

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable  
December 11, 2013  
Meeting Notes**

**Roundtable Business**

Gary Barber called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty (20) members were present. There are 39 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

**Public Comment** – Ian Lyle, Congressman Tipton's office

Ian discussed proposed legislation that is meant to protect Colorado water rights from federal taking. The bill is a response to concerns by ski areas and individuals with grazing easements on Forest Service and BLM land. Asked for comments and/or letters of support.

Reed Dils – Senator Udall is proposing the Browns Canyon National Monument. The monument will cover 22,000 acres between Salida and Buena Vista.

**Agenda Reviewed**

**November Minutes**

A motion to approve November 2013 minutes was duly made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**IBCC/CWCB Report – Jeris**

The IBCC met on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on the State Water Plan. The 7 basin states have concluded that the likelihood of a compact call on the lower Colorado is very unlikely, and wouldn't happen until 2060. The upper basin focus is to maintain Powell above the minimum power pool. In the next six months, the IBCC will be predominantly working on new supply initiatives, trying to define new supply and what that might look like.

They learned about two new legislative proposals, including one that requires a city using Ag dry up water as new supply to limit residential lawn area to 15% of lot size. There is also a new housing 'waterwise' toilet bill.

The IBCC is meeting every other month.

**Subcommittee Reports and Updates**

*Non-Consumptive Needs Committee – SeEtta Moss*

The committee met last week in Canon City. The group went over our highest priorities for water planning.

*Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – Jean Van Pelt*

Next year's forum will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Otero Junior College Student Center, in La Junta, CO. There will be a pre-forum workshop held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda for the forum is still shaping up, and the Colorado Water Plan will be central to the forum, along with the Value of Agriculture.

*Value of Ag Subcommittee – Kevin Karney*

CCI: Colorado Counties Inc. Winter Conference. Out of 64 counties, 62 were at the conference.

Gary Barber went through the presentation that was made at the conference, as summarized below:

## Arkansas Basin Roundtable: Valuing Agriculture - presentation

### Overview

- ❖ What is a Roundtable?
- ❖ The Pressure on Agriculture
- ❖ How we organized to address the Ag “Gap”
- ❖ A Review of the Conference—*Valuing Colorado’s Agriculture: A Water Workshop for Policy Makers*
  - *Three Speakers*
  - *Your questions*

### The Roundtables

- ❖ Legislatively formed in 2005
- ❖ Basin by Basin
- ❖ Standing for non-water users:
  - Land use
  - Enviro/Rec

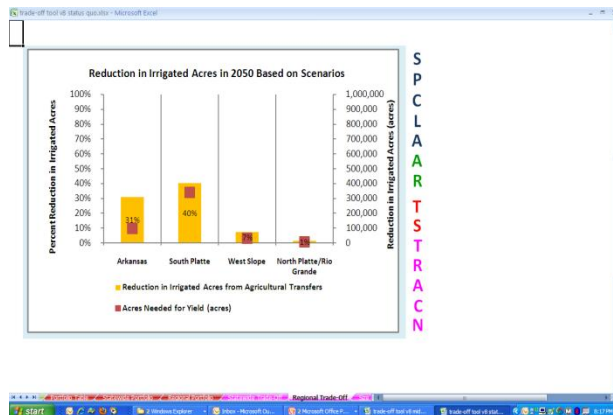
### What is the Arkansas Basin Roundtable?

- ❖ Two (2) representatives from each County
  - Plus conservancy & conservation districts
  - Plus ten (10) at large members
    - ★ Agriculture
    - ★ Recreation & Environment
    - ★ Industry and small municipal water providers
- ❖ About 40 active, voting members today
- ❖ Regular participation by liaison agencies (CPW, BOR, etc.)

