

**ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE**  
**MEETING NOTES**  
May 11, 2016 Occhiato Center, CSU-Pueblo

**Note**

Most presentations can be found in their entirety on our website, at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com). Some, but not all content is presented in these notes.

**Roundtable Business**

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty nine (29) members were present.

**Approval of Minutes of April**

With a change of date, a motion to approve the minutes of April 2016 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**Public Comment - none**

**Executive Committee Report – Sandy White**

The Executive Committee met this morning, and all matters discussed will be covered elsewhere in this meeting.

**IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Jay Winner**

The IBCC met in February and will meet again in Salida on May 24. Jay is a member of a sub-committee to update the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines. That group will meet the day before the IBCC meeting.

**CWCB Report – Alan Hamel, Brent Newman**

The CWCB meets next week in Del Norte.

Brent – SWSI update. The scope for various consultants is being developed at this time.

Regarding future WSRA funding, the Colorado Supreme Court has informed the state that oil and gas developers have been paying too much and are owed a refund of around \$110 million. How that money will be refunded remains to be seen, but it may cause WSRA funding to take an additional hit.

**Needs Assessment Committee – Jay Winner**

**GRANT APPLICATION: Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company Reservoir #1's Outlet Flow Measurement Upgrade, Phase 1 – Nick Koch**

**Overview**

- Location
- Current Conditions & Need
- Plan of Action to Implement a Solution
  - Budget & Schedule
  - Objectives
  - Design
  - Budget Summary

**Project Need Defined**

- Measure low flow conditions to comply with Division 2 Engineer administration

- Measure 1 CFS to 14 CFS
- Recapture lost storage capacity from “repairs” to historic 10’ Parshall Flume weir
  - Holbrook Reservoir, only reservoir in Otero County, provides recreation and environmental benefits to region
  - Meets Basin Implementation Plan goal to retain existing storage capacity

#### Project Benefits

- Meets augmentation requirements for Stateline Flows, makes them more accurate
- Holbrook Reservoir is a local recreational amenity, improves usable storage capacity
- Local municipal augmentation obligations more efficient

#### Project Timing & Budget

- October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 is the estimated start date, Completion December 15, 2016
- Cash Match = 25%+
  - Holbrook Mutual Irrigating Company - \$2000
  - Recovery Of Yield Group - \$8,150.
- FUNDING SOURCE – Basin Account: \$10,000; Statewide: \$20,000
- Total Budget: \$40,150

#### Objectives

- Objective 1 – Install a 2 stage broad crested weir just upstream of the existing parshall flume.
- Objective 2 – Manage the project through construction to completion, with a final report submitted to the funding agencies.

*This grant moved forward by consensus.*

### **PRESENTATION – The Watershed Collaborative: Where did it come from? Gary Barber**

#### Overview

- ❖ Colorado’s Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans
  - How Watershed Health came into the picture
- ❖ The Sales Pitch from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable
- ❖ The Watershed Health Working Group
- ❖ Where we are now

#### The Colorado Water Plan

- ❖ May, 2013 Governor Hickenlooper’s Executive Order
- ❖ Basin Plans by July, 2014

#### Basin Implementation Plan

- ❖ CWCB Board meeting, July, 2013 in Alamosa, CO
- ❖ West Fork Fire burning in Rio Grande basin
- ❖ Watershed Health added as a category

#### Arkansas Basin Roundtable: Basin Implementation Plan—Watershed Health Working Group

#### Overview

- ❖ Watershed Health within the Basin Plan
- ❖ Arkansas is an Importing and Exporting basin
- ❖ Non-consumptive needs
- ❖ Capturing the experience of others
  - Fire Suppression
  - Post-fire recovery
  - Forest health
  - Other watershed environmental services

#### Experience/Results

- ❖ Facilitator was key
- ❖ Participation was tremendous
- ❖ Particularly the public agencies
- ❖ Hard to get the discussion away from WILD FIRE
- ❖ Session at Roundtable Summit March, 2014
- ❖ Webinar a big success
- ❖ Wheel of Fire
- ❖ Watershed Health Toolkit
  - ❖ Color coded tools
  - ❖ Progression of authority
  - ❖ Action plan
  - ❖ CUSP bylaws

#### Where We Are Now

- ❖ Watershed Health Working Group now Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
- ❖ Coalitions and Cooperatives (COCO)
- ❖ Watershed Health Coordinator
- ❖ Draft a Strategic Plan

#### **Non-consumptive Committee Report – SeEtta Moss**

No meeting since February.

#### **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Mark Shea and Carol Ekarius**

Unfortunately, we have lost our second coordinator, who was offered her dream job in Florida just after taking the position of Watershed Health Coordinator. After conversations with the Executive Committee, we will hold off trying to fill that position, and focus on developing the Strategic Plan and working on projects already underway.

