

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
February 11, 2015
CSU-Pueblo, Occhiato Center
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Jim Broderick called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty one (31) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

January minutes

January minutes were approved by consensus.

Public Comment

James Eccher, the Mayor of Walsenburg introduced himself and thanked Roundtable members for the work they are doing. He invited members to connect with him if they have any questions or concerns about his region.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Jay Winner

Jeris – The IBCC Conceptual Agreement has now become the IBCC Conceptual Framework.

Jay – Four sub-committees were formed that will be working on conservation, funding, legislation, and trans-mountain diversion.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

The CWCB met jointly with Colorado Water Congress on January 26 & 27. CWCB declared intent to file an additional 20 Instream Flow Agreements. The Catlin Canal lease/fallow pilot project was approved. There is a handout on the side table regarding the Colorado Water Plan that includes a timeline and update. On the back of the handout, chapters that include language in red are looking for stakeholder feedback, and will be addressed at the March 12th Roundtable Summit. An additional 2,000 comments were received on the draft Colorado Water Plan from October 11th through January 4th, bringing the total to 15,000 comments received. CWCB staff responds to every comment.

The WSRA grant application: Lower Arkansas Valley Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency Working Group, was approved. SECWCD was the applicant, and this application was approved by the roundtable last December.

The Catlin Canal lease/fallow project was also approved. 60 terms and conditions are attached to the project. It's important to get a pilot project started, in order to discover what works and what does not.

Alan announced that Jim Broderick is the new Chair for Colorado Water Congress for the next year.

Election of Vice-Chair Position on Executive Committee

Brett Gracely and Sandy White expressed interest by email prior to the meeting. Jim opened the floor to additional nominations, but none were made. Written ballots were passed out to the voting members. The nominees introduced themselves.

Sandy White was elected as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee.

PRESENTATION (Presentations, in full, are available on the Roundtable website)

PPRWA Regional Infrastructure Study – Phase I, Sean Chambers and Will Koger

Outline

1. Background
2. Study Goals
3. Study Findings
4. Implementation
5. Next Steps

Roundtable members asked questions and discussed the presentation. Concerns expressed included the concern that water would be taken from the Arkansas River to provide for future water supply, and the need for land use planning.

PPRWA has led efforts to collaborate regarding the measurement of transit loss, leading to more efficient use of existing water supply, as well as managing AF CURE, a regional water quality monitoring effort regarding discharges.

Discussion then turned to finalizing the conditional approval of the grant application presented in January, the Regional Water Infrastructure Project – Preliminary Engineering of Area 3 Facilities.

This phase is designed to get project participants to the point where they need to import less water. It stands alone and lessens the gap, even if following phases are not completed. It is crucial to solving the gap anticipated by de-watering the Denver Basin aquifer before that occurs.

GRANT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

PPRWA Infrastructure Project – Area 3 Preliminary Engineering

\$26,000	Basin
\$100,000	Statewide
\$45,000	Partner Match

This project was approved by consensus, with a letter of dissent to be provided by one dissenting member.

PRESENTATION

Policy Statement on the Importance of Agriculture

Overview: Since 2005

- ❖ Dr. James Pritchett
 - 2006 Valuation Study
 - 2010-11 Drought Impact Study
- ❖ Ag to Muni Transfer Committee
- ❖ 2009 Needs Report – 2012 Update Memorandum
- ❖ SWSI 2010 response by Arkansas Basin Roundtable
 - Value of Agriculture Committee
 - CSU Salcone/Pritchett Economic Study
 - Valuing Colorado's Agriculture Conference
- ❖ Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (contains reports from the above-listed efforts)

Proposed Executive Summary Language

"The preservation of irrigated agriculture in the Arkansas Basin shall be given a high priority in the state water plan. It is too important to tourism, the preservation of food production, recreation, the environment, and the health and well being of our citizens as well as the economy of the State of Colorado to be ignored."

BREAK

ARKANSAS BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Update and Next Steps

Three Steps

January 2015: Preliminary Needs List

February 2015: Master Needs List

March 2015: IPP List

IPP as defined in SWSI 2016 Glossary

IPPs must meet the following criteria:

- The project or method has a project or method proponent.
- When the proponent is a retail water provider, the project or method is being used to meet the water supply needs of its customers by 2050.
- When the project proponent is a wholesale water provider, at least one retail water provider must express interest in writing and plan on using the project or method to meet the water supply needs of its customers by 2050.
- The project or method must have at least preliminary planning, design, conditional or absolute water rights, rights of way, and/or negotiations captured in writing with local governments that the water project could affect.
- Re non-consumptive: The project proponent plans to utilize the project to meet Nonconsumptive needs by 2050.
- Re non-consumptive: The project or method must have at least one of the following: preliminary planning, design, conditional or absolute water rights, rights of way, and/or negotiations captured in writing with local governments or consumptive water users that the project could affect.
- ***The water supply needs must be identified and included in the Basin Implementation Plan and/or SWSI documents.***

Preliminary Needs List

- Meets the minimum SWSI criteria: "*Water supply needs must be identified and included in the Basin Implementation Plan*"
- A Solution can be articulated
- Does not require a Plan of Action to implement the solution

At this time:

- About 50% response to request so far
- The current list contains 555 lines of "Needs"
 - 209 Completed (mainly CWCB In-stream flow filings from SWSI 2010 Report)
 - 37 Concept
 - 111 Planned
 - 101 Implementation On-Going

- 97 Blank (no status provided)

Master Needs List

- Needs that have an identified “Plan of Action” will continue onto the Master Needs List
- Kyle’s example
 - Need: Replacement water for Denver Basin non-renewable groundwater in El Paso County
 - Solution: Tow icebergs from Alaska to Colorado
 - Plan of Action?

Next for the Master Needs List

- The Lat_Long coordinates will auto-populate the spreadsheet
 - CDM Smith will set coordinates
- The quality of the Master Needs List will be determined by the quality of the data provided

Project Summary Sheet

- Project Summary Sheets are generated from the data in the Master Needs List
- Multi-county projects will be captured in each county
- They will include a link to a website if appropriate

Summary/Next Steps

- To finalize the Master Needs List we need data request responses by February 25th
- The Project Team will generate the Lat_Long information for the data
- To finalize the Master Needs List we need data request responses in two weeks
- Your support and participation greatly appreciated

To finalize the Master Needs List we need data request responses nine days after Valentine’s Day

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – March 11th, 12:30 pm, at Pueblo Community College. (this meeting later cancelled)

Adjourn

Adjourned at 3:00 pm

Links:

www.arkansasbasin.com Presentations made at Roundtable meetings can usually be found on the roundtable website, along with agendas and meeting notes. A link to Phase I of the Basin Implementation Plan may also be found, along with other information regarding the Arkansas Basin. <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>