### Interbasin Compact Committee

- ❖ Two reps from each of the Nine (9) Roundtables
- ❖ Six (6) from the Governor
- ❖ Two (2) from the General Assembly
- ❖ The Director of Interbasin Compact Negotiations: John Stulp

### 2012: The Portfolio Tool Exercise



### Three Tracks Supporting Alternatives to Agricultural Dryup

- Ark Basin Roundtable Exec Committee
  - Ark DSS Feasibility Scope of Work
  - Technical Studies
  - Policy Studies

- Pilot Projects
- **Ark Basin Roundtable Exec Committee**
  - Ark DSS Feasibility Scope of Work
  - Technical Studies
    - Admin Accounting Tool
    - Super Ditch Conveyance Engineering
    - Basin Hydrology
    - Native versus Import
    - Scenario Planning
  - Policy Studies
    - Rotating Ag Fallow Public Policy Group
    - Ag Values Task Order
    - Ag Gap Metrics for SWSI 2016
  - Pilot Projects
    - Super Ditch Pilot
    - Ag-Muni Conservation Easement Demonstration

#### **A Call to Action: Colorado's Water Plan**

- ❖ The Importance of Agricultural Water
- ❖ The relationship to environmental and recreational uses

#### **Agriculture in the Ark Basin**

- ❖ Agriculture is 6.6% of the total economy
- ❖ We have to emphasize the IMPORTANCE of Agriculture

#### ***SNOWTEL/Snow Course Sites -***

The NRCS funds SNOWTEL and Snow Course sites, but it appears that the NRCS will not fund Snow Course sites this year. Some basins are dipping into their Basin Funds to keep this going. This data is used to determine what runoff will be in the following season. Snow Courses is a compendium of data that shows us where we've been and where we're going. They've been around for 70-80 years, and they show trends over time. SNOWTEL sites need to be calibrated, which has been done by the snow courses. NRCS has been trying to eliminate snow courses over the years, and replacing them with SNOWTEL. It would cost \$8,500 to maintain the snow courses this year. It is the federal government's job to maintain the snow courses. If we do agree to fund the snow courses, we ought to agree to fund for one year, and make clear that we believe that the program should be maintained by NRCS in the future. Terry Scanga recommends that we fund for one year and work with the other roundtables to send a letter that insists on federal funding in future.

At this time, there is about \$150,000 remaining in WSRA Basin Funds. Additional funds will be released into the Basin Fund in January and April. Statewide Fund balance is very low at this time due to emergency flood funding, but will receive an influx of funds in March 2014.

Roundtable members discussed the merits of funding \$8,500 the Arkansas Basin's snow course sites for the 2013-2014 year. Ian Lyle and Gloria Gutierrez agreed to take the Roundtable's consensus that this important program be funded by NRCS in the future back to their representatives.

This funding request was approved by consensus. No grant application will be needed for this request.

Follow-up: On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Senator Udall's office released a memo announcing that the NRCS had found a way forward to fund the Snow Data, Water Supply Monitoring Program through August 2014, but encouraged stakeholders to continue their input and support in order to ensure future funding.

## **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION – Basin Implementation Plan - Goals and Objectives**

### **Overview**

- ❖ *CWCB guidance documents*
- ❖ *Schedule*
- ❖ Missing pieces of Basin Implementation Plan
  - *Watershed health*
  - *Non-consumptive needs*
  - *Conservation*
- ❖ *Ark Basin Goals*

### **Basin Plan Outline**

#### **Table of Contents**

##### Executive Summary

Section 1	Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes
Section 2	Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs
	2.1 Nonconsumptive Needs
	2.2 Consumptive Needs
Section 3	Evaluate Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Constraints and Opportunities
	3.1 Current Basin Water Operations and Hydrology
	3.2 Water Management and Water Administration (Optional)
	3.3 Hydrologic Modeling (Optional)
	3.4 Shortages Analysis
Section 4	Projects and Methods
	4.1 Education, Participation & Outreach
	4.2 Watershed Health
	4.3 Conservation Projects and Methods
	4.4 New Multi-Purpose, Cooperative, and Regional Projects and Methods
	4.5 M&I Projects and Methods (i.e. projects, conservation, reuse, drought planning)
	4.6 Agricultural Projects & Methods
	4.7 Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods
	4.8 Interbasin Projects and Methods (optional)
Section 5	Implementation Strategies for the Projects and Methods
Section 6	How the plan meets the Roundtables' Goals and Measurable Outcomes

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## CWCB Support of Basin Planning

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—December 2013

### MEETING 1: Kickoff Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes

1. Overview of the Basin Implementation Plan
2. Identify goals and measurable outcomes
3. Identify important studies, water management issues, and concerns
4. Discuss existing consumptive and nonconsumptive project and methods information
5. Present Basin Fact Sheets

