

Arkansas Basin Roundtable  
May 11, 2011  
Meeting Notes

## **Roundtable Business**

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty five (25) members were present. There are 38 active roundtable members at this time - 18 is a quorum.

## **April Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review agenda**

## **DSS Update – Nicole Rowan**

### **Public comment – Dave Miller – Central Colorado Project**

Mr. Miller shared a handout describing his concept for reversible pumped-storage, which would access water from the Aspinall Marketable Pool.

## **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Jay Winner**

Jeris – The IBCC meeting was last week. There was a presentation regarding a water settlement between Denver and 33 West-slope communities. The IBCC had no input into this settlement – this led to a conversation about just what the role of the IBCC is, followed by discussion of a road map for the IBCC. Work plans were developed for the sub-committees. The next meeting is June 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Glenwood Springs.

## **WSRA Grant Update**

### **Flaming Gorge Task Force Situation Assessment – Heather Bergman and Mike Hughes, Keystone Center**

Goal: Talk to stakeholders and determine if a stakeholder dialogue is viable.

Leadership: 5-person Executive Committee, directing our assessment/interview process, representing Arkansas, Metro, Colorado and Yampa/White/Green Roundtables and the Colorado Water Institute at CSU. They spoke with 48 people, and received an additional 32 online survey responses.

- The vast majority of respondents support having a dialogue, but some have reservations.
- Opinions vary widely regarding the appropriate role of the State, IBCC and CWCB.
- A majority of respondents want to be at the table themselves.
- Most respondents want State and federal regulatory agencies in the room but not at the table.
- Varied opinions about whether a stakeholder process should seek agreement or just explore issues and ideas.
- Most respondents also think there is merit in stakeholders discussing Yampa Pumpback and Blue Mesa.

Recommendations: Overview

- Free-standing stakeholder dialogue
- Neutral, professional facilitation
- 17 individuals in a decision-making “Core Group”
- Seek CWCB endorsement and Board member participation.
- Regulatory agencies, project proponents, and others participate as ‘resources’ but not at the table
- Three-stage process, with decision to proceed or not at the end of each stage

The selection of the 17-person Core Group and the convening of a first meeting of that group is included in the scope of the current grant.

Three-stage process for the group: each phase would include deciding whether or not to proceed to the next phase.

Phase I: Identify interests related to a possible Flaming gorge project

Phase II: Discuss whether there are any legal, hydrological, financial or other threshold barriers

Phase III: Discuss benefits and concerns; identify criteria or components of a project

#### Additional Recommendations

- Early and regular discussions with basin roundtables and stakeholders groups-at the beginning of each phase and then as appropriate
- Consensus-based decision making
- First Core Group decisions should include determining funding options and facilitator

#### Next Steps

Based on the advice of the Exec Committee, and with the support of the Arkansas and Metro Roundtables:

- develop list of criteria for CG members
- solicit nominations for CG members (from RT members)
- Interview nominees
- Select 14 non-State CG members and coordinate with State regarding 3 State CG members
- Convene initial CG meetings to determine how to proceed re timing, funding, facilitation, protocols, etc.

The Roundtable discussed the recommendations made by the Flaming Gorge Task Force and next steps.

### Subcommittee Reports

#### Non-Consumptive Needs – SeEtta Moss

CDM is working on final draft, which should be available by June. The committee is also working on a risk factor analysis, to add another layer of prioritization.

#### Needs Assessment Report – Todd Doherty and Nicole Rowan

The draft report will be emailed to roundtable members. They are working on Chapter 7 right now – Implementation.

1. Storage and Infrastructure – PSOP
2. Arkansas Valley Conduit
3. SDS and the Muni supply gap in northern El Paso County
4. Rotating Ag Following
5. Conservation and Efficiency Measures

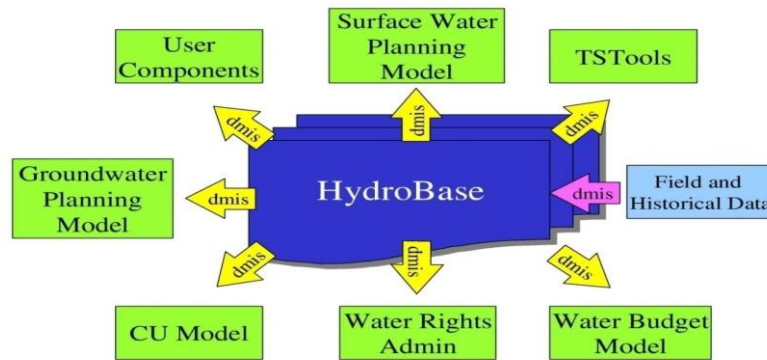
Thus far, the RT has been advocacy driven. Projects and issues that have had the most advocacy have had the most attention. Non-consumptive needs and Ag water needs remain under-quantified.

