Dear Committee Member:

The Grand Valley Salinity Coordinating Committee will meet Thursday, July 10, 1986, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium at the Department of Energy facility at 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction. A proposed agenda for the meeting and a copy of the February 13, 1986, meeting summary are both enclosed.

For more information, please contact Larry Kysar at 242-8621, extension 390, or FTS 322-9390.

Sincerely yours,

Walter E. Fite
Projects Manager

Enclosures
GRAND VALLEY SALINITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 10, 1986

PROPOSED AGENDA

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

FEBRUARY 13, 1986, MEETING SUMMARY

JOHN FREZIERES, GUEST SPEAKER

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

STATE EXTENSION SERVICE

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

LATERAL ORGANIZATION GRANT

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

STATUS OF WORK ON CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES

STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT TO DEFINITE PLAN REPORT AND MEETING REPORT REGARDING WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION AND PRECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

CHANGE OF SUPERVISORY CONTROL

STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IRRIGATION COMPANIES

OTHERS
Walt Fite, new Projects Manager for the Grand Junction Projects Office, welcomed the group by saying that the committee brings to the salinity control program a wide look at the salinity problem. He stressed that the committee needs input during the meetings and mentioned changing the agenda to more of a problem-solving type.

Larry Kysar then conducted the meeting. A correction for the October 10 summary was pointed out—on page 3 (1st paragraph, 1st sentence), it should read 130 different irrigations instead of 130 different irrigators.

Steve McCall stated that the advance final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Grand Valley Unit was sent to Washington on February 12, 1986. The FEIS will be filed in May 1986, which is necessary to award a contract for construction by late summer 1986. The supplement to the definite plan report and the verification memo will also accompany the FEIS. Steve also mentioned that we only had three speakers at the public hearings in November, but that we received more than 20 letters on the draft EIS which were very constructive.

Larry Schoessler of the Montrose Projects Office gave an update of preconstruction and construction activities; for the Stage One laterals and the Government Highline Canal:

1. The contract for valve seal replacement and delivery pipe painting will be completed this week.

2. The contract to construct six deer escape devices in the concrete-lined canal was awarded on February 3 to M.A. Concrete Construction Company of Fruita.

3. The contract to install a debris deflector wall and trashrack structure on the canal turnout for lateral A44 and a debris deflector wall on the canal turnout for lateral A46 has been awarded. The equipment is being fabricated in Ogden, Utah, and will be installed before water enters the canal. These structures are being built as prototypes to determine their effect on trash entering the pipe laterals and to study their suitability for adaptation to the west end portion of the Government Highline Canal.

For Stage Two, the west end portion of the Government Highline Canal and laterals:

1. Draft specifications for both the canal and laterals A49 through A53 will be ready within the next few months in order to award canal construction contracts in August and the laterals in October.
2. The design for laterals A55 through A57 has been contracted to an architectural and engineering firm. The design contract will be underway by March 1986.

For Stage Two, the middle portion of the Government Highline Canal laterals:

1. The design data package for laterals A27 through A41 is being prepared for specifications and will be submitted to the E&R Center by May 1, 1986.

2. Survey control for laterals A14 through A26 is being established, and preliminary data collection has begun.

A moss and debris removal structure is planned for Tunnel No. 1 near Asbury Creek. Design data will be submitted by August 1986.

Bill Vidmar—Reclamation is working on ways to solve trash and sediment in the canal in the Stage One portion by using water-measurement devices. Trash deflectors and moss structures help solve the trash problems, but sediment has proven more detrimental than trash. Bearings within the water-measurement devices have been frozen by sediment. Reclamation is also looking at other possibilities, including ultrasonic meters (which are relatively new and have no moving parts. However, they do need an energy source, possibly solar). Reclamation will install three of these ultrasonic meters in the Stage One portion this summer to see how they work. Reclamation currently is also planning propeller meters for Stage Two. However, if ultrasonic meters prove to be a better form of installation, the propeller meters can be replaced with ultrasonic meters.

Lee Larson—Negotiations will begin in the region next week for a contract for rights-of-way work for the west end portion of the Government Highline Canal laterals. Design work for laterals A49 through A53 will be sent to the region by the end of April and laterals A55 through A57 by June.

Don Clay—A grant was provided to the Colorado Water Conservation Board in mid-January 1986. It transfers money to the State for organizations serving water to private laterals to study their bylaws and accounting procedures. Included are the Palisade, Mesa County, and Orchard Mesa irrigation districts and the Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC). The State now needs to obtain subcontracts with these irrigation districts and company. By fall 1986, Reclamation should know if the mechanisms are in place to proceed with additional contracts between Reclamation and those entities. Another contract to move forward with the lateral improvement program would then be negotiated.