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—January 2014

### MEETING 2: Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs and Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

1. Review information packages developed regarding needs and opportunities and basin operations list of information sources:
  - WSRA Grant information summaries
  - Nonconsumptive projects and methods database information for each basin (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
  - Information on the protection that the projects and methods may provide across the basin (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
  - Focus area mapping (provided as part of the 2011 Basin Reports)
  - Mapping that overlays the projects and methods and focus area mapping (provided in Nonconsumptive Toolbox)
1. Review existing hydrology diversions, storage, exchange potential, hydrology (wet, average, dry), and instream flows
2. Review updated consumptive projects and methods information and identified projects and processes (IPFs) lists
3. Review nonconsumptive needs

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—March 2014MEETING 3: Projects and Methods and Implementation Strategies for Projects and Methods

1. Review basin operations analysis
2. Discuss shortages and in-basin solutions
3. Finalize in-basin solutions
4. Provide recommendations on Path Forward
5. Identify strategies to ensure public education and acceptance
6. Identify funding mechanisms and strategies for implementing water supply projects and methods
7. Additional feasibility analysis and identifying partnerships/sponsors

Coordination Meeting with Basin Representatives and BRT Contractors—June 2014

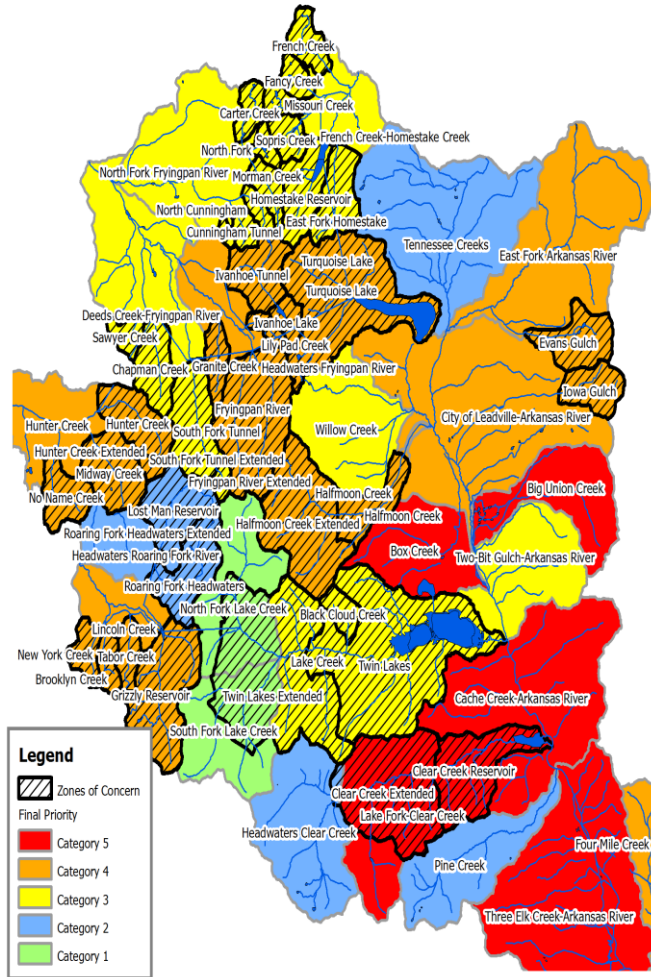
### MEETING 4: How Plan Meets Measurable Outcomes

1. Provide feedback on draft Basin Reports
2. Revisit goals and measurable outcomes
3. Report on how Plan meets goals and measurable outcomes
4. Identify Basin Implementation Plan sections for consideration in the Colorado Water Plan

