

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Meeting of June 10, 2009
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:41 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty three (23) members were present, sufficient for a quorum.

A motion was made by Bud Elliot and seconded by Jim Broderick to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was reviewed.

Public Comment:

SeEtta wanted to acknowledge the citizens that are attending the Roundtable meeting.

John Wiener: At weather.gov you can point and click anywhere on a map of the US and get up-to-date weather information.

CWCB/IBCC Report

Todd Doherty: The governor has signed the bill that put into perpetuity the WSRA grant program; authorizing \$10 million annually, the amount contingent upon the legislature appropriating those funds each year. This legislation extended the program, which helps provide impetus to continue the Roundtable process.

One key item is that there is a requirement for all entities that provide over 2,000 af of wholesale water, that they need to have a conservation plan with the CWCB.

We have \$5.7 million for the entire account for this fiscal year. We are going to meet with the WSRA committee to talk about the allocation between basin and statewide accounts. Right now, the current ration is that 74% goes to statewide, 27% go to the basins, to be divided between the nine basins. The South Platte Basin passed a resolution approving that split. The split will be discussed and brought back to the IBCC and CWCB. This funding is a Tier 2 fund. This means that we don't get the whole fund at the beginning of the year, 40% is available as of July 1st, January 1st we get 30%, April 1st we get the last 30%. We're not flush with cash. \$77,000 will go into the account for each basin as of July 1st. In March the basin decided not to consider any new statewide requests at that time. We have \$5 million in requests already – there is only \$1 million available. It will be tough to decide what to fund.

Jeris Danielson: Wants to see a 50/50 split on the basin/statewide funds.

Reed Dils: Not concerned about the split. But some basins aren't as tight with their money as we are – concerned that some entities are looking at these funds as just another pot of money rather than really trying to meet the minimal criteria, and are not spending the money as carefully as our Roundtable is.

Wayne Vanderschuere: also concerned about the spending of the money. Some questionable projects have made it through the process.

Patricia Alderton: This roundtable has so many more entities in it than other roundtables; the money should be split by how many entities are involved.

Wayne: That discussion took place, and was found to be un-doable. Might want to let sleeping dogs lie and recommend what's already in place.

Blue Mesa Resolution:

The roundtable discussed the resolution regarding Blue Mesa Reservoir. After much discussion, two resolutions were agreed upon, by consensus, as follows:

1. The Arkansas Basin Roundtable hereby requests that the Interbasin Compact Committee and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, as part of developing "Strategies to Meet Colorado's Future Water Supply", include Gunnison River source of supply options, including but not limited to Blue Mesa Reservoir. The Gunnison River options would become part of the "New Supply Development" analysis

that is currently being conducted. This analysis already includes the following: Green Mountain, Yampa River, Flaming Gorge, and Colorado River Return.

2. When considering “dry-up of agriculture” as a component of future water supply strategies, include West Slope agriculture along with Front Range Agriculture.

PRESENTATIONS

High Needs Priority Areas Identification-SeEtta Moss

NCNA Committee Update

- Completed identification of recreational & environmental attributes plus priority area mapping – February 08, adopted by roundtable April 2008.
- Recommended Ark Basin RT involvement in Recommended Arkansas Basin involvement in pilot for Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool.
- Results of pilot study on Fountain Creek with Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool will be presented on June 24 at Cheyenne Mtn State Park-CSprings.
- Grant proposal for basin funds to conduct quantification of wetlands west of John Martin Res & for Neenoshe Res were approved by CWCB
- NCNA committee has completed Identification of High Needs Priority Areas required for assessing basin GAP

Prioritization of High Needs Area

- this is a snapshot showing high needs identified at this point in time based on data available.
- remember-we noted last year that data was not available for some areas and thus they were not assessed in the current process.
- all high priority areas provide both recreation and environmental attributes.
- several high priority areas have multiple attributes
- identification of high needs areas completed in a reasoned and judicious manner.
- include Instream flows proposed by CWCB staff.