### Decision Support System Review and Approval

#### Final review of the DSS Feasibility Scope of Work – Lindsay Griffith

##### ► ArkDSS Feasibility Study

- Purpose
  - Review of Feasibility Study process
  - Review of stakeholder involvement
  - Proposed ArkDSS Implementation
  - Tiers of Implementation
  - Phased Approach
  - Periodic Assessments
  - Upcoming Draft Report
- **Purpose:** Define data requirements, components, costs, and schedule required to develop Arkansas Basin DSS, while coordinating with other basin activities
    - Brown and Caldwell team are performing feasibility study, under a State management team from CWCB and DWR, with input from Roundtable and technical subcommittee
    - **ArkDSS Implementation:** Tentatively beginning in 2011/2012, with Board and Legislative approval and available funding



### Feasibility Study Process

- ▶ Stakeholder input
  - Group/Individual interviews
  - Advisory committee - Arkansas Basin RT
  - Technical subcommittee – representatives from RT
- ▶ Review/coordination with existing basin water studies/modeling efforts
- ▶ Draft chapter development (e.g., data assessment, components, options for implementation)
  - Review by technical subcommittee

### Feasibility Study – Main Tasks

- ▶ Introduction – review existing publications, studies and models
- ▶ Needs – water user interviews/comment sheets
- ▶ Data Assessment
- ▶ DSS Components
- ▶ Options for Implementation => Tiers of Implementation
- ▶ Report – Plan for DSS implementation

### Proposed Implementation

- ▶ Feasibility Study identified 3 Tiers of Data Collection and Analytical Capability
  - Tier 1 –Meets many needs for basic administration and planning tools.
  - Tier 2 – Enhanced level of analysis in a cost-effective manner to address present and future water policy, development and administration issues; meets majority of needs.
  - Tier 3 – Full-featured analysis capabilities at a detailed, but expensive level; meets most needs.
- ▶ Phased approach will focus on Tier 1 and Tier 2 tasks – potential for Tier 3 if funding available
- ▶ Data compilation and collection up front
- ▶ Development of analytical components according to implementation priorities and basin needs
- ▶ Periodic assessment of work to date and evolving needs of the basin
- ▶ Coordination with existing basin water studies/modeling efforts
- ▶ Assessment of funding availability and exploration of opportunities for cooperative partnerships
- ▶ **Phase 1: Initial Funding Tasks (\$500,000: Duration 1-2 years)**
- ▶ ArkDSS tasks and funding approved in November 2010 by CWCB:
  - Water resources data collection/analysis, including CU data in the upper basin
  - Spatial data collection/analysis, including irrigated acreage in upper basin
  - H-I Model process enhancements
- ▶ **Phase 2: Data Compilation and Collection (\$3,761,000: Duration 2-5 years)**
  - Existing Data Compilation
  - New Data Collection
- ▶ **Phase 3: Initial Components Development (\$1,260,000: Duration 2-3 years)**
  - Consumptive Use Analysis
  - Water Budget Analysis
  - Land Use, Irrigated Lands, and GIS
- ▶ **Phase 4: Additional Components Development (\$2,019,000: Duration 2-3 years)**

- Surface Water Planning
- Groundwater Planning
- Water Quality Analysis
- **Phases 1 through 4 Total = \$7,540,000**
- ▶ **Duration 6 – 8 years**
- ▶ **Consideration of future ArkDSS phases and enhancements**

**Next Steps**

- ▶ Draft report available for review – June 2011
- ▶ Present Proposed Implementation to CWCB during July 12-13 Board meeting
- ▶ Final report – September 2011
- ▶ Request additional funding for ArkDSS implementation
- ▶ Andy Moore, Project Manager for CWCB
  - ▶ [andy.moore@state.co.us](mailto:andy.moore@state.co.us)
  - ▶ 303-866-3441 x3229
  - ▶ Lindsay Griffith, Project Manager for BC
  - ▶ [lgriffith@brwncald.com](mailto:lgriffith@brwncald.com)
  - ▶ 303-239-5445

**Review of the next meeting's agenda**

Next meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Winner