

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
January 13, 2016 - Occhiato Center, CSU-Pueblo

Members/Guests Present

Sandy White, Brent Newman, Alan Hamel, Jay Winner, Terry Scanga, Terry Book, Al Tucker, Jeris Danielson, Gary Barber, Mark Shea, Gary Barber, Deb Phenicie, Brett Gracely

Needs Assessment (see worksheet from GB)

Summary of Applications – Jay Winner

- La Junta Flood Mitigation – LAVWCD
- McClave Water Delivery – McClave Water Association
- Upper Ark Multi Phase 1 - UAVWCD
- Flood Control Alternatives for FC - FCWFCGD
- Ditch Infrastructure Repair – Purgatoire RWCD

Basin Fund Total: \$118,007

Statewide Fund Total: \$280,944

Loan: \$60,000

These grants will go to the March CWCB meeting, which will be held in La Junta. Attendees discussed criteria and guidelines, as well as alternative funding sources.

WSRA Briefing – Brent Newman

The CWCB is expecting a 25 – 50% cut in January, meaning the basin will receive 60 – 100k. The finance chapter of the CWP addresses the challenges ahead. The current funding source is not really connected to the need for water projects.

CWCB wants to see higher Basin funds to match State funds, to show basin support of projects. In grant applications, talk about basin goals and CWP goals. Tie to BIP and to Colorado Water Plan.

Brent and members discussed the supplemental scoring matrix. For statewide funds, it ties criteria to the 3 tiers. It doesn't preclude projects for funding, and the CWCB board still has final discretion in funding projects. The matrix was put in place before the BIPs and CWP were finalized. Changes would be made in October. Brent encouraged the RT to send IBCC reps with basin concerns regarding the matrix.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion to approve the Executive Committee meeting notes of November 11 and December 9, 2015 was duly made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

CWCB – Alan Hamel and Brent Newman

CWCB will be asking for \$2,000,000 for 2016/2017 to update SWSI.

2018/2019 Update BIPs

2020/2021 Update Colorado Water Plan

IBCC – Jay Winner, Jeris Danielson

The IBCC will meet at the end of February.

PEPO liaison – Al Tucker

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held in April at the Salida Steamplant. There will be a VIP dinner the evening prior. The PEPO contract will be signed soon. Al asked permission to ask roundtable member entities to be sponsors.

Non-Consumptive Needs Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

The committee met last week. In future, SeEtta will send meeting notices to Elise, who will send out to entire RT membership.

Watershed Health Sub-Committee – Mark Shea

Mark discussed stakeholder meetings that have been held in the last two months. He suggested the possibility of developing best practices for infrastructure projects so that they can satisfy non-consumptive elements.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Deb Phenicie (see report)

Deb asked attendees for their feedback regarding the La Junta meeting. Feedback was positive.

Members discussed the possible opportunity to access 319 funds through Department of Ag for water quality projects in the Lower Ark valley, and the intersection with Watershed Health.

Mark asked for a mandate from the roundtable as to water quality issues. This is a state priority, but has not been a priority focus of stakeholders attending the meetings thus far.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (see January 6th and 13th reports)

Three categories of projects were presented for discussion:

- A. Current priority project activities
- B. Monitoring progress and available for assistance
- C. Pursue projects subject to further diligence and direction of Executive Committee

Gary described projects that are currently on the list, and members gave feedback. Brett Gracely discussed the Granite (Homestake) Diversion. Lake Isabel was added to Category B. The list remains dynamic.

Direction of BIP Coordinator – Jay Winner

Jay asked whether Gary should be chasing watershed health funds, or whether the Watershed Health Coordinator should be looking for those funds, especially at the federal level. Members discussed, and encouraged collaboration.

Bylaws Committee – Al Tucker

A motion to recommend approval of the draft bylaws to the Roundtable was made, seconded and approved. The bylaws will be sent to the membership for review and approval in February.

Membership Vacancies – Sandy White

There are 18 – 19 vacancies. Reeves Brown has resigned. His position was an At-Large Water Rights Owner. Reed Dils is also planning to resign, and would like to be replaced by Drew Peternell. Discussed proposed action to fill vacancies.

Policy on support letters for grant applications – Terry Book

Executive Committee members were emailed a draft policy, which brings consistency to this subject. A motion to approve the draft policy was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Designation of Notice Posting Place

LAVWCD

UAWCD

PBWW

SECWCD and CSU may be added. In future, executive committee agenda and minutes will also be posted on website.