

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

July 13, 2016

Pueblo Community College, Student Center, Fortino Ballroom A
900 W. Orman Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

Members/Guests Present

Sandy White, Brent Newman, Alan Hamel, Jim Broderick, Jay Winner, Al Tucker, Jeris Danielson, Chelsea Nutter, Jean Van Pelt, Mark Shea, Gary Barber, Elise Bergsten

Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion to approve the Executive Committee minutes of June 8 and 13, 2016 was made, seconded and approved.

Old Business:

BIP Coordinator

Fiscal agent replacement: Upper Ark has realized that they cannot be fiscal agent if the funds get carried over into 2017. Huerfano County Water Conservancy District is willing to become fiscal agent. Al Tucker made a motion to that effect, Terry Book seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The current grant can be extended thru December or possibly January. Executive Committee members have been given a revised budget and schedule. A motion to approve the revised budget and schedule was made by Al Tucker and seconded by Alan Hamel. After discussion, the motion carried. An invoice for May had been submitted to LAVWCD. LAVWCD has submitted to CWCB, and will pay Gary.

A grant application for the second year of BIP Coordinator work has been prepared, and was passed through the Needs Assessment Committee, with the understanding that the Executive Committee would also need to approve the app. A motion was made by Al Tucker, seconded by Terry Book, and passed.

Executive Committee members agreed there should be a single point of contact for the BIP Coordinator between meetings. Jeris Danielson and Al Tucker had both volunteered to take this role, however Jeris has left the Purgatoire District and may be replaced on the roundtable. A motion to appoint Al Tucker to this role was made by Terry Scanga and seconded by Jim Broderick. After discussion the motion carried.

Reoccurring Matters:

CWCB-Alan Hamel: The CWCB meeting is coming up next week in Steamboat Springs. Brent will give an update on SWSI and funding at the RT meeting. A major loan for the Arkansas Valley Conduit will be up for approval – the hydro-electric facility at Pueblo Reservoir. 17.4 million in loan funds had been set aside for the Conduit for some time.

Draft Criteria and Guidelines have been posted on CWCB website. After discussion by CWCB, they will go to the IBCC, then back to CWCB in September or so. Suggested changes include a 25% matching requirement for basin funds, increasing the statewide match from 25 – 50%, direct reference to the BIP and Colorado's Water Plan. A requirement for a Request for Proposal (RFP) process is also being discussed, but is controversial since small communities may not have the capacity or available vendors to justify an RFP. Alan will bring our feedback to CWCB.

Brent Newman: At next week's CWCB meeting, an update will be given by Kirk on funding. There will also be an update on the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans. Brent discussed recent articles that are critical of the Colorado Water Plan and are calling for accountability around the cost of the Colorado Water Plan. CWCB staff went through the Critical Action Plan, reviewed what has been done, and found that all critical actions have had action at the roundtable level. Staff will present these findings at the CWCB meeting.

IBCC – Jay Winner: The IBCC is still working on criteria and guidelines. Jeris has not yet been replaced, but Jay suggested the Jim Broderick attend the next IBCC meeting as well, as alternate. The next meeting is the second week in August.

PEPO – Al Tucker, Jean Van Pelt, Chelsey Nutter (see report)

The PEPO Workgroup met in June to discuss the WSRA budget and extending the scope of work an additional five month. Jean will make a formal request for this change.

- The documentary is progressing, and the new budget and timeline will be discussed with Sam Ebersole, who has a work agreement with the ARBWF for the film.
- The Library Summer Reading Program Activity books project is well underway.
- Planning continues for the August 13th Salida Community Water Festival.
- The Education to Action events originally anticipated will go away due to funding constraints.

Jim Broderick asked about an email that circulated regarding whether PEPO had contacted the Pueblo Chieftain, requesting that they write articles regarding water? A recent article said that the Roundtable had engaged Chris Woodka to do this. Apparently, this request had originally been made for Water 2012, and was in the original PEPO scope, but had been removed.

PEPO meetings can be posted on the website.

Sub-Committee Reports

Needs Assessment – Jay Winner: Grant presentations will be moved to the top of the agenda so that Jay can present them, because he needs to leave early.

Non-Consumptive Use – SeEtta Moss: SeEtta is out due to health issues.

Watershed Health –Mark Shea and Carol Ekarius: We have copies of the draft Strategic Plan, and a powerpoint presentation for the RT meeting. We'll go through the strategic plan at the meeting.

Other activities include:

- An Annual Operating Plan will follow the Strategic Plan
- Stream management plans. Exploring whether there are stakeholders that are eager to do those
- Training Session at the Watershed Sustainability Conference in Beaver Creek.
- May also do a session at the Watershed Assembly.
- Have been meeting with CDPHE, EPA, etc for the area below John Martin Reservoir. Selenium and nutrient loading.
- Control Regulation 85 presentation - new regulations in 2022.
- Thinking of having a meeting aimed at Ag folks on water quality and watershed health this winter.
- Will work collaboratively to create a local definition of a critical watershed.
- The collaborative has been invited to participate in Hayden Pass Fire post-fire conditions and rehabilitation. There are road-less areas, steep slopes, and an expectation of bad conditions.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber:

Activities include:

- North La Junta Flood Mitigation
- Oil Creek Ditch Diversion Structure
- Holita Reservoir
- Project List as of July 7th.

Other Old Business

- Liaison Member identification: Elise will work with Al on this.

- Program Suggestions?

A motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.