## WSRA Funds Available

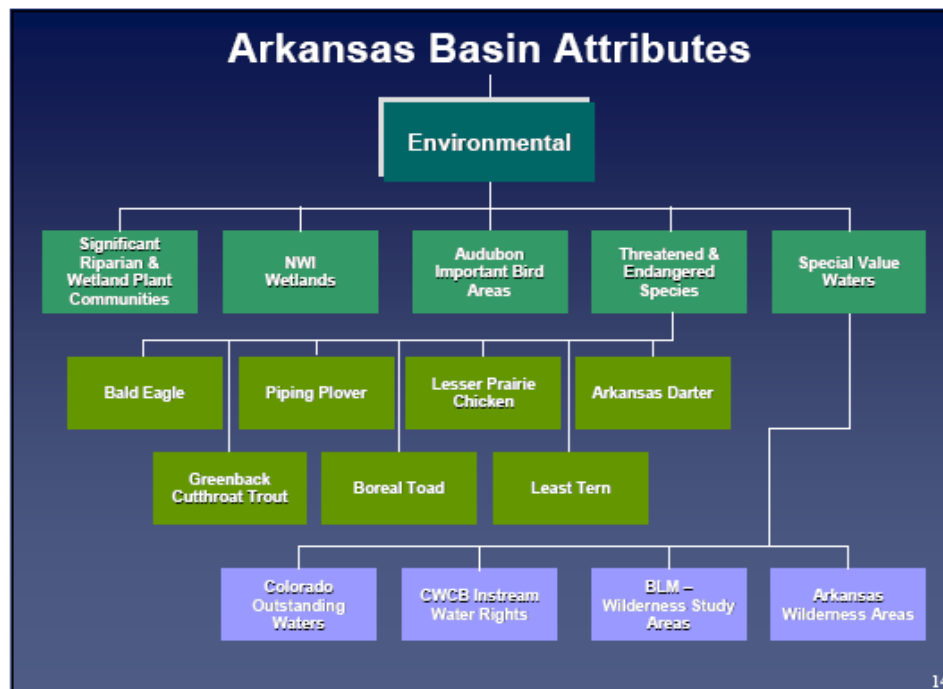
		New Balance	\$365,371
	Fill-in missing parts of BIP (Pending)	\$50,000	
		New Balance	\$237,100
		New Balance	\$162,100
	Fill-in missing parts of BIP (Pending)	(\$50,000)	\$212,100
		New Balance	\$157,125

**Watershed Health Plan format but tied to Non-Consumptive Needs (JW Asso.)**  
**Final Priority with Zones of Concern**  
**Arkansas Headwaters Watershed with 5-mile upstream distance**

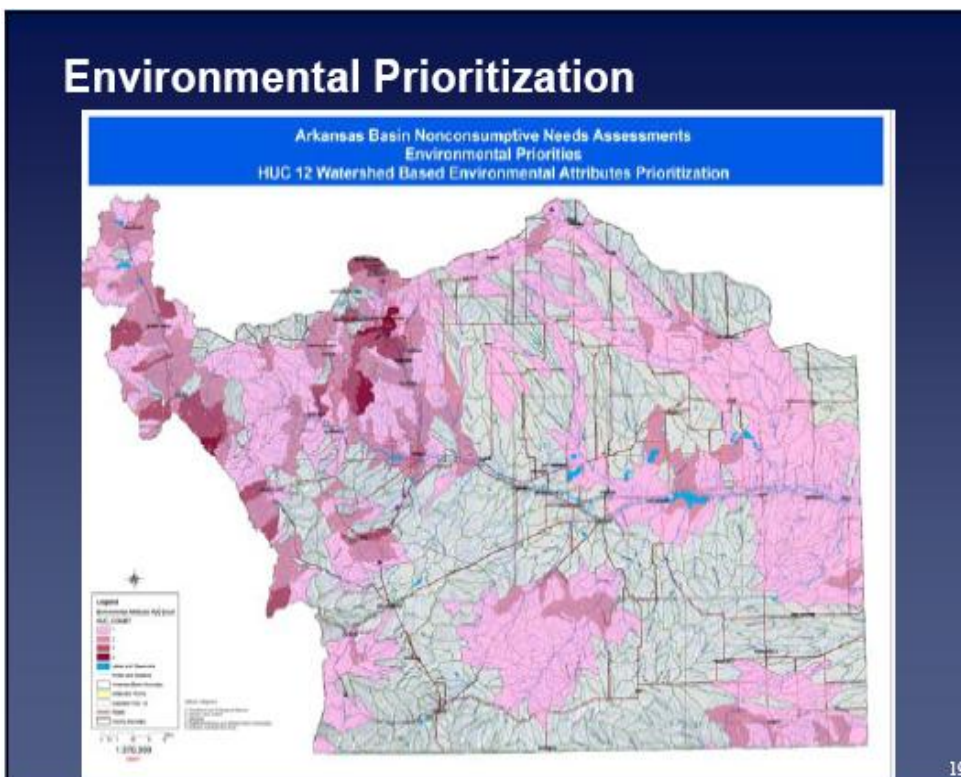


### Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment (2008)

