

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
November 10, 2010
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty five (25) members were present. There are 37 active roundtable members at this time - 18 is a quorum.

A motion was made by Terry Scanga and seconded by Alan Hamel to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was reviewed.

PRESENTATION - DSS Progress Update – Andy Moore, Lindsay Griffith

Colorado's Decision Support Systems Overview

Overall Goal – Assist in making informed decisions regarding water resources planning.

History – Arkansas Basin DSS was last because of Kansas v. Colorado litigation.

CDSS Components –

- HydroBase/GIS data
- Data Management Interfaces (DMIs)
- Surface water planning model
- Water resources operations/administration tools
- Groundwater planning model
- Consumptive use model
- Documentation

Feasibility Study

Purpose – define data requirements, components, costs and schedule required to develop Arkansas Basin DSS, while coordinating with other basin activities

Main Tasks

- Review existing publications, studies and models
- Needs – water user interviews/comment sheets
- Data Assessment
- DSS Components
- Alternatives – resulting in Proposed Alternatives (this is where they are now)
- Report – DSS implementation road map

Stakeholder Input

- Group/Individual interviews
- 40 entities, 60 individuals
- Ag, Muni, Industrial and GW users
- Comment sheets from 21 individuals
- Advisory Committee with Roundtable representatives

Review/coordination with existing basin water studies/modeling efforts

Draft chapter development

- Review by Advisory Committee

Unique challenges in the Arkansas Basin

- H-I Model and Compact Compliance with Kansas
- Data and tools to support real-time decision making
- How to incorporate water quality issues

Next Steps

- Surface water model subcommittee Nov 2011
- Draft Chapter 5 – Alternatives – late 2010
- Draft Chapter 6: Proposed Alternative – early 2011
- Draft Report – early 2011
- Final report – May 2011
- Requesting funds for ArkDSS in 2011/2012

Contacts

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CDSS Example Applications

Colorado Basin surface water model

Endangered species recovery program

Elkhead Reservoir enlargement analysis

Blue Mesa Reservoir re-operation analysis

Colorado River Water Availability Study

A request will be made for funds from CWCB in the amount of \$500,000 in order to fund this analysis.

Discussion ensued about eventual uses of the model, and how the model would be funded and implemented. They are moving towards a recommendation in January or February.

BREAK

IBCC Report - Future of the Roundtables post election – Jeris, Jay, Wayne

Jeris – We have broken down into four sub-groups: New Supply, Ag Transfer, Conservation and Non-Consumptive Use. The whole idea was to develop position statements that could be delivered to the governor in December.

The New Supply subcommittee will definitely not be ready to submit their position paper in December. It's vital that once the subcommittee's finish their position papers, that those documents will come back to the roundtables for approval before final versions go to the governor.

The next IBCC meeting is December 1st.

Gunnison/Arkansas Basin Joint Committees – had been talking about the marketable pool in Blue Mesa. Thought they were going to talk to the Bureau of Reclamation in October, but then heard about a water bank group that has been meeting for a few years. They are now having a meeting with this West Slope water bank group on November 30th. What is happening statewide is that there are several initiatives going on that could be interactive. There is the 'big study' of the Colorado River. The water bank discussion that started got input from some major east slope users and uses Bureau facilities that might include Blue Mesa and the marketable pool. Decided to have a face-to-face meeting and see if both efforts could be moved forward. It's not a water bank yet, it's a feasibility study. It's developed out of the Southwest Water Conservancy District and the Colorado River Water Conservancy District. It was an oversight that the water bank had never been mentioned in previous joint meetings and the joint group agreed to find out more about the subject before approaching the Bureau of Reclamation.

Statewide Non-Consumptive Technical group met. Staff had come up with a map of projects. SeEtta met with her committee the next week. The Arkansas Basin subcommittee decided to not accept their mapping at this time, since there was an issue with the vetting of included projects.

WSRA Grant Requests –

Although these two grant requests have not gone in front of the Needs Assessment Committee yet, they will give presentations and ask for RT approval first, because January's meeting will have several grant applications.

Purgatoire River Restoration Project – Jeris Danielson

A Feasibility Study has been performed for five miles of the Purgatoire River, beginning at the dam and following the river through the City of Trinidad. The goal of this project is to enhance a half-mile stretch adjacent to downtown Trinidad.

- Install in-channel habitat features to improve fishery during high flow summer months.
 - full-channel boulder cross-vanes will create pool habitat
 - J-hook vanes to protect riverbank and provide cover
 - boulder clusters to provide pocket water habitat in riffles
 - short boulder vanes to protect existing quality features

- large wood bank-full benches utilizing existing trees
- large wood/boulder J-hook vanes for habitat complexity
- Provide a handicap accessible trail to provide fishing access to all.
 - breeze trail
 - split rail fence at accessible fishing sites
 - signage

Matching funds include \$15,000 from the Purgatoire River District, along with \$68,890 in in-kind match of labor, equipment and materials. Asking for \$75,000 from Basin Funds.

Roundtable members discussed the application, including the following favorable comments:

The project includes both non-consumptive recreational, environmental and consumptive improvements. It's the first grant application south of Highway 50.

Might want to look at habitat restoration attached to the bank rather than in the middle of the river

It should improve water quality and lower sedimentation in the river as well.

The improvements look really similar to the improvement below the Pueblo Dam. There are a lot of fishermen in that river now.

The Roundtable was in consensus to move this application forward to CWCB.

The Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (COAGMET) – Perry Cabot

A Multi-Media Program for Reporting Crop and Turf Water Use Estimates from the Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network

Request is for a total of \$46,971; \$37,577 from statewide funds and \$9,394 from basin funds. This project would be carried out by the Sangre de Cristo Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program, with assistance from CSU.

This program is directed at outreach so that COAGMET becomes more widely used.

COAGMET is a network of weather stations that collect localized weather data in irrigated agricultural areas. Each station is equipped with standardized instrumentation to record and transmit measurements of temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, precipitation, and soil temperature.

Measurements are then used to calculate crop-specific evapotranspiration, used to estimate daily crop and turf water use locally. Rates for ET can fluctuate daily and impact the demand for water by crops and turf.

Knowing ET rates for local settings helps irrigators “fine-tune” irrigation and conserve water using the water-balance approach.

The WSRA funding will be used to deploy a multi-media approach (3-yrs) to expand access to the crop and turf water use reports provided by CoAgMet. Currently, these reports are available through the CoAgMet Internet site (www.coagmet.com). An expanded multi-media approach will work to overcome these obstacles by using print media (e.g., local newspapers) and cellular telephone text-messaging for interested subscribers.

This application will be brought up again in January – not asking for consensus at this time.

Review of the next meeting's agenda

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Winner