

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Meeting of February 11, 2009
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Wayne introduced Eric Huhn, ED of Colorado Water Conservation District; Jim Pokrandt, Chair of the Colorado Basin Roundtable; Randy Seaholm from CWCB and Blaine Dwyer, Boyle AECOM. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty one (31) members were present, sufficient for a quorum.

A motion was made by SeEtta Moss and seconded by Michael Stiehl to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was reviewed.
No public comment today.

CWCB/IBCC Report

No meeting since early December.

Sub-Committee Reports

Non-Consumptive Water Needs Subcommittee – SeEtta Moss

The committee will be requesting basin funds in order to cover the scope of work that still needs to be performed. Arkansas Basin Water Forum has been scheduled for March 31st and April 1st. It will be held here at CSU-Pueblo. www.arbwf.org

Groundwater Committee – Gary Barber

Received feedback from CWCB regarding the Groundwater Conference, and he hopes to take that report back to the House Ag Committee to finish that deliverable.

Needs Assessment Committee – Jay Winner

Discussed CWCB funding issues and delays. Terry Scanga will be putting together a reduced scope for his app. Statewide funds are on hold until September.

Ag to Urban Water Transfers Committee - Wayne

The report was presented to the Colorado Water Congress.

Presentations

1. WSRA Deliverable – Fountain Creek Vision Task Force – Gary Barber and Heather Bergman

The first meeting of the task force was held in July 2006, and the task force has been meeting regularly since December of that year. The grant received through the roundtable was to co-fund facilitation and mapping, and was a collaborative success. The WSRA funded \$75,000, and was complemented by \$58,000 of funding from other sources.

There are three levels of participation:
Consensus Committee of 28 members
Working Groups
Task Force

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments website has detailed info regarding the FCVTF. Go to www.ppacg.org OR www.fountain-crk.org for a more direct link.

The result of the work so far is that the FOWG (Funding Options Working Group) was formed in order to analyze potential forms of entities that might be created to continue the implementation of the findings of the task force. It was determined that an Intergovernmental Agreement would be needed to establish governance methods. If that effort is successful, the group would next go to the General Assembly to form a District that would be able to address the unique conditions of the Fountain Creek Watershed. At

the time of this meeting, the IGA had been approved by most entities involved, and the Governing Board is meeting and preparing to pursue legislation.

Potential projects that could be pursued include reducing energy in the creek by extending creek bends (sinuosity), construct wetlands, and side detention to reduce flows.

Gary asked for consensus to accept the work of the Task Force as complete (pertaining to the roundtable grant). Consensus was reached.

Colorado River Education Program

Law of the Colorado River: Randy Seaholm, CWCB

Mr. Seaholm described the history and allocation of the Colorado River in detail. The Colorado River Compact became effective in 1929. The seven Colorado River Basin states are Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. There is also a compact with the Republic of Mexico.

At this time diversions from the Colorado River to the Arkansas River total 143,600 AF.

Please contact Elise @ elise@dmsc.us if you would like a copy of this presentation emailed to you.

Colorado River Water Availability Study – Blaine Dwyer, Boyle AECOM

The study has been underway since October 2008. Not finished yet. The PP described the study and how it includes the roundtables in the process.

Phase I: water availability under current water supply infrastructure,

Step 1: historical hydrology

Data-Centered CDSS

HydroBase

GIS Coverage

Surface Water Model: StateMod

Consumptive Use Model: StateCU

Step 2: Alternate historical hydrology (Paleohydrology)

Will look at alternate temperatures, precipitation, hydrology and evaporation from tree ring data. Will compare to historical hydrology.

Step 3: Climate Change and Forest Change

Will use models that have already been created. Will down-scale to be useful at the scale of the Colorado River Basin.

Study limitations: no assessment of compact call administration or potential for curtailments.

Phase II – water availability under various scenarios of future demand. This phase has not yet been funded by the legislature.

Colorado Basin Roundtable: Jim Pokrandt, Colorado Basin Roundtable and Eric Kuhn, Colorado

Mr. Pokrandt and Mr. Kuhn presentation of “Colorado Basin Profile/Energy Needs Assessment Update”.

This presentation described the efforts of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, the grants this roundtable has received, a description of the state of the Colorado Basin and its most urgent issues.

This presentation is also available per email request of Elise.

Meeting adjourned 2:54 pm. Presenters continued to take questions from the roundtable.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Winner