#### Activity Report:

- WFDSS – GIS Resource used by incident command during a fire. We will develop a demonstration project using the Town of Victor, providing GIS data to be incorporated in the Forest Service WFDSS, and working on the prioritization of water infrastructure. In June, will use data and go through a practice incident decision-making process.
- A new focus for Watershed Health efforts, water quality is becoming a part of the discussion. Folks are especially interested in water quality below John Martin Reservoir. CDPHE and EPA have concerns about water quality there, including issues with selenium, salts and nutrients. Kansas may be able to take us to court over water quality issues.
- Forest management work in Lake County continues to move forward.
- We did not receive the grant discussed last month, but will be submitting a Water Smart grant to fund a part-time coordinator east of John Martin Reservoir.
- We will get a draft of the strategic plan to the Executive Committee in June and will present the plan to the roundtable in July.
- 47% of public lands in the Arkansas Basin are Forest Service lands. We are working on how to better engage them.

#### **PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker & Jean Van Pelt**

Al thanked Forum attendees, sponsors and participants.

WSRA Grant activities:

- The documentary is progressing. A trailer focusing on storage was shown at the ARBWF. It will also be shown at the next CWCB and IBCC meetings.
- Summer Reading Program booklet has been printed and is ready for distribution.
- PEPO will participate in the Salida Community Water Festival on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Three Education to Action events have been scheduled for the fall.
- 

#### PEPO Funding:

- Education Action Plan has been submitted and accepted. It includes a 3-year scope of work.
  - Task 1 - Participation, partnership building, and Arkansas Basin-specific education. PEPO presented at the Pueblo Children's Water Festival on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Task 2 - Water 101 Presentation for Education to Action events
  - Task 3 – Develop a mechanism to provide a line of communication between the ARBT, IBCC, CWCB and the public.
  - Task 4 – Logo, webpage and FaceBook page.

#### **Colorado River Study Technical Committee – Terry Book**

The Colorado River Risk Study technical committee has 60 members, including Terry Book, Jim Broderick and Brett Gracely from the Arkansas Basin. The first webinar covered project background and where it's headed. Two more webinars will be held for technical committee. It seems to be more of an informational committee, rather than a committee giving feedback that might impact the study.

BREAK

#### **PRESENTATION: Colorado Climate Plan – Taryn Finnessey, CWCB**

HB 13-1293

*"The general assembly hereby declares that climate change presents serious, diverse, and ongoing issues for the state's people, economy, and environment...ensure that the state is apprised of the threats that climate change poses to Colorado and the progress made to mitigate and address those threats..."*

- Development of a Plan
- Collaboration with other entities regarding climate change preparedness studies.
- Annual Report to legislature
  - Efforts to reduce emissions of gasses and to reform practices known to exacerbate climate change
  - Efforts (proposals) to prepare the state for the effects of climate change

#### Colorado Climate Plan

- Multi-sectoral state level policies and recommendations
- Includes mitigation and adaptation
- Collaborative effort by state agencies

#### *Climate Change in Colorado*

##### *A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation*

- A synthesis of climate change science important for Colorado's water supply.
- Observed trends, modeling, and projections of temperature, precipitation, snowmelt, and runoff.
- Colorado-specific findings from peer-reviewed regional studies.
- Presents new graphics derived from existing datasets.
- Released August 2014

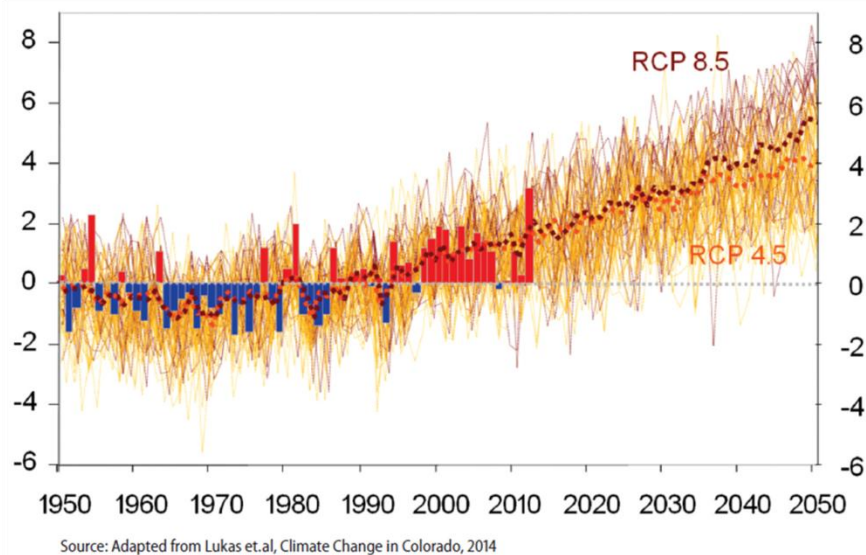
#### *Climate Change Vulnerability Study*

- Lead Agency: CEO

- Project Goal: To provide an assessment of the key climate change vulnerabilities facing Colorado's economy and resources.
- Qualitatively assesses vulnerabilities in the following sectors:
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Public Health
  - Transportation
  - Ecosystems
  - Agriculture
  - Tourism
- Conducted by researchers at CU & CSU
- Released February, 2015

**(Graphic slides here-see presentation)**

#### *Observed & Projected Annual Temperatures*



#### *2050 Temperature Projections in Context*

**2°F:** Denver's seasonal temperature cycle will become more like **Pueblo** today

**4°F:** Denver's seasonal temperature cycle will become more like **Lamar** today

**6°F:** Denver's seasonal temperature cycle will become more like **Albuquerque** today

#### *Water*

Vulnerabilities: Changes in streamflow, peak runoff and crop demands. Decreases in Snowpack. Increases in drought. Increased water temperatures. Decreased water quality.

