

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
October 14, 2015 – CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Jim Broderick called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty four (24) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Public Comment

Dennis Hisey, El Paso County Commissioner spoke about El Paso County. The county covers 2,200 square miles, and his district, the mostly rural southeastern portion, includes half of the land mass of the county. Dennis assured the roundtable that commissioners understand that they're part of the watershed, that land use and stormwater affect downstream users, and that EPC doesn't want to harm those users.

Steve Miller was present and introduced Lane Malone, the new State of Colorado Arkansas River Compact Representative appointed by Governor Hickenlooper recently. Lane represents the area below John Martin Reservoir IBCC Rep for the Arkansas River Compact. They now have an Arkansas River Compact website, found at: <http://www.co-ks-arkansasrivercompactadmin.org/home.html>. Lane farms on the Amity between Lamar and Bristol.

Approval of Minutes of September 10th

After a change was made to the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes of September 10th 2015 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner and Jeris Danielson

The IBCC has not met since our last Roundtable meeting, and they don't expect to meet again until after the first of next year.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

Things continue to be busy at CWCB. At September's meeting in Montrose, the Arkansas Basin brought seven WSRA grants, all of which were approved. Our basin is now past the \$10 million mark in total monies received. 72 grants have been awarded in this basin. All Arkansas Basin grant applicants had representatives at the meeting, and Alan thanked them for attending.

A lot of effort has been going in to the Colorado Water Plan, which the CWCB is trying now to finalize. CWCB staff is working long hours, and the board had major input again recently. CWCB has now received 30,000 comments. They have moved the delivery date from December 10th to November 19th.

The action side of the Plan appears in Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9; and Chapter 10 is the critical action piece of the Colorado Water Plan. Alan recommended that all members read that chapter. Critical action items have been narrowed down to 36. The board also worked with staff on measurable objectives.

Alan complimented the Arkansas Roundtable on their exemplary job in moving from planning to action. He also thanked RT members, their associates, and all those that have collaborated and cooperated in giving input to our Basin Implementation Plan.

Non-Consumptive Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

No meeting has been scheduled at this time.

Watershed Health Collaborative – Mark Shea and Deb Phenecie

Mark announced the next meeting of the full collaborative, which is scheduled for October 28th, at the El Pueblo History Museum. They'll be discussing the mission and structure of the collaborative, as well as calling for projects.

Deb invited members to join the collaborative by giving her their email addresses. She will then forward an email to them including a project survey. She would like to see representation from around the basin. Deb also announced CWCB's Phreatophyte Grant program, and invited members to ask for her help in applying for those funds.

BIP Coordination Process –Jay Winner

Two applicants applied for the position. Jay sent them both a Scope of Work, and asked them to write a grant from that scope. Only one of the applicants turned in a grant, and Jay is negotiating with that applicant to get them under contract.

Funding Needs - Jay

For some time now, Jay has been trying to find a way to help small privately-held water companies who have been ineligible for most funding sources. There are over a thousand of these companies in the state. Many funding sources have traditionally been available only to governmental agencies. Legislation has now been passed so that these small water companies can become eligible for funds, the caveat being that they must have non-profit status. Jay organized a meeting to reach out to these companies in the Arkansas Basin, expecting a small turn-out; but around 100 people attended the meeting. Representatives from various funding agencies talked about their funding sources and requirements. It was a productive and informative meeting, and more meetings will be held around the basin and around the state.

PEPO - Jay

At a recent CWCB meeting, the Rio Grande Roundtable came forward with a larger PEPO grant for about \$45,000. The applicant stressed the education and outreach work it would take to increase public buy-in and understanding. Jay and Carla reconnected with the Water 2012 team, and they started to write a multi-year PEPO grant application. Jay thanked Al Tucker for taking the lead on this effort, which will be brought to the roundtable for approval today.

Bylaws – Sandy White

The Executive Committee would like to get the bylaws to conform with the operations that we've found effective and efficient to date. We would like to form a Bylaws Committee to take a look at the bylaws and come up with some revisions. Al Tucker agreed to lead the Bylaws Committee. Proposed changes will be brought to the Roundtable for approval in a few months. If you're interested in participating on this committee, please let Al know. You can contact him directly, or let Elise know that you are interested.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

PROPOSED CANDIDATES: November 2015 – October 2016

Chair: Sandy White

Vice-Chair M&I: Terry Book

Vice-Chair Non-Consumptive: SeEtta Moss

IBCC Representative Two: Jeris Danielson

Secretary (Recorder): Terry Scanga

PEPO: Brett Gracely OR Al Tucker

OTHER POSITIONS (not up for election)

CWCB Representative: Alan Hamel

IBCC Representative One: Jay Winner

IBCC Representative Alternate: Jim Broderick

Past Chair: Jim Broderick

Brett Gracely withdrew his nomination for PEPO representative.

The proposed slate was approved by consensus.

