

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

MEETING NOTES

July 13, 2016

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

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 am. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty one (31) members were present, a quorum.

See www.arkansasbasin.com for PowerPoint presentations. They are not included here.

Approval of Minutes of May 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of May 2016 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

David Sanford – Joseph Corp. Mr. Sanford gave a brief presentation on the Joseph Corporation, water provider to the Zinno Subdivision.

Dan Morello – Zinno WUA. Mr. Morello expressed his problems with, and distrust of the water system.

Charlie Skidmore – Zinno WUA. Mr. Skidmore expressed his personal problems with the water system and the electronic meters.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

These grants have basin and statewide funding requests that will go in front of the CWCB at their September meeting.

Adobe Creek Dam Seepage Evaluations – Steve Jamieson, WW Wheeler & Associates

Ft Lyon Canal Company is the applicant.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Basin Grant Funds | \$ 5,000 |
| Statewide Grant Funds | \$ 45,000 |
| Ft Lyon CC Match | <u>\$ 10,000</u> |
| Total Project Cost: | \$ 60,000 |

This project moved forward by consensus.

Tailwater Return Flow Study – Phase 2 - Jack Goble

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (LAVWCD) is the grant applicant.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Basin Grant Funds | \$ 36,000 |
| Statewide Grant Funds | \$ 138,796 |
| LAVWCD Match | <u>\$ 75,000</u> |
| Total: | \$ 249,796 |

Questions/comments: Current irrigation methods create greater selenium issues. If changes are made to the H-I Model, and irrigation efficiencies are encouraged, water quality will also be improved.

This project moved forward by consensus.

Long-Term Potable Water Supply to the Zinno Subdivision – Jean Van Pelt

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (LAVWCD) is the grant applicant.

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Basin Grant Funds | \$ 25,000 |
| Statewide Grant Funds | \$ 50,000 |
| Matching Funds-various | <u>\$ 1,088,587</u> |
| Total Project Cost: | \$ 1,163,587 |

Questions/comments: Terry Hart expressed his support for this project. Pueblo County's position is that if folks would like to make a decision to change providers they should be able to do so. The court decision will state, if ruled in favor of this project, that anyone that wants to purchase their water service from St. Charles Mesa, that it won't damage the ability of St Joseph's Corp to sell water. The service area of St. Charles Mesa completely surrounds the Zinno Subdivision. Can we approve contingent on the outcome of the litigation? Rick Kidd asked how the app meets the criteria and guidelines.

Alan Hamel – thinks that it's important to approve upon contingency and reserve the funds now. It fits in the BIP and in the Colorado Water Plan for sustainable water supply. It fits the BIP under aging infrastructure.

This project moved forward by consensus, contingent on the outcome of the lawsuit in favor of Zinno subdivision, and contingent also on procuring other contemplated funding.

Rick Kidd will write a dissenting opinion on this app.

Needs Assessment of Flood Control Alternatives for the Fountain Creek Corridor – Larry Small

Applicant: Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Basin Grant Funds | \$ 21,200 |
| Statewide Grant Funds | \$ 72,100 |
| Match Funds | <u>\$ 40,000</u> |
| Total | \$ 133,300 |

Questions/Comments – RT members discussed water rights and potential for injury. Terry Hart spoke in support of the project.

This project moved forward by consensus.

Dave Taussig will submit a minority opinion regarding water rights.

Groundwater & Surface-Water Interaction and Potential for Underground Water Storage: Phase 2 –Chelsey Nutter

Applicant: Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (UAWCD)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Basin Grant Funds | \$ 50,000 |
| Statewide Grant Funds | \$ 256,618 |
| Match Funds | <u>\$ 360,438</u> |
| Total | \$ 667,056 |

Questions/Comments: This is a 3-year study.

This project moved forward by consensus.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable BIP Coordinator – Year 2 – Sandy White

Applicant: Huerfano County Water Conservancy District

Basin Grant Funds \$ 20,267

Statewide Grant Funds \$ 40,533

Total \$ 60,800

This project moved forward by consensus.

Executive Committee – Sandy White

BIP Coordinator – the grant that we have for this year may be able to be stretched longer, possible into January. The grant has been extended. We're asking CWCB to change the fiscal agent. The fiscal agent was LAVWCD. The new fiscal agent will be the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District.

We applied for Year 2, as you know. Fiscal agent will again be the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District, and we decided that we needed to be more effective in the management of the coordinator, so the executive committee decided to select a point of contact – that person will be Al Tucker.

IBCC Report

There has not been a recent meeting.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel and Brent Newman

Alan Hamel: We've had one meeting. We have one action item for this RT. We approved a small basin grant for Fountain Creek sediment removal in the amount of \$5,000. The CWCB board asked board members to take all grants approved in Del Norte back to their roundtable to re-visit grants now that the fund has been decreased.

Roundtable members were in consensus that the grant should proceed as originally approved.

