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QQ Meeting Summary

October 17, 2019 at Summit County Community and Senior Center, Frisco

Summary sent out October 29, 2019

QQ CONSIDERS ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POTENTIAL DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN COLORADO

QQ delved into the complex world of demand management in the Colorado River Basin at its recent meeting, with an illuminating presentation by Jessica Harvey of Harvey Economics and John McClow of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

The State of Colorado, led by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), is considering whether, and how, the State could manage a *demand management program* that would reduce the possibility of a call against the 1922 Colorado River Compact by curbing existing water uses and sending saved water downstream to meet obligations to the lower Colorado River Basin. Because most of the water used in Colorado's portion of the Colorado River is agricultural, much of the focus on demand management is reimbursing farmers and ranchers for curtailing their water use—through a yet-to-be-identified process that should be *temporary, voluntary, and compensated*, as the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado River District, and many others have emphasized. John McClow provided an overview of the program and the obligations of the Upper Colorado River Basin under the Colorado River Compact.

As John reported, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District heard from its agricultural constituents a desire to understand more about the potential economic consequences of a demand



Attendees listen as John McClow (right) and Jessica Harvey (2nd from right) explain the contemplated demand management program in Colorado and a study of potential impacts to Gunnison County of such efforts. Also pictured from left, Senator Gail Schwartz, Minturn Manager Michelle Meteer, Minturn Councilperson George Brolin, Pitkin County Commissioner Kelly McNicholas Curry, and QQ Secretary April Long with Aspen.

EXCITING UPDATES FOR QQ'S CONTRACT TEAM ANNOUNCED!

QQ confirmed its 2020 contract with QQ's consultant team at its October meeting. We have some exciting additions and changes to announce!

- Alpine Environmental Consultants LLC, spearheaded by Ashley Bembenek, is part of the official 2020 contract team for QQ. Ashley has served as a water quality specialist for QQ for several years, filling in some of Lane Wyatt's roles as he moves towards retirement. We're so glad Ashley's part of the team!
- Torie Jarvis recently teamed up with a consulting firm out of Montrose, Dynamic Planning + Science, who just joined the QQ contract to allow Torie to continue representing QQ in a similar capacity as she has the past seven years. Dynamic works in long range planning and hazard mitigation planning, and brings additional planning and data visualization expertise to QQ as well as Torie's continued work.
- Barbara Green will continue as the third member of QQ's contract team with Sullivan Green Seavy, LLC, and we're thankful we'll continue to benefit from her expertise!

We are looking forward to a great 2020!



Low water in Lake Powell. Photo by Brent Gardner Smith, Aspen Journalism

management program in the Upper Gunnison River basin. Because most of the water use in the upper watershed is agricultural, a study undertaken by Harvey Economics will focus on the impacts to the agricultural community and related impacts.

QQ members tossed around questions about potential impacts in the QQ region, which encompasses the Upper

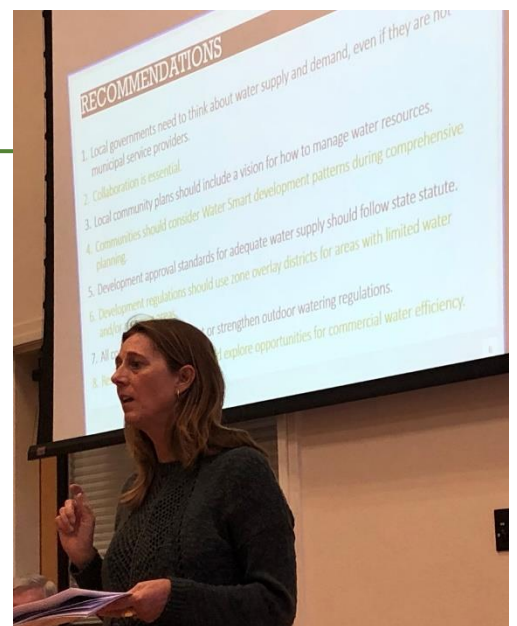
Gunnison but sees significantly less agricultural in many other parts of the region.

Demand management will continue to be a topic of discussion with QQ members, as the CWCB recently formed workgroups focused on various topical discussions around a potential demand management program. Torie Jarvis is on the environmental workgroup, while Karn Stiegelmeier and Kathy Chandler-Henry are on the local government and economy workgroup. The Colorado River District and Upper Gunnison are also participating in many other workgroups.