#### *Projected climate and hydrology changes:*

Annual stream flow	decreases in majority of projections
Peak runoff timing	earlier in all projections
Crop water use	increases
April 1 snowpack	decreases in most projections
Palmer Drought Index	more drought
Heat waves	more frequent

Cold waves	less frequent
Frost-free season	longer
Wildfires	more frequent

***(Graphic slides here-see presentation)***

### **STRATEGIES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ❖ Promote and encourage water efficiency and/or conservation at the local and state agency level.
- ❖ Encourage water providers to do comprehensive integrated water resource planning, geared toward implementing the best practices at the higher customer participation levels to achieve state endorsement of projects and financial assistance.
- ❖ Support water sharing agreements where feasible and cost effective.
- ❖ Explore options to increase reuse of fully consumable water.
- ❖ Encourage opportunities for reservoir enlargement statewide (where feasible and cost effective) that could be used for municipal, agricultural, recreational and environmental purposes.
- ❖ Support improvements in Colorado's water infrastructure system by providing low-interest loans and grants, and encourage partnerships and resource-sharing with federal agencies.
- ❖ Promote and encourage drought preparedness through comprehensive drought planning and mitigation implementation.
- ❖ Identify climate change risks related to integrated water quality and water quantity management.
- ❖ Incorporate climate variability and change into long-term, statewide water planning efforts.
- ❖ Work with regulators to modify existing water quality standards to factor in climatic change into regulations.
- ❖ Work with utilities and federal agencies to identify and address regulatory barriers to climate preparedness and adaptation.
- ❖ Assist local communities in building resilience through the development and implementation of regional and local resiliency plans.
- ❖ Collaborate across jurisdictions to protect and restore ecosystems associated with healthy watersheds
- ❖ Fund and enhance existing weather monitoring systems.
- ❖ Fund and enhance stream and lake quantity and quality monitoring.

### **REPORT: ABRT Funded Projects – Alan Hamel, Brent Newman**

#### ***Presentation Outline***

1. WSRP Annual Report
2. Funded Projects Report
3. Ark RT WSRP stats
4. Current WSRP status

#### ***WSRP Annual Report***

WSRP and IBCC reports are distributed via email in late fall of every year

Most current WSRP report – Oct 31, 2015.

- Provides background information and overview regarding the WSRP program
- Updated balance sheets for basin and statewide accounts
- Historical grant totals
- Highlights grants of statewide interest or new innovation
- Full listing of basin grant portfolios

#### ***Funded Projects Report***

ArkBRT Funded WSRP Projects-accurate as of last week.

- *Project Title*

- Grant Recipient
- CWCB approval date
- Basin funds
- Statewide Funds
- Description
- Current status
- Link to final report if available

### Current WSRA Status

May 2016 WSRA Balances

Fund Distribution					
Basin	Approved Basin Grants	Total Basin Funds	Basin Account Balance	Approved State Grants	Statewide Account Balance
Arkansas	\$2,874,465	\$3,059,368	\$184,903	\$8,739,504	
Colorado	\$2,586,041	\$3,059,368	\$473,327	\$5,612,524	
Southwest *	\$2,479,311	\$3,059,368	\$580,057	\$7,199,911	
Gunnison *	\$2,356,796	\$3,059,368	\$702,572	\$4,249,681	
Metro	\$2,725,031	\$3,059,368	\$334,337	\$7,346,148	
North Platte	\$2,105,468	\$3,059,368	\$953,900	540,942	
Rio Grande	\$2,647,212	\$3,059,368	\$412,156	\$10,350,323	
South Platte *	\$2,635,562	\$3,059,368	\$423,806	\$6,955,510	
Yampa/White	\$1,873,744	\$3,059,368	\$1,185,624	\$731,747	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,283,631</b>	<b>\$27,534,313</b>	<b>\$5,250,682</b>	<b>\$51,726,289</b>	<b>\$2,146,325</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROVED GRANTS</b>					<b>\$74,009,919</b>

Note: Only includes grants approved by CWCB

\*See Comments - Figures have changes due to grantee's withdrawn funding

### OTHER MATTERS

Bob Hartzman – In 2013, the City of Canon City received a grant to assist in recovery after wildfire. Bob thanks RT members for their support. Part of the project was planting seedlings; with 2014 and 2015 planting. This year City Parks will add 2,300 seedlings, and 700 seedlings were planted yesterday with high school students. He is thankful that watershed health is being looked at.

### NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – July 13, 12:30 pm, Fortino Ballroom, Pueblo Community College, 900 W. Orman Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004.
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Lease Fallow Tool: <http://water.state.co.us/DataMaps/ModelingCDSS/Pages/LeaseFallowTool.aspx>
- Arkansas Watershed Collaborative: [www.arkcollaborative.org](http://www.arkcollaborative.org)