The next meeting is next week in Steamboat Springs. The agenda is up on the CWCB website. Years ago the CWCB reserved 60 million in loan funds for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Next week we'll be asking for ~17 million for the conduit to build a hydro-power facility at the Pueblo Dam.

Also, the IBCC is looking at changing the criteria for grants. We'll look at draft criteria and guidelines next week. Then the draft will go back to the IBCC.

Brent Newman:

- In April 2016 a Colorado Supreme Court case decision was made that requires the State of Colorado to refund oil and gas companies an estimated \$125 million.
- May 2016: Senate bill 16-218 passed in Colorado legislature and addresses where refund money comes from. Places restriction on certain Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funds:
 - o \$19.1 million from the severance tax perpetual base fund
 - o \$10 million from the severance tax DNR operational fund
- FUNDING PLAN PROPOSALS (5-year plan) To be in Projects Bill next year. This funding plan uses funds from our revolving funds. It will not affect the existing loan program or operational funds.
 - \$50M investment - Repayment Guarantee Fund (one-time infusion)
 - Working with Colorado development and power. To guarantee projects with multiple partners with varying credit rates. It homogenizes the risk of multi-partner projects.
 - \$10M -Water Supply Reserve Fund (\$10M/year x 5 years)
 - \$5M - Watershed Restoration Program (\$5M/year x 5 years)
 - \$10M - Non-reimbursable Program Funding (\$10M/year x 5 years)
 - Will include education and outreach
 - Species protection program

SWSI Update

Activities to date:

- § Developed a Consolidated Approach that aligns the project approaches proposed by the various consultants. This was an important step to make sure the team is on the same page.
 - § Wrote a Project Management Plan that has protocols for communications, change management, QA/QC, data management, etc.
 - § Conducted a project kickoff meeting on July 6th with CWCB staff, prime consultants, and some of the subconsultants to discuss comments on the Consolidated Approach and to collaborate on partnering
- Description of Consolidated Approach:
- § Initial tasks focus on development of methodologies for new topics of analysis (e.g. climate change, planning scenarios, etc.) and enhancement of existing methodologies (e.g. Are there new data sets available? Are there new technologies to consider since the last update?).
 - § The work will be completed over an 18 month timeframe with the goal of project completion by the end of 2017.
 - § The Consolidated Approach is scientifically focused and includes a collaborative process among technical experts to develop and complete the update of SWSI.

Next steps:

- § The focus of the team over the next 3 to 4 months will be developing/enhancing methodologies and collecting data and information.
- § Regular updates will be provided to Basin Roundtables via CWCB roundtable representatives.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (see powerpoint)

Presentation-Chapter 6 Scenario Planning-Overview

- ❖ Colorado's Water Plan Chapter 6: Water Supply Management
 - Section 6.1: Scenario Planning and Developing an Adaptive Water Strategy
 - Section 6.2: Meeting Colorado's Water Gaps
- ❖ Using the Ark BIP Database Tool

PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker, Jean Van Pelt

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum voted not to apply for 2017 WSRA funding. They will instead extend the current scope of work and budget through July 2017.

- 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.
- An Education to Action event is being planned, featuring the Upper Ark project, to be held in September.
- Will write an article for the CWCB Newsletter
- Other basins may be adopting our logo, and are using our efforts as a template for moving forward with PEPO efforts.

Joint West Roundtable Risk Committee – Brett Gracely

Brett, Jim Broderick and Terry Book are members of this committee. There have been 3 webinars scheduled.

The objectives of the study:

- Evaluate the likelihood of Lake Powell dropping to dangerous levels
- Review the results
- Discuss implications

- Provide a foundation for Phase 2

There is a big river model that models the entire Colorado River Basin. It tracks levels in Lakes Powell and Meade, but misses a lot of small details that feed into those lakes. The webinars are very technical. There is a conference call between east slope roundtables this Friday to schedule a joint presentation of activities thus far.

ARWC Strategic Plan – draft - Carol Ekarius (see presentation)

Mission & Vision

- The mission of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is to provide assistance to Arkansas Basin communities to address locally identified watershed issues for economic, ecological, and social benefit.
- “Healthy Watersheds & Economic Prosperity”

Values

- Seek representation from a wide diversity of basin stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, local government, private and non-governmental organizations, and citizens who are committed to maintaining healthy watersheds and economic prosperity in the Arkansas Basin.
- Support locally-driven initiatives and implementation of action-oriented efforts.
- Serve as a transparent champion for stewardship of resources, with an emphasis on best-available science, voluntary activities, and building funding availability and leverage for watershed health projects.

The Strategic Plan may be found on our website, and will be on the agenda for approval in August.

SUMMARY/NEXT STEPS

- Next Meeting – August 10th
- Next CWCB Meeting: next week, Steamboat Springs
- Adjourned at 3:36 pm

Links:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: 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