education Action for each Roundtable meeting will be “situational”: some background information, contextual connections, or analysis strategies will be prepared for one or more items to be considered at that meeting. These Action items will evolve with each agenda.
- b) Special Education Actions will be prepared around major topics of concern or interest, as established by surveys like the one conducted by the CFWE/IBCC year before last. There will be, for one example, a major Education Action on Water Quality in 2011 (see item (b) below).
- c) When possible, the Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education Committee will collaborate with other Roundtable Education Committees to provide background and contextual information and materials when or if the Roundtables decide to hold joint meetings, like the Gunnison and Arkansas Basin Roundtables did in the summer of 2010.
- d) The organizations and groups represented on the Roundtable will be invited to give short presentations about their organization to the larger group.

* This budget is for the “Colorado Water 2012” calendar year, which includes the second half of Colorado’s Fiscal Year 2012 and the first half of FY 2013.

To meet the second goal of providing educational resources to the general Basin populace:

- a) The Roundtable Education Committee will collaborate with the Colorado River District, the Colorado Mesa University Water Center, the Water Program at Western State College, the Bureau of Reclamation, and appropriate Water Conservancy Districts and other local groups, to present historic programs in conjunction with the statewide “Colorado Water 2012” public education program. (This will be done in lieu of the single-event “State of the River” program in collaboration with the River District, although elements of that program will be incorporated into the 2012 programs.)
 - 1) *June 4, 2012: Commemoration/Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commencement of Construction on the “Curecanti Unit” (now the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit) of the Colorado River Storage Project.* This will involve events held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the GB Roundtable, which will be held in Gunnison. Events will include a morning tour of Blue Mesa Dam, a Historical Program and a Public Reception, prior to the 4:00 meeting. The historical program will feature a slide presentation by Vern Jetley, who worked for the Bureau of Reclamation as a photographer during the 1960s. Collaborators will be the River District, the Upper Gunnison River District and the Western State College Water Program. (*Note: The schedule is negotiable, and should be discussed by the GBRT.*)
 - 2) *August 6, 2012: Commemoration/Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Completion of Construction and First “Fill and Spill” of the “Paonia Unit” (Dam and Reservoir) of the Colorado River Storage Project.* This will involve events held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the GB Roundtable, which will be held probably in Hotchkiss (near Rogers Mesa, principal destination of Paonia Reservoir water). It will include a historical presentation with slides/powerpoint about the Paonia Project, and the Fire Mountain Canal for which it was built to provide supplemental water. It may also include a tour of the dam and accessible portions of the canal. Since this overlaps with the Delta County Fair in Hotchkiss, there may be collaboration with the Fair Board, as well as the Fire Mountain Canal Company and North Fork Water Conservancy District. (*Note: The schedule is negotiable, and should be discussed by the GBRT.*)
- b) The Education Committee will work with the Colorado Mesa University Water Center (Hannah Holm, Co-coordinator) on media presentations to bring water information to the public media. To the greatest extent possible, these articles and short essays will be written by Roundtable members.
- c) The Education Committee will prepare a 24-page pamphlet, titled “The Gunnison River in the 21st Century.” This pamphlet will be inserted in the six Gunnison Basin newspapers in June 2012. See Attachment A for a more detailed description and cost breakdown.
- d) The Education Committee will work with the Colorado Mesa University Water Center on Direct Civic Outreach programs about Gunnison Basin issues, state issues, et cetera.
- e) The Education Committee will prepare a program on Water Quality, with participation from Steve Gunderson, director of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, to which we will invite all County Boards of Commissioners, County planners, municipal officials and planners, realtor organizations, and other relevant entities. This will be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Roundtable meeting, since Water Quality was designated as an area in which the Roundtable members needed some education effort. (*This program was carried out in conjunction with the October Roundtable meeting, with ~20 citizens attending in addition to the Roundtable members.*)
- f) The Education Committee will prepare a short Powerpoint program on “The Gap” and the IBCC four-part “Framework” for addressing the Gap, which will focus on the Gunnison Basin Gap and on ways in which the statewide Gap may impact the Gunnison Basin. This program will be available for members to use in their home areas, to make presentations to community groups and organizations.

- g) The Education Committee will work with other Water Education groups in the Gunnison Basin to put together collaborative programs for the general public. These groups include the Colorado Water Workshop at Western State College in Gunnison, the Water Center at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, and the various “watershed groups” in the Basin communities (Coal Creek Watershed Coalition in Crested Butte, North Fork River Improvement Association, and other groups in Hinsdale County and the Uncompahgre Basin).
- h) The Education Committee will work with other members of the Roundtable to prepare an “outreach” presentation on the Gunnison Basin and its water resources, to take to other Roundtables around the state, and to other organizations interested in learning more about the Gunnison Basin.

Budget

The Public Education, Participation and Outreach working group for the Interbasin Compact Committee has made \$1,800 available to each Roundtable, for each fiscal year, for expenses incurred in the Education Action programs. For the calendar year 2012, the Roundtable also has other resources for education for the “Colorado Water 2012” programs:

- a) A Water Supply Reserve Account grant for \$19,750 has been applied for, with a decision to be rendered at the March CWCB meeting.
- b) The Water Center at Colorado Mesa University has received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, a portion of which will be applied to this Energy Action Plan, either directly or through the services of the Water Center.
- c) The Upper Gunnison River District and the Colorado River District have pledged to help with the commemoration events in June and August.

The Budget for the Education Action Plan, including those revenues, is attached.