QQ TO UNVEIL NEW GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR WATER SAVINGS MEASURES IN LAND USE CODES AND POLICIES IN NOVEMBER

QQ and Del Corazon Consulting are putting the finishing touches on much-anticipated guidance for QQ members on integrating water savings measures into land use codes and policies, titled *Water Savings Guidance and Model Codes*. The guidance will pull together an assessment of QQ members' land use codes and policies, as well as best practices and model codes related to water savings and land use. Marjo Curgus, principle consultant on this project, provided an overview of the guidance document at the last QQ meeting, focusing on specific elements tailored for QQ members.

The document will focus on strengthening code sections related to water supply, outdoor watering and landscaping, indoor and



Marjo Curgus presenting to QQ.

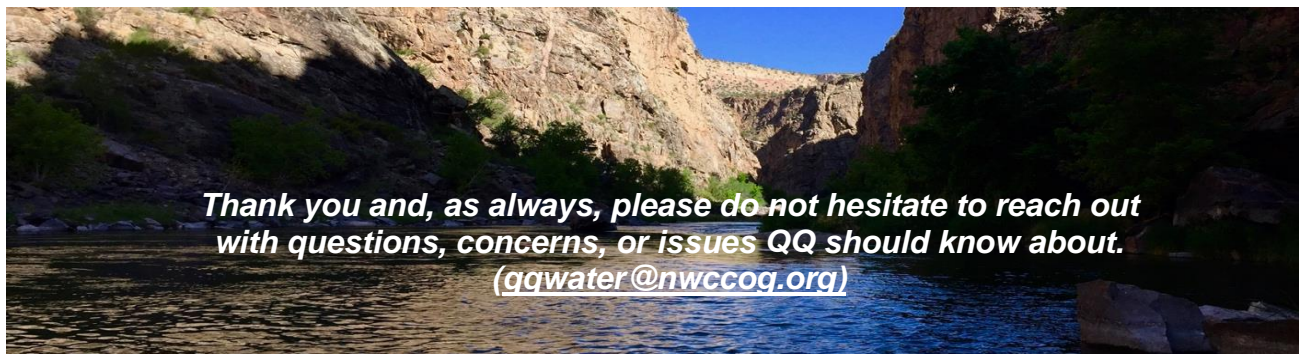
commercial water conservation, and on integrating water savings into comprehensive planning. QQ anticipates a November release of this document and looks forward to planning further outreach and education around this resource in 2020.

OTHER QQ UPDATES

- QQ supports Proposition DD—a much-needed funding source for Colorado’s Water Plan. Prop. DD proposes to legalize online sports gambling, with taxes generated going in large part to fund the Water Plan. Estimates for annual income are just under \$15 million, and some critics point out that’s not even close to the amounts identified in the Water Plan. At the QQ meeting, members emphasized that some funding is needed regardless, and this funding more than doubles the amount available for Water Plan grants currently. If this passes, QQ will continue to monitor and participate in processes to further refine what types of projects should be paid for under this new pot of money. Read more [here](#).
- The Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) is in the midst of a rulemaking focused on revising and extending temporary modifications. Most relevant to QQ, the WQCC is considering an extension of the temporary modification for molybdenum on Ten Mile Creek from Climax’s discharge. QQ joined with a group of members and other interested parties in a prehearing response statement that asked Climax to commit to “getting to work” with studying treatment options for the molybdenum. This request stems from the State’s decision to continue to wait for a federal study update on molybdenum levels for human consumption before conducting a rulemaking hearing to consider revising the statewide molybdenum standard.
- The General Assembly’s Water Resource Review Committee (WRRC) met several times over the summer and fall, and just voted by supermajority to introduce a set of 6 bills into the 2020 Legislative Session. QQ will provide a more detailed summary of those bills in the immediate future. Until then, a list of the bills are available [here](#). Torie Jarvis gave a presentation to the WRRC in September titled *The Headwaters region, perspectives and challenges*. Slides are available [at this link](#).
- QQ and several of its members continue to participate as stakeholders in the [Upper Colorado Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group and Alternative Management Plan](#). The stakeholder group has until June 2020 to refine the Management Plan, during what’s called the “provisional period,” after the Plan was adopted into federal agency planning documents. The group will see considerable work in the upcoming months.
- QQ plans to participate in several upcoming rulemakings before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), as the agency changes its regulations to be consistent with its new mission and direction from 2019’s Senate Bill 181. Rulemaking hearings in 2020 include those to address the mission change, to develop a cumulative impacts analysis, and to develop an alternative siting process. As always, QQ’s focus will be to maintain existing local authority to regulate for environmental protection and to ensure new regulations are workable for West Slope oil and gas development as well as the intensive development on the Front Range.

Did you know QQ archives board packets, meeting summaries, and presentations from past meetings?

You can find past agendas, presentation copies, and board packets here: <http://nwccog.org/qq/archived-qq-agendas/>



Thank you and, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or issues QQ should know about.
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