



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Meeting Notes
March 12, 2014
CSU-Pueblo, Occhiato Center

Roundtable Business

Betty Konarski called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty nine (29) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

February minutes

With a revision of wording, February minutes were approved.

Public Comment - none

Report of the Executive Committee

As we move into the public participation phase of the Basin Implementation Plan work, we are enlisting the help of all Roundtable members. When you meet and talk with folks, Elise Bergsten will be your contact point to feed information back as we document meetings for the BIP. Please let her know where you went, who was there, and what their feedback was.

We will add some tools to assist you, including information for your constituents via the web, and procedures as to flow of communication.

IBCC Report

Both Jay and Jeris had positive feedback regarding the last IBCC meeting. East and West Slope representatives are openly discussing the development of New Supply and an additional transmountain diversion. Alan reported that there was enough progress that a special meeting was scheduled for March 25th in order to continue the discussion of the development of New Supply from the Colorado River.

CWCB Report

The CWCB meets next week in Denver. They'll be spending a half day talking about the Colorado Water Plan. On Tuesday there will be a chance for public input on the Colorado Water Plan. They'll also be considering in-stream flow recommendations, some of which are in our basin. Here is a link to their website: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/public-information/board-meetings-agendas/Pages/March2013Agenda.aspx>

A CWCB meeting will be held May 21-22 at the Pueblo Convention Center.

Feedback on the Roundtable Summit

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable was well represented at the Statewide Roundtable Summit, with 20 or more in attendance. Thanks to all who were able to attend. Those in attendance made comments as to the conversations that were taking place at their tables, as follows:

Storage, infrastructure, and related permitting
Conservation

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Prior Appropriations Doctrine
Importance of water for Agriculture
Aquifer depletion and lack of surface water
IPPS and storage projects
How will projects be prioritized by the state?
Lots of work on getting Ag elevated.
Folks were nervous about the BIP process and the Colorado Water Plan.
Basins were carving out placeholders for any possible future projects.
Balance between consumptive and non-consumptive
Ag value to economy and environment
Need to make sure that the public understands our language – acronyms
Conjunction between water and land use
Control belongs at local level
What use will be made of the plan?
How will the plan be implemented?
Looking for a better inventory of non-consumptive needs
How do we draw people in to this and for what meaning?
Protecting the rural economy, especially if there is a ag fallowing process.
Where will the funding come from?
Risk management on the Colorado River
Time to re-engage roundtable to roundtable
Watershed health was embraced by the public
Storage needs to meet multiple needs to have widespread approval.

Managing the Basin Implementation Plan Process

We're asking Roundtable members to take the BIP on the road, give presentations themselves, and ask for feedback via the Public Input form. A disk has been prepared for each RT member. Elise described the contents of the disk. Gary Barber gave the PowerPoint presentation that is on the disk.

Betty asked Roundtable members to pick up a CD, and then to gather at the side wall to commit to scheduling and hosting meetings in various parts of the basin.

BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Section 3.0 Constraints and Opportunities – Overview by Mark McCluskey

This presentation is available on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's website: www.arkansasbasin.com, under the tab: BIP in Progress.

Other Business

Next meeting April 9, 2014, CSU-Pueblo. We'll start early, at 11:30 am, and lunch will be provided for Roundtable members.

The meeting was adjourned.

Links

<http://coloradowaterplan.com/>

www.ArkansasBasin.com