

MEETING NOTES
Arkansas Basin Roundtable
December 10, 2014
CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center

Roundtable Business

SeEtta Moss called the meeting to order at 12:35 am. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty one (21) members were present. There are 40 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of October 8th

A motion to approve the minutes of October 8th was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Valda Teravols, Bureau of Reclamation – Valda provided Reclamation WaterSMART & Rural Water Programs flyers concerning grant opportunities for watersheds, planning, conservation and efficiency projects.

Jason Willis, Trout Unlimited – The Lake Fork Watershed Working Group (LFWWG), formed in 2000 to address water quality issues associated with historic mining in the Lake Fork Watershed, has elected to expand the group to focus on a larger geographic area. The group will now focus on the entire headwaters of the Arkansas River upstream of Granite, including the Twin Lakes area. The new group is called the Headwaters of the Arkansas Watershed Group (HAWG). The HAWG recognizes the need for landscape scale collaboration, would like to be involved in the Arkansas Basin Watershed Health Coalition, and hopes that it will foster better communication throughout the basin by serving as the conduit between on-the-ground local groups regarding projects and activities.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson

Jeris – The IBCC's Annual Report is available on the side table. The Governor receives the draft Colorado Water Plan today. The CWCB will seek public input to the draft. The 2015 Statewide Basin Roundtable Summit will be held in early March. Please consider attending the Summit.

Conservation Committee Report – Jay Winner

There was an IBCC Conservation Subcommittee meeting in October. The group agreed to some ideas as a starting place for future Subcommittee discussions. (summary available at meeting)

1. There should be a minimum statewide water conservation target of 320,000 acre feet by 2050, which includes 150,000 acre-feet from passive and 170,000 acre-feet from active conservation efforts.
2. There should also be a statewide stretch water conservation target with interim targets, using 2010 as the baseline.
3. There should be a list of strategies for achieving the statewide goal.

The Subcommittee agreed that CWCB should be sure that the current draft of Colorado's Water Plan is clear that the minimum statewide target is already viewed as a statewide conservation target.

CWCB Report – Jay Winner

The WSRA Annual Report is also available today. Since inception, almost \$58,000,000 has been granted for 289 projects across Colorado. 33 of those projects were funded in the Arkansas Basin, the most projects in any basin. We're second in dollars received, at over \$8,200,000. Jay encouraged members to bring new grant projects forward.

SUCCESS STORY – Blue Mesa/Aspinall Unit Study – Mark McCluskey

Project overview

- To evaluate the potential use of excess capacity in Blue Mesa Reservoir to avoid or reduce the impact of a Colorado River Compact curtailment in Colorado.
- Supports the work of the Water Bank Group, the Compact Compliance Study, and is coordinated with the Basin Study.
- Jointly funded and supported by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

See www.arkansasbasin.com for full presentations.

ARKANSAS BASIN WATERSHED HEALTH – Mark Shea, Paul Crespin, Carol Ekarius

Watershed Health Planning is about protecting the functional integrity of the hydrologic, biologic, physical and built environment depended on for water supply and quality.

Goal: Build resiliency in social and ecological systems to mitigate watershed health risks.

BIP Recommendation: Form a collaborative group to continue the work of the Watershed Health Coalition.

Suggested Structure: Arkansas Basin Roundtable – high level strategy and goals
 Arkansas River Watershed Coalition – resources, facilitation, accountability
 Sub-Watershed Coalitions – boots on the ground, local issues and goals

RT members asked questions and discussed whether to form this group as a sub-committee of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. The RT Executive Committee recommended that Mark Shea be appointed as an At-Large Non-Voting member of the Roundtable.

Roundtable members agreed by consensus to form the Arkansas River Watershed Coalition as a sub-committee of the Roundtable, with Mark Shea as committee Chair.

WSRA GRANT REQUEST – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency Working Group – Jean Van Pelt

Applicant: Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Basin Funds: \$30,000

Problem

- Radionuclides in source water
 - Creates drinking water quality issues
 - May invoke CO Solid Waste Reg (section9)
 - Creates residual issues (for past and future disposal)
- Need to Determine:
 - Path to regulatory compliance
 - Engineering design and operation plan
 - Demonstration plan showing site-specific data that the operations pose little risk to groundwater resources.

Issues

- Limited resources locally
- Inconsistent interactions with State
- Compliance dates have passed
- Multiple issues with the State CDPHE

Working Group Objectives

- Identify workable solutions for the appropriate management of water resources in the Arkansas Valley in light of the AVC that will replace currently impacted water sources.
- Support local water companies that have limited financing options available to maintain and upgrade infrastructure and sustain regulatory response investments.
- Develop a consistent application of the regulations to entities that are impacted.

Cash and In-kind contributions total over half of the total project cost of \$72,021.

The grant application was approved by roundtable consensus.

SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR CONTRACTS, BIP Phase 2 – Jay Winner, Gary Barber

The first three chapters will come to the roundtable in January or February, followed by the fourth section, which will come in parts. Much emphasis will be put on the development of a master list of needs and defined solutions.

Flow Chart

Historic list of IPP's and Methods from 2009/2012 Meeting the Needs Report

Some are in process or completed

Some will carry forward to a master list

Preliminary list of all needs by region and county

Historic needs identified

Public outreach process, phase I of BIP

NonConsumptive lists

Roundtable committees: Value of Ag, Watershed Health Coalition

Public agencies: Conservancy Districts, Utilities, Division of Water Resources

Once we have the list, it will be put through a roundtable review process

Working Master List of Needs by Region and County

Identify solutions and plans of action

Does this meet IPP criteria?

If not, work with local entities, WCDs and DWR to provide support

If yes, it goes on the IPP list

Summary

Develop master needs list from all sources

Define solutions

AG DISCUSSION PAPER – Gary Barber

Tabled until next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – January 14, 2014, at CSU-Pueblo, Occhiato Center
- Adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Links:

Information regarding the Arkansas Basin, including meeting agendas, minutes and presentations may be found on our website, at: www.arkansasbasin.com A link to the draft Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan may also be found there.

General information regarding water in Colorado may be found at:

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>

Information regarding Colorado's Water Plan may be found at: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>