- ❖ Configured on Hydraulic Unit Codes (HUC's) and their attributes
- ❖ Adopted at the April, 2008 Roundtable Meeting
- ❖ Using the balance of our Basin Funds to complete site specific investigations



### Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment: HUC Methodology





## Low/No Regrets IBCC Work

### No/Low Regrets Goals

No/Low Regrets goals include those specific actions that were identified by the IBCC during its November 2012 and March 2013 meetings. They are based on commonalities amongst various portfolios that were developed by each BRT during 2011 and 2012. These actions are needed no matter what future Colorado will face, and therefore can be considered as near term implementation strategies. The No/Low Regrets goals are as follows:

1. *Minimize Statewide Acres Transferred (per Basin Goals) and Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects.*
2. *Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply.*
3. *Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies.*
4. *Implement Nonconsumptive Projects.*
5. *Have a High Success Rate for Identified Projects and Processes [IPPs].*
6. *Implement Storage and Other Infrastructure.*
7. *Implement Reuse Strategies.*

Table 1 summarizes these goals and suggests measurable outcomes that were included in the [No/Low Regrets Action Plan](#) and includes page references so that BRTs can get additional detail. Additionally, Table 1 provides example actions BRTs may want to include in their BIPs in order to address these goals and satisfy measurable outcomes.

### Colorado's Water Plan Goals

While implementation of No/Low Regrets goals and actions meet the "low" scenario, it may be necessary for BIPs to develop additional goals and measurable outcomes that, when combined with the No/Low Regrets goals, meet Colorado's water supply needs for all scenarios. These additional BIP goals should support the directives listed in the executive order, which are incorporated into the following Long-Term goals:

1. Meet Community Water Needs throughout Colorado
2. Meet Colorado's Agricultural Needs
3. Meet Colorado's Environmental and Recreational Needs
4. Meet Colorado's Water Quality Management Needs

**Table 2** further refines the Long-Term goals and suggests measurable outcomes and BIP actions that BRTs may consider. To assist with the development of the associated measurable outcomes, basin-specific water supply needs are provided in **Appendix B** for all five IBCC future scenarios. More information on these future scenarios can be found in the [draft SWSI 2016 Chapter: Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management](#).

