



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

November 9, 2016

Members/Guests Present

Members and guests introduced themselves. 30 members were present.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion to approve the minutes of October 2016 was made by Seth Clayton, seconded by Alan Hamel and approved unanimously.

Public Comment –

Valda Terauds reminded attendees of the Children's Water Festival that will be held May 9, 2017, in Pueblo.

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy White

Two new liaison members have been added: Jean Van Pelt and Chelsey Nutter. They will take over from Al Tucker as co-PEPO Reps.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga

There will be a joint IBCC/CO Ag Water Alliance meeting on November 29th, at the JeffCo fairgrounds. The main topic will be Alternative Transfer Methods. All are welcome. You do need to register if you would like to attend.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

Two CWCB staff members are here today - Kevin Reidy and Anna Mauss. A meeting is coming up next week in downtown Denver. We will work on the Projects Bill that will go in front of the legislature for 2017/2018 funding.

Arkansas Basin Decision Support System (ARKDSS): We are the last basin to get a DSS, because of the complexity of the Kansas/Colorado Compact. A Request for Proposal for that work is going out this week. After contracting with a vendor, the next phase will begin, which will be for a working model for surface water rights. We have a basin-wide technical committee. The roundtable will also play a part – we will get reports and have the opportunity for input. This phase will be 2-3 million dollars, and the ARKDSS as a whole is expected to cost over \$7,000,000.

Alan welcomes input on the Projects Bill. The CWCB agenda also includes an opportunity for public comment. Feel free to get questions to Alan.

A question was asked regarding CWCB agenda item: Reservoir dredging. Can it include river dredging? This one is focused on reservoirs in the South Platte, but Alan hopes it can be expanded in the future.

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt, Chelsey Nutter

- There will be a Funding presentation series at future roundtable meetings, beginning in January.
- A master list of different funding agencies and type of funding will be developed, and will be posted on the PEPO website.
- We are also exploring putting together funding workshops, including a workshop for grant writing.

- PEPO has ordered 100 of the CFWE Citizen Guides. They will be provided to new roundtable members. These should be available after the first of the year.
- Jean will attend a focus group hosted by CFWE. They are asking for input as to whether they are moving in the right direction. If anyone has input, let Jean know so she can pass that along. Share with Jean before Monday.
- Chelsey is working to put together info on the Voluntary Flow Program, including a brochure and a short film that can be on your website.
- A new Water Festival will be held in El Paso County on May 16th, 2017. PEPO is working with SD11 on this.
- The PBS documentary is progressing. Dr. Ebersole will be here today to show a clip.

Needs Assessment Committee – Sandy White, Jay Winner

Jay has retired as committee chair. We discussed this committee at the executive committee meeting, and we believe that we need a separate committee for this purpose. We are looking for a new chairperson. Jay discussed his role as committee chair, the time commitment, and the need for administrative support for this position. Let Sandy know if you are interested.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

Mark

- New items have been added to the 2017 annual operating plan, including post-fire mitigation efforts for the last three fires in the Arkansas Basin: Hayden Pass, Beulah Hill, and Junkins. The updated plan will be available in January.
- Participating in the updating of the Lower Arkansas Watershed Plan, which includes area downstream of Pueblo Reservoir, excluding Fountain Creek. The focus of the update is actual projects below John Martin Reservoir to the state line. This area is on the 303d Impaired list for water quality issues.
- Stream management plans – demo project of the Upper Purgatoire River near Trinidad.
- Inclusion of water system infrastructure in federal WFDSS. Want to open the opportunity to other communities that have land in Pike or San Isabel NF. To include the GIS data, or develop GIS data to be included.
- Need to continue the conversation on lands that are not federal. If you have infrastructure near federal lands, the feds need your information. The state doesn't have the capacity yet.

Carol

- Approximate acreages burned:
 - Hayden Pass Fire – 16,500 acres
 - Beulah Hill Fire – 5,220 acres
 - Junkins Fire – 18,403 acres
- The Junkins Fire will be problematic for Pueblo Reservoir. The governor has verbally declared a state of emergency for the Junkins Fire.
- Lower Ark has committed 100k, CWCB has committed 250k as matching funds for a total of 10-15 million across all three fires.
- Carol toured Trinidad projects and concern areas.
- Waiting for the non-consumptive committee to say what their priorities are.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- The Database is 90% complete.
- 65 projects are in Category One, active/ongoing projects.
- Changing Status
 - Projects are moving from planned to ongoing to complete
 - Our model from the BIP is starting to work for us.
 - New projects are being added.

