

Arkansas Basin Roundtable  
Meeting of October 14, 2009  
Meeting Notes

## **Roundtable Business**

Chairman Barber called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty two (32) members were present, sufficient for a quorum and for a 75% majority.

Roundtable members and visitors introduced themselves. The agenda was reviewed.

A motion was made by Jim Broderick and seconded by SeEtta Moss to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Decision Support System for the Arkansas Basin**

**Andy Moore, Lindsay M. Griffith, PE – Brown & Caldwell**

### *CDSS Components*

- Hydrobase
- GIS/Mapping
- DMIs – Data Mgmt Interfaces and utilities
- Surface water model
- Groundwater model
- Consumptive use model
- Water budget model
- Documentation

### *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
- Rio Grande groundwater model
  - Required for SEO's promulgation of rules and regulations regarding new well Development
- Colorado Basin Consumptive Uses & Losses reports

### *Arkansas DSS Feasibility Study*

Purpose: define data requirements, components, costs, and schedule required to develop Ark Basin DSS, while coordinating with other basin activities.  
Brown and Caldwell team will perform feasibility study, under a State mgmt team from CWCB and DWR, with input from advisory committee.  
ArkDSS Implementation: tentatively in 2011, with Board and Legislative approval and available funding.

### *Feasibility Study – Main Tasks*

- Introduction-review existing publications, studies and models
- Needs – water user interviews/comment sheets
- Data Assessment
- DSS Components
- Alternatives – proposed alternative
- Report – DSS implementation road map

### *Schedule*

- Begin in the next month with completion in approximately one year
  - User interviews through ~ Feb 2010
  - Data assessment through ~ March 2010
  - DSS components through ~ April 2010
  - Alternatives/proposed alternative analysis ~ Apr – Aug 2010
  - Report ~ Nov 2010

### *Opportunities for Input*

Advisory committee – meet ~ 3 times with project team

Water user interviews, comment sheets

Contribution of existing studies, publications, models, data sources

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## **Bylaws Change**

Section 3: Term of Office and Term Limits. Mike Stiehl made a motion to change the by-laws and eliminate term limits for officers. Tom Young seconded the motion, which passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

## **Election of Officers**

Gary Barber called for nominations. Tom Young made a motion that present officers retain their positions. Tom Verquer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jeris Danielson volunteered to keep his position as IBCC Rep. Alan Hamel made a motion that Jeris keep his position for another term. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

## **CWCB/IBCC Reports**

### **Danielson, Winner, Vanderschuere, Dils, Doherty**

Jay Winner: All of our projects passed through the WSRA process and were funded. Future applications will be tougher to pass.

Jeris Danielson: The September IBCC meeting was spent discussing various scenarios that included different mixes of components that would meet statewide water needs. They then broke out into workgroups to discuss specific scenarios. Most scenarios included some conservation measures, some Ag dry-up and some trans-basin diversion. Jeris felt that the West Slope is starting to accept the idea that some trans-basin will be inevitable.

The Resolution that we sent to the State of Colorado regarding Ag dry-up on the West Slope and Blue Mesa Reservoir has now been sent to the other roundtables. Gary mentioned that he had spoken to the Gunnison IBCC Rep and the Gunnison RT chair, that they had prepared a draft response to our resolution, that it was very amicable, and that the Gunnison basin needed to be included in the study. They were less receptive to the idea of drying up West Slope Ag for East Slope water needs. They attacked Front Range water providers more than the Arkansas Basin RT.

Jay doesn't see the West Slope moving at all.

Wayne added that they rolled out a computer model that CDM had built, in order to combine different scenarios.

The next IBCC meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Colorado River Water Availability Study should be ready by then.

## **Presentations**

### **In-Stream Flow - Colorado Water Trust – Amy Beattie**

Colorado's Instream Flow Program was created in 1973 – SB97. This program vested the CWCB with exclusive authority to protect streamflow through a reach of stream rather than just at a point, and to protect levels in natural lakes. These rights are “in-channel” or “in-lake” appropriations for the purpose of preserving the natural environment, and are assigned a priority, just as any other water right claim, and are administered within the State's water right priority system.

The Colorado Water Trust was created in 2001 to support and promote voluntary efforts to protect and restore the state's streamflows.

#### CWT's Water Acquisition Program

CWT works closely with the CWCB to acquire decreed water rights through voluntary transactions.

HB1280 Leasing

3 in 10 Leases

Less formal/more creative concepts

#### Anatomy of an acquisition

CWT learns of water

Conducts preliminary investigations

Consults with CWCB staff

Title, engineering, consultation with CDOW, consultation with state officials – due diligence

Negotiations and legal document drafting

CWCB process: two considerations, governed by Rule 6

Water court

#### CWT's Technical Support Program

CWT also provides technical support for water conservation issues that arise in the context of land conservation.

#### CWT's Physical Solutions Program

In addition to acquisitions, CWT looks to physical solutions that provide significant conservation benefits.

Structural: headgate and delivery system upgrades; reservoir outlet upgrades; habitat.

Water use solutions: changes in points of diversion or source.

Creative combinations.

#### Food for thought

Balancing consumptive use and non-consumptive use seems to be/becoming a priority.

Water transactions to benefit streamflows will be neither the panacea nor the right fit for all water users.

Good step in the right direction

## Discussion

### Projects and Methods to meet the needs of the Arkansas Basin – Gary Barber

The final version of the spreadsheet was handed out one more time. Members were asked to fill them out during the meeting. Gary went over rating sheets and graphs that show how results might be formatted.

### SWSI UPDATE – Todd Doherty

Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Needs Assessment

Colorado River Water Availability Study

Strategies for CO's Water Supply Future

Trade-Off Tool

Build Portfolios & Scenarios

Filter through Vision Goals

Draft reports are available at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/COsWaterSupplyFuture/>

Please provide input by November 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Overview – M&I Water Demands to 2050

Population Forecasting

2035

2050

#### Colorado's Water Supply Future Trade-off Tool Scenario Builder

Portfolio builder

Review portfolio chart

Review portfolio table

Reuse options

Ag transfer options

**Review of the November Agenda**

Other business

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Winner

**Links:**

Arkansas Basin Water Forum

[www.abwf.org](http://www.abwf.org)

CWCB

<http://cwc.state.co.us/>

Fountain Creek Watershed

[www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org)

IBCC

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

Colorado River Water Availability Study

<http://cwc.state.co.us/>

Ag to Urban Water Transfers Report

[www.secwcd.org](http://www.secwcd.org)

Colorado Water Trust

[www.coloradowatertrust.org](http://www.coloradowatertrust.org)