Dan Prinster, Gary Hart's representative on the Western Slope, asked: Do people with private laterals have to participate? If not now, could they participate at a later date?

Walt Pite answered: No, if 51 percent or the majority of the shareholders on a lateral voted yes, then these shareholders would participate. If they voted not to participate, they would not be required to participate. The irrigation district or company would have to use the right of "eminent domain" (the right
of the Government to take property for public use, upon payment of just compensation) to take over the private laterals in the future. As for the second question, if shareholders didn't participate within the 10 years of this salinity control program, they probably would not have the chance to participate after that time period.

Ruth Hutchins (GVIC shareholder) asked: What about the laterals which are already improved?

Walt answered: This question should really be addressed by the GVIC; however, there is no one present from their organization to answer. Their private laterals are not associated with the Federal government. All improvements will be done on a lateral-by-lateral basis. If the majority rules against this improvement program and the laterals are already improved, then the shareholders won't be included as part of the program. If the systems are already working well to decrease seepage, then there would be no need to improve that system. The GVIC vote in December 1986 is the vote to obtain their right to eminent domain. Another vote will then be taken concerning individual lateral improvements.

Ruth stated that at the GVIC meeting the "voluntary" part of this program was not presented in this manner.

Walt mentioned that a mailout will be sent out to further answer any questions about lateral improvements.

Emery Johnson of the SCS introduced a new employee, Paul Cruz. Because of budget reductions, they have reduced their staff by five and Frank Riggle is transferring to Fort Collins.

Jim Currier of the SCS said that the on-farm signups were about the same—an average of about $1,000 to $2,000 per signup for improvements—which is surprising in spite of the poor economic situation in the valley. He said there definitely was money available to do salinity work.

Grand Valley Water Users Association (GVWUA) representative Bill Klapwyk said that a lot of activity is going on regarding negotiating the contract with Reclamation that amends the 1980 Stage One program (based on the 1984 salinity act amendments). The contracts themselves will identify ways to overcome deficiencies. He mentioned that the GVWUA would be willing to share data gathering with Reclamation on the next stage of laterals. They have completed about 75 percent of their new office building and are using their own manpower.

Lee Gobbo of the GVWUA said that he was pleased to work with Reclamation on the planning of Stage Two, including the experiments on water-measuring devices. He also stressed that they need to be included in data gathering for the moss and debris removal structure near Asbury Creeks; the main problem there will be ice.
Mesa County Irrigation District representative Chuck McKim said that during the winter the bulk of time spent on the salinity program was used to perform routine maintenance and cleaning.

Grand Valley Drainage District (GVDD) representative Don McBride expressed a concern that, after laterals in all the irrigation systems in the valley are placed in pipe, the existing drainage system may not be capable of handling the peak flows it receives. Don Clay assigned Coll Stanton to talk to the region and the E&R Center about the problem which is probably concentrated in major drainages. Larry Kysar told the GVDD representative that Reclamation will follow up on the problem.

Tentative date for the next meeting was set for June 12, 1986. Larry mentioned that he will contact committee members to inquire about modifying the format of the meeting.
Grand Valley Salinity Coordinating Committee Meeting  
February 13, 1986  

**Attendance List**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vic Thompson</td>
<td>Grand Valley Water Users Association</td>
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<td>Mack, CO 81525</td>
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<td>Charles McKim</td>
<td>Mesa County Irrigation District</td>
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<td>3434 G Road</td>
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<td>Clifton, CO 81520</td>
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<td>Dave Merritt</td>
<td>Colorado River Water Conservation District</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 1160</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Glenwood Springs, CO 81602</td>
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<td>J. F. Rinckel</td>
<td>516 Blevins Road</td>
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<td>Grand Junction, CO 81503</td>
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<td>Paul Cruz</td>
<td>USDA--Soil Conservation Service</td>
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<td>2754 Compass Drive, Suite 170</td>
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<td>Grand Junction, CO 81506</td>
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<td>Don McBride</td>
<td>Grand Junction Drainage District</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 21</td>
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<td>Grand Junction, CO 81502</td>
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<td>Ruth Hutchins</td>
<td>Fruita, CO 81521</td>
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<td>Harold Willison</td>
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<td>Emery Johnson</td>
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<td>Jim Currier</td>
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<td>Curtis Hackler</td>
<td>Mesa County Road Department</td>
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<td>1000 South 9th</td>
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<td>Ken Weimer</td>
<td>Mesa Soil Conservation District</td>
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<td>Jack Leslie</td>
<td>Colorado Division of Wildlife</td>
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<td>711 West Independent Avenue</td>
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<td>Grand Junction, CO 81505</td>
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Fred Krauss
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Linda Branch
Larry Kysar
Tom Fowlds
Coll Stanton
Don Clay
Walt Fite
Bill Vidmar