

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Eric Hecox
Water Supply Planning

DATE: July 20, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 14, July 20-21, 2010 Board Meeting**
Arkansas Basin Roundtable Activities and Next Steps

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

This is an *information* item and Board action is not required.

Background

In November, 2009 the Arkansas Basin Roundtable produced “*A Resource Document: Projects and Methods to Meet the Needs of the Arkansas Basin.*” The Resource Document builds on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable’s consumptive and nonconsumptive needs assessment and identifies both structural and nonstructural projects and methods for meeting the basin’s consumptive and nonconsumptive needs.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable identified the following projects as important for meeting their future water supply needs:

1. Development of an Arkansas Decision Support System along with the Upper Ark Conservancy water monitoring devices
2. The Preferred Storage Option Plan for expansion of Pueblo Reservoir
3. The Southern Delivery System
4. The Arkansas Valley Conduit component of the Frying Pan/Arkansas Project
5. State Parks Zebra Mussel response
6. Fountain Creek flood control and mitigation.
7. Arkansas headwaters diversion improvement (increase boater safety)

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable also identified the following methods as important for meeting their future water supply needs:

1. The Voluntary Flow Agreement
2. Municipal conservation
3. Non-native phreatophyte removal
4. Rotating agricultural fallowing
5. Vision task force
6. Underground water storage, both alluvial and deep aquifer

During this agenda item, the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable will discuss their Resource Document with the Board and as stated in the Executive Summary: “... *the Roundtable may elect, as it has done in the past, ...to enlist the aid of the Colorado Water Conservation Board..*” They will provide a short presentation on the progress of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable to date and their plans to move projects forward to meet their needs. The Arkansas Basin Roundtable believes that the support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board will be fundamental to successfully meeting the future water supply needs of the Arkansas Basin.

This agenda item is the first in a series of presentations about activities in the Arkansas Basin including:

- Arkansas Valley Conduit Update
- Arkansas River Decision Support System Feasibility Study
- Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District Data Collection Platform/Gaging Project
- CSU Arkansas Basin Data Collection and Assessment Study
- USGS Upper Arkansas Water Balance Study

All of these activities relate to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable’s needs assessment and projects and methods to meet those needs.