GRANT APPLICATIONS (see arkansasbasin.com for presentations):

PEPO: Implementing the Education & Outreach Goals of the ArkBIP through Education to Action Projects/Programs over a 3-Year Period – Julia Gallucci

Basin Funds Requested: \$50,000 x 3 years = \$150,000

In-Kind Match: \$72,000

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum

- 501(c)(3) partnering with Ark Basin PEPO Committee & Ark Roundtable Executive Committee
- Established in 1995
- Goal: create dialogue among water users and decision makers throughout the Arkansas River Basin

Our Proposal

- \$50,000 in Basin Funds annually for a three year period (2016-2018)
- Arkansas River Basin Documentary and Webisodes
- Arkansas Basin Water Festivals
- Summer Library Reading Program Activity Books
- Education to Action Program
- Project Coordinator

Objectives

1. To offer education and outreach on issues and concerns identified in the ArkBIP.
2. To provide an understanding for the need of storage and other planned projects in the Ark Basin and identified in the ArkBIP.
3. To engage and provide education to a vast audience through proven outreach mechanisms.
4. To promote diverse perspectives, outlooks and concerns from water users representing agricultural, municipal, recreational and environmental needs.
5. To create an understanding of how various and diverse users compete and cooperate to share this limited resource.

Our Commitment to the Ark Basin

1. Arkansas River Basin Documentary & Webisodes
 - Documentary research, filming, production (2016-17)
 - Promotion and airing on Rocky Mountain PBS (2017-18)
 - Webisodes linked and promoted online (2017-18)
 - Anticipate 100,000 PBS viewers and tens of thousands online
2. Arkansas Basin Water Festivals
 - Toolkit to support current and new events (2016)
 - 4-H Mini Festivals in small communities (2017)
 - New Festivals in Salida & Colorado Springs (2018)
 - Connect with 100-250 family members per each mini festival and 500-1,000 family members for new (Salida and Colorado Springs) festivals

3. Summer Library Reading Program Activity Books
 - Collaborate with libraries and water entities throughout the Basin (2016-18)
 - Develop, print and distribute via public library summer reading programs (2016-18)
 - Tens of thousands of family members will learn about water supply, hydrologic cycle, watershed management, stormwater management, water conservation and engineering
 - We will measure the impact and success of this program through participating libraries
4. Education to Action Program
 - Promote three ArkBIP identified projects per year in three, related geographic locations (2016-18)
 - Offer in context of education about water in Colorado and sustainability for economies within the Ark Basin
 - Connect with 75-200 key government and non-government stakeholders at each event
5. Project Coordinator
 - Key to successful administration and task management of all grant programs, partnerships and outreach objectives
 - Hired by ARBWF Board
 - Reports to Ark Basin Roundtable Executive Committee

Evaluation Criteria

- Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs
 - Grant programs necessitate collaboration
 - Partnership: ARBWF, PEPO Committee, Ark Roundtable
 - Outreach for projects identified in ArkBIP
- Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation
 - Programs are low-hanging fruit of opportunity for the Basin
 - Great commitment: annual match of more than 48% of project costs from in-kind services provided by Conservancy Districts, Colorado Water Institute, Pueblo Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, and volunteers.
- Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits
 - The WSRA funding will assure a high level of benefit to a broader group of Colorado citizens in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
 - Water experts will focus their efforts on highly-productive programs.
 - These programs will support all perspectives.
 - These programs are transferrable throughout the state and provide leadership from the Ark Basin.

This grant application was approved by consensus.

Huerfano-Cucharas Water Right Administration – Gage Rehabilitation, Groundwater Monitoring and Futile Call Modeling – Sandy White

Basin Funds Requested: \$20,000

Statewide Funds: \$93,400

Partner Match/Other Funds: \$199,000

Improvements

- Gages (7 repaired + 2 new)
- Monitoring Wells (5)
- Data Collection
- Model

Cucharas River Harrison Bridge D/S La Veta

"The channel acts as the control at all stages of flow [and is] very unstable and unpredictable at low and high flows. A more reliable constructed control and channel work would provide less of a fluctuation in the rating shifts seen at this site."

Huerfano River at Badito

"The control is a constructed channel section. It is generally inaccurate at all stages and has consistently been problematic in reliably providing good data. This is the worst gage in Division 2. The recent addition of a radar level sensor has improved the quality of data collected, but the ability to quantify flow effectively is a good, stable control structure away."

Huerfano River below Huerfano Valley Dam near Undercliffe

"The gage in the river itself does not function anymore. It has isolated and is damaged, plus the river channel itself is the control and constantly shifts during the infrequent, but highly turbulent flows. Building a control structure in the adjacent canal would provide the support necessary to administer water rights off of the Huerfano River at this location."

This grant application moved forward by consensus.

PRESENTATION: Fountain Creek Flood Control Water Rights Study – Larry Small and Abby Ortega

Water Rights Protection Task

- Formation of a technical group
 - Provide Technical Input
 - Identify Water Rights potentially impacted
 - Develop Guidelines for operation
 - Identify Fatal Flaws

Established Guidelines

- Looked at flood frequency
- What actually works within the call regime
- Review assumptions
 - Flow is over 10,000 cfs
 - Release rate is 500 cfs or greater
 - Release as the hydrograph falls

(Presentation may be found at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Summary

- Methodology works for allocating water temporarily stored
 - Higher flow rates would reduce the number of flood events stored
 - Lower flow rates would increase the number of flood events stored
 - For the purpose of allocating water it is recommended that the flow rate not be lower than the 10,000 cfs evaluated here.
- Storage of peak flows greater than 10,000 cfs results in relatively small volumes of water being stored
- TLAP is reasonable for allocating water down the Arkansas River

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – November 11th, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Interested in PEPO? Email Elise, who will email Al Tucker
- Arkansas Basin RT: www.arkansasbasin.com
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>