

Arkansas Basin Roundtable  
Meeting of March 11, 2009  
Meeting Notes

**Roundtable Business**

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:37 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty two (22) members were present, 5 members were excused, sufficient for a quorum.

A motion was made by Tom Verquer and seconded by Michael Stiehl to approve the minutes of the February meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was reviewed.

Perry Cabot announced the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mike Bordogna updated the roundtable on the aluminum issue that they had brought to the roundtable a few months back. They have completed a water needs assessment.

**WSRA Grant Requests**

**Non-consumptive Needs Quantification – SeEtta Moss**

The committee will put together information as it stands and bring that in May or June. At the same time, the committee is bringing a basin fund request – the study objectives are to:

Identify flow needs to support wetlands west of John Martin Reservoir that support critical environmental and recreational bird habitat.

Identify lake levels needed to support habitat of Least Tern and Piping Plover near Neenoshe Reservoir.

Preparation of a river restoration plan for 44 miles of Fountain Creek including land use mapping for the entire stretch (not contained in this scope of work but in-kind services will provide this information and provide part of the matching funds for this scope).

\$148,000 is the amount of basin request. The application passed the Needs Assessment Committee by a vote of 5 to 1.

Gary asked for consensus. Consensus was reached with some concern about lack of funds in general, and the amount of money being spent on one project.

**Groundwater Policy: Alluvial Aquifer Storage & Recovery – Gary Barber**

The objective of this project would be to provide technical support for the Director of Natural Resources, Harris Sherman, to move the statewide dialogue on underground water storage forward by drawing on the experience of the National Academy of Sciences 2007 report on Managed Underground Storage.

The scope of work would be to explore permitting and technical issues with DNR, DWR, CWCB and CGS for a pilot Aquifer Storage and Recharge project in the Upper Black Squirrel Designated Groundwater Basin.

The request for consensus will allow Gary take this request to the other roundtables. The request is for \$20,000 or less from basin funds, depending on the support of other roundtables. Consensus was reached.

**CWCB/IBCC Report – Todd Doherty**

Todd announced that there will be a joint Front Range Roundtable on May 12th or 13<sup>th</sup>. Will focus on agriculture alternatives to meeting M&I needs.

Dictionary definition of “rival”: one having water rights to the same stream as another.

Path forward – 2009

Consumptive Needs Assessment are completed and in draft form.

Non-consumptive Priority Areas have been identified.

Focus – 2009

Projects and methods to meet identified needs (M&I and Non-consumptive)

Population projections show a possible 10,000,000 by 2050, from ~ 4,000,000 now. Most of the increase in population will be on the eastern slope; therefore this is where the projected gap will be the greatest.

Please see more information at the IBCC website: <http://ibcc.state.co.us>.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Describing the Consumptive “Gap” in El Paso County

#### **Dana Duthie: Donala Water & Sanitation District**

Donala's water supply is from the Denver Basin Aquifer. Of 2,200 AF useable water available, 2,000 AF will be for customer use. Actual use now is 1,500 AF. At first glance, it looks like there's room for growth, however, they are located on the edge of the Denver Basin and the water level of wells in the area is steadily decreasing.

The same is true for other water providers in the area, so they got together and created the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority. The PPRWA's objectives have been to explore combined infrastructure and water supply projects.

#### Conservation

Rationing: Odd-even address irrigation gave them only 7% savings in 2008. They're shooting for 15%.

Education: They are continually attempting to educate people away from bluegrass to xeriscape.

#### Preserve aquifer supply

Maximize use of water resources. New wells won't really help. They use non-potable water at the Gleneagle golf course. 350 AF of water is lost down Monument Creek. Re-use issues. Cost of re-use projected to be ~ \$47 million.

Renewable water: Flaming Gorge? Green River? Yampa? Gunnison?

Ag water: Donala just purchased the Mt. Massive Ranch for \$5 million. That will produce 300 AF at most.

Improve and combine infrastructure. 15-20 million.

#### **Kip Peterson: Cherokee Metro District**

They are not on Denver Basin water, but on the Upper Black Squirrel Basin. They are currently constructing a recharge facility, and will be putting wastewater that's been treated to 93% of drinking water quality into this facility.

Yes, there is radium in the water. Aeration seems to be removing the radium.

### **South High Plains Aquifer – Max Smith**

Historically water law has been counter intuitive to water conservation: if you don't use it you lose it. They are on the Ogallala Aquifer. They are using more water than is recharged. Where the Ogallala remains, it is 10% saturated. Only 10 years of life left in the Ogallala. Of the rain that falls in their area, only 1% reaches the aquifer, 30% is intercepted by plant life, and 65% is lost to evaporation and transpiration.

Max talked about the history of the area. The southern high plains were located at the heart of the dust bowl. After the 30's, there were some wet years, and agriculture was re-established in the area. By the 50's, however, speculators were mining water heavily for irrigation. Conservation measures have been used and improved over time.

The final frontier is harvesting renewable energy in the area. Wind and solar energy is being developed in Bent County. It's an especially great area for wind.

**Approval of next month's agenda. Next month's meeting will be at Pueblo Community College.**

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Winner

Links:

Arkansas Basin Water Forum: [www.abwf.org](http://www.abwf.org)

Fountain Creek Vision Task Force: [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org)

IBCC: <http://ibcc.state.co.us>