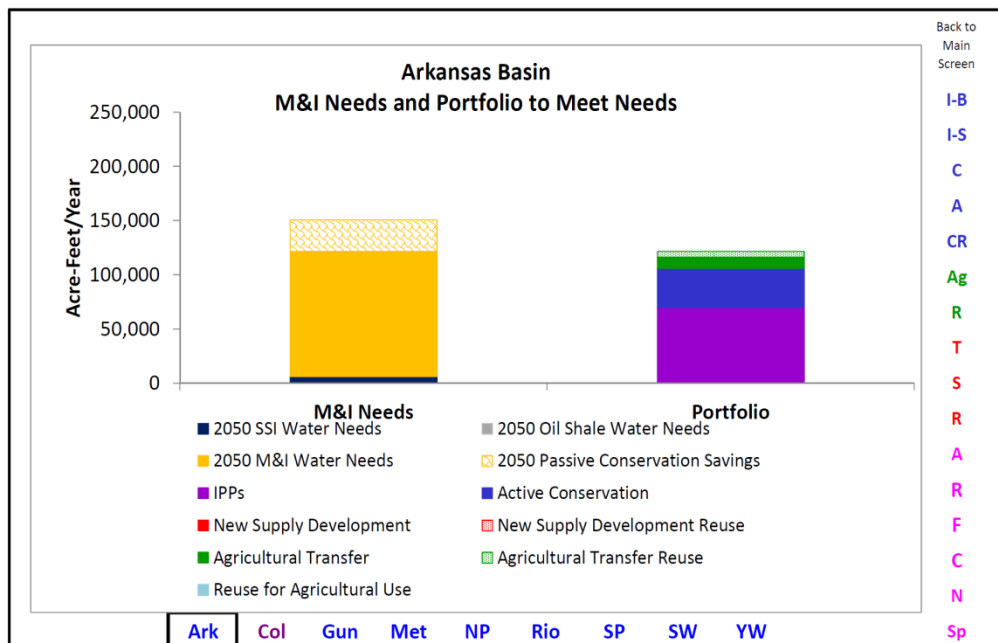


## Colorado's Water Plan Goals

Table 3. BIP Goals Relationship to Long-Term Goals

		Long-Term Goals			
		Meet Community Water Needs Throughout Colorado	Meet Colorado's Agricultural Needs	Meet Colorado's Environmental and Recreational Needs	Meet Colorado's Water Quality Management Needs
No/Low Regrets Goals	Minimize Statewide Acres Transferred (per Basin Goals) and Implement Agricultural Sharing Projects	X	X		
	Plan and Preserve Options for Existing and New Supply	X	X	X	X
	Establish Low/Medium Conservation Strategies	X	X	X	
	Implement Nonconsumptive Projects		X	X	X
	Have a High Success Rate for Identified Projects and Processes	X	X		
	Implement Storage and Other Infrastructure	X	X	X	
	Implement Reuse Strategies	X	X	X	
Meet Community Water Needs	Use water efficiently to reduce overall future water needs	X	X	X	
	Identify additional projects and processes to meet the water supply gap for communities while balancing the needs of agriculture, the environment, and recreation across the state	X	X	X	X
	Meet community water needs during periods of drought	X			
Meet Agricultural Needs	Ensure agriculture remains a viable economic driver in Colorado, supporting food security, jobs, and rural communities while maintaining and protecting private property rights		X		
	Meet Colorado's Agricultural Demands		X		
	Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production	X	X	X	
Meet Environmental & Recreational Needs	Promote restoration, recovery and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities	X	X	X	X
	Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies derived from environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking			X	X
	Support the development of multi-purpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.	X	X	X	X
	Protect, maintain and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability			X	X
	Maintain watershed health – protect or restore watershed that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas	X	X	X	X
Meet WQ Needs	Provide Safe Drinking Water to Colorado's Citizens and Visitors	X	X		X
	Monitor, Protect and Improve Water Quality for All Classified Uses	X	X	X	X

## Portfolio Tool Assessment



## **Going Forward**

- ❖ Goals and Measurable Outcomes
  - Will be discussed at March 6, 2014 Statewide Roundtable Summit
  - Presented to CWCB board at March, 2014 Meeting
- ❖ Communication and Outreach
- ❖ “This page intentionally NOT left blank”

## **DISCUSSION OF GOALS & OUTREACH (follow-up to last month’s discussion):**

We’ve mentioned storage many times, but re-use only once.

We should get all the water we are entitled to from the Arkansas River.

Watershed protection.

Community outreach must be modified for different corners of the basin.

Education.

Consolidate the goals and look at where we’re missing the boat.

Moving the meetings around and/or have focus groups. Take advantage of existing meetings.

Water rights are personal property rights.

Fire mitigation and watershed health go hand in hand.

Work towards a quantified conservation strategy.

More scenario planning for aftermath of fire and flood.

Decline of designated groundwater basins creates another gap.

Protect remaining shareholders in ditch companies.

How do you integrate land use planning with water?

Each RT member ought to commit to going to their constituents and bring back feedback.

Storage for non-consumptive uses.

Writers on the Range, regional group of writers that get published in local papers. A speaker’s bureau and a writers bureau.

Mutual benefit and cooperation between all of the watersheds.

Keep more water in Colorado.

Study where more storage is needed. Consider expansion of existing facilities.

Protect recreation and the money it provides. Upstream Wetlands keep reservoirs from silting in.

Groundwater aquifer storage.

Pumping the Denver Basin aquifer dry and then looking for the next solution is wasting a drought-tolerant resource.

The executive committee will put together a powerpoint and make it available to RT members to take to meetings.

Reach out to Soil Conservation Districts and business leadership communities.

USGS would welcome the invitation to be a part of the process.

## **Other Business:**

Next Meeting: January 8, 2014; CSU Pueblo