

Meeting Minutes
Gunnison Basin/Grand Valley Selenium Task Force
March 21, 2007

Forest Service Office, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO

I. Task Force Updates

A. Revised Calendar: A revised calendar was presented to the task force. The calendar for 2007 shows the task forces as meeting as a joint group. The Coordinator justification for proposing to meet on a quarterly basis as a joint group was based on the fact that: 1) the GVSTF had come to a decision to focus on meeting Se standards in the mainstem rather than the tribs which pre-feasibility analysis showed to be infeasible given costs, 2) following the decision in #1 above, there is an even greater need to work more closely together, 3) 2007 priorities would be joint task force projects, and 4) the Coordinator would be taking a 6 month leave of absence beginning in July. There was no opposition to the proposal and therefore the task force will proceed to meet on a quarterly basis as a joint group.

B. Bioreactor: The GB/GVSTF didn't feel as a group that the pilot project should be high priority for action by the task force. This is because the technology can't reasonably treat the volume of contaminated drainwater we are dealing with at this point. However, there may be current site specific applications (e.g., gravel pits that are not directly related to our mission) and likely long-term needs once more source-control projects are in place to reduce the volumes needing treatment. Therefore, we should encourage and support Mesa State's and Golder Associates' efforts to find funding and a location for a pilot project. It's possible that given the issue of selenium and point source discharge permits, gravel pit companies will become willing partners with Mesa State and Golder on this issue and come up with significant in-kind match or cash funding.

- 1.) We should follow up with the Irvine Meadow folks who were (at last contact) considering building a several acre passive selenium bioreactor and see what progress has been made and the results. We can pass on our bioreactor data to them when Russ Walker's paper is finalized to see how our results compare.
- 2.) We could still help as a partner in funding and go after the USBOR S&T funds (Note: First we need to follow up with Irvine folks before taking this step.)
- 3.) Follow up with Russ Walker (Mesa State) and make sure he's following up with Gravel pit folks then encourage him to talk to Golder about developing a proposal that could be submitted to the BOR S&T program by Mike Baker. (NOTE: Only BOR employees can submit proposals).
- 4.) Before any proposal is developed, some questions must be answered including:
 - i. Have similar projects been pursued in other locations (San Juaquin Valley, Irvine, etc.) and what are the results

ii. What happens to the spent media; how is it disposed of?

- C. Wise Water Use Council (WWUC): A group of about 30 individuals from mostly Grand Valley and a few from Gunnison focusing on addressing the issue of the need for wise water use. At this point the WWUC has broken into two groups: irrigation standards group and education/outreach group. The selenium task force is involved with the education/outreach group and is supporting efforts to develop a wise water use program focused on reducing inefficient water use. Mike and Sonja will keep the group informed as things progress.
 - D. Pond Lining Program – Fred is advertising right now for ponds to possibly line. A full year will be devoted to measuring seepage from candidate ponds and then determining which ones are best to line. Target # of 30 wetted acres of ponds to line. Salinity funds were requested in the amount of \$2.1 million.
 - E. Phase III Laterals – Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association was approved for \$1.2 million of salinity control funds to supplement \$800K from other sources (NIWQP& River District) to line about 10.5 miles of laterals in the South Canal and Selig Canal systems. Finalizing cooperative agreement at this time. Construction starts in November with about 2 years for completion. [Note: The Salinity Program has taken big interest in the lower Gunnison basin area. A science team will be here in May to possibly put together a plan to study this area and the Grand Valley. Proposed are studies of canals and lateral systems, models, and possibly sub-basin salt controls: What can be controlled? What has been controlled? What is cost associated? Said selenium loading should be studied along with this.]
 - F. Selig – Salinity Parallel Program funds were committed in the amount of a total of \$850K. Could be that parallel program funding has to be used the same as EQIP rules which require dealing with landowners and individual agreements. There is a meeting on March 26th to discuss this. Other sources of funding could be the Reclamation Basin-Wide Program or the 1177 Basin Roundtables. An official letter of award for 319 NPS funds in the amount of \$800K was received from the State WQCD – Dick Parachini.
 - G. Grand Valley/Gunnison Basin Watershed Plan: In progress. Sonja will be working on this project up to her July leave of absence date and then part-time on this project from July to December 2007.
- II. Action Plans: were reviewed and a 2007 priority list for task force action items was developed and approved with revisions.
 - III. GVSTF Letter Update to WQCC: Finalized. Letter will be sent to the WQCC and WQCD by the end of April 2007.

- IV. EQIP High Priority Selenium Loading Areas: Letter to Dave Doty (NRCS) was approved with revisions. Maps were approved for inclusion with Doty maps. The Coordinator and the Co River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) will work together on finalizing the packets to mail by the end of April 2007.
- V. Smart Growth Initiative for Water Quality Improvement Comments: The task force gave some feedback to Mike Baker on the proposal. The group was supportive of the effort. Mike requested that the group put the review and discussion of the draft proposal on the next agenda for continued discussion as the project develops.
- VI. CIG Progress Report and GIS Advances: The Conservation Innovation Grant Project entitled: *Employing Innovative Data and Technology for Water Conservation Targeting and Planning in Salinity and Selenium Affected Areas of the Lower Gunnison River Basin*, is on schedule and under-budget. David Kanzer of the CRWCD who serves as the project director presented a GIS map of the type of data and analyses that are being conducted under the project for discussion.
- VII. Possible agenda items for June 21st meeting:
1. Selenium Task Force Updates (Eileen List)
 2. Urban Deep Perc Study Results (Paul von Guerard)
 3. TMDL Development (Ken Leib)
 4. USBOR Smart Growth for WQ Initiative (Mike Baker)
 5. Agenda Items for September 19th meeting (STF)