Recommended High Needs Areas

Neenoshe Reservoir
Wetlands west of John Martin Reservoir
John Martin Reservoir
CDOW Pueblo Fish Hatchery
Blue Lake (Adobe Creek) SWA
Ramah State Wildlife Area Reservoir
Karval SWA Reservoir
Greenhorn Creek south of Rye
Two Buttes Reservoir & Black Hole Afterbay
Carrizzo Canyon Creek

Proposed Instream Flows

Next Steps

Monitor quantification studies
Review request for consideration for prioritization of Cucharas Reservoir by Huerfano Ditch

Company

Identify risks to high priority areas

Flat Water Recreation and Lake County: Mike Bordogna and Ken Olson

In Lake County we are determined to create our own future and not depend on mining. Ken Olson has spent his entire life in Lake County. His ancestors came to Lake County in 1872. When Lake County first became a county it stretched to the Utah line.

82% of Lake County is federally owned. This leaves very little land mass in order to fund an economy for the area.

Flatwaters in Lake County are made up of reservoirs, high lakes, and beaver ponds. Lake County has a unique opportunity to partner with State Parks to further develop recreation.

High lakes are secretive, most fishing is catch and release. There is a deep respect for the high lakes in Lake County. Turquoise Lake is manmade. Its food phase is limited. Food source is limited

in older reservoirs. Twin Lakes are natural, glaciated lakes. This lake suffers from aluminum going in to the lake. Leadville Hatchery is the second oldest hatchery in the country. Stocking fish has improved. FourBay has become one of the best fisheries in Lake County. Rocky access, but we're recognizing that and trying to improve. May one day make those reservoirs into a State Park.

Most recent challenge is the Zebra Mussel. One of the issues is how to keep those reservoirs open during shoulder seasons. Would like to arrange some way in which to inspect boats during those off-seasons.

Water quality is an issue too, more in the rivers than in the reservoirs. The best thing that could happen for future water use is further developing fishing. We live, as commissioners, very strange lives. Our job is almost completely centered around recreation and tourism. We have to take advantage of the assets that we have.

Projects and Methods to Meet the Needs of the Arkansas River Basin: Gary Barber
Discussed outline and timeline for final report and asked for input. The August meeting will be in Pueblo, and we will have a consensus discussion of the report. The Executive Committee will continue to work on the report between now and then.

Ag to Urban Transfers Report: Wayne Vanderschuere, Jim Broderick, MaryLou Smith

Wayne: What do we do with the report – "Considerations for Agriculture to Urban Water Transfers".

Wayne reminded the group of the content of the report.

Jim: we made some modifications to the cover. This is a report that we have worked on from the beginning. It's meant to be an informative tool. Southeastern Water Conservancy District has accepted the report.

Dan: Thinks we need to adopt the report, rather than just accept it. Some people would like to see the report lead to lawful intent, but there are a lot of shareholders affected. Dan asks that the Roundtable come to consensus and adopt the report.

Gary: Think we ought to adopt the report and integrate it into our methodology in the final Projects & Methods report.

Alan: In favor of adopting. As an entity looking at an Ag to Urban transfer, thinks there is a lot of valuable material that they will use.

Bud: when we discussed at the Roundtable, the cover was the only problem that kept us from adopting earlier.

Reed: Is proud of the report. Using the

*Gary Barber asked for and received consensus to adopt the Ag to Urban Water Transfers Report. The report will be on the SEWCD website.

Gary: Let's just meet in Pueblo in September so that we have a full roundtable as we discuss this report.

ave Stone: Big Sandy Study on August agenda.

Chris: Round Mtn update on August agenda.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Winner

Links:

Arkansas Basin Water Forum: www.abwf.org

Fountain Creek Vision Task Force: www.fountain-crk.org

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

Colorado River Water Availability Study: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>

Ag to Urban Water Transfers Report: www.sewcd.org