- Talk to Gary if you have new projects that we should be tracking or working on.

West Slope Roundtable Risk Study – Sandy White

The technical committee includes Brett Gracely, Jim Broderick, Seth Clayton. Last Tuesday, the Front Range Water Council (FRWC) met to discuss the Phase 1 study, the deliverable report, and the direction of the Phase 2 scope of work. Some of the assumptions that went into Phase 1, such as thresholds for Lake Pueblo and Lake Meade, are being questioned. The FRWC decided to write a letter to the three front range roundtables, with a technical memo attached, to review the background of the model. If you are interested in providing feedback, please review the two letters and get feedback to Sandy in the next week or so.

We believe at this point that this type of study should be done by the State of Colorado, rather than by the roundtables. The Phase 2 request has been withdrawn for the time being, while this conversation is taking place. The motivation for asking the state to continue, is so that the effort is seen as a collective voice, rather than having one entity be the voice.

PROGRAM – Mark Shea

Mark is taking over putting together the program schedule for 2017. He encourages your input.

CWCB Loan Program Update – Anna Mauss, CWCB

As a result of a successful loan program over the last several years, we are able to offer 10 million to finance WSRA grant funding and operations for the next year. We finance raw water projects up to the point of water treatment. We haven't financed any alluvial storage projects yet, but expect to do so soon.

Anna will help with funding workshops, and she is happy to coordinate funding conversations with other agencies. A few changes have been made to the loan program that will be presented at the next CWCB meeting. The Feasibility Study grant program currently offers a 50/50 limit of \$5,000. They propose to increase the limit for feasibility studies for storage projects to 50k/50k each.

Huerfano Basin Regional Augmentation Project Update – Sandy White, HCWCD (see ppt)

- Project Description
- CWCB Financing Package
 - Loan \$2,222,000
 - Grant \$250,000
- Portions Completed
- Changes
 - Completion Date extended to 6/12/2019
 - Alternative Storage

PBS Documentary – Dr. Sam Ebersole, CSU-P

Dr. Ebersole showed two brief clips of the documentary that is in progress.

Integration of Water & Land Use Planning – Anne Miller, DOLA; Kevin Reidy, CWCB

Land Use & Colorado's Water Plan

"Every community can do better on water conservation and efficiency via locally determined measures, such as, but not limited to, reinvestment in aging infrastructure, community education, enhanced building codes, and water-sensitive land-use planning."

Guiding statement for county commissioners Boulder County, City and County of Denver, City and County of Broomfield, Eagle County, Grand County, Pitkin County and Summit County, *Comments on the Colorado Water Plan (March 5 - May 1, 2015)*, Item No. 67. May 1, 2015.

Colorado's Population is Rapidly Growing

- Colorado's population is rapidly growing – due to both birth and migration into the state.
- Colorado's Water Plan incorporates planning based on a range of population growth scenarios.
- Even if we are in an extended recession between now and 2050, Colorado would still grow. Even if we closed off our borders, our children and grand children and all of us living longer would cause Colorado to grow.
- In fact Colorado's population, along with the nation as a whole, is aging. That in turn opens up an economic opportunity for more health care jobs, which further drives the economy. The question is not whether we grow, but how we grow.
- The water plan will not try to limit growth. Curbing water projects will not limit growth, just like curbing transportation corridors (Lamm administration) led to a congestion crisis, but didn't limit growth. The last thing we need is a water crisis. As we all know, building great water solutions takes time.

Municipal & Industrial Gaps

- Solutions mostly center on conservation and new projects.
- Some of the basin roundtables will meet their gaps of projects are fully implemented. Others are working to further identify projects and methods.

Water Supply Decreasing

- CO to warm 4°F by 2050
 - Increases in evaporation
 - Lower elevation snowpack decline
 - Timing of runoff to shift earlier
- CO in "transition zone" on precipitation
 - More winter precipitation, less in summer?

Working Together

- The way we grow matters
- Need more water-efficient land use patterns
- Decreasing demand & using 'alternative' supplies best done at planning stage
- Need solutions for CO communities to thrive in spite of water scarcity

Breaking Down Silos

- We're not the 1st with this problem
 - Education
 - Procedure for regular contact
 - Coordinated planning
 - Institutionalization

Taking the Lead

- Land use planners are integrating resiliency
 - Water is key
- Traditionally a land use led activity, but...
- Many water providers have achieved great successes

Land Use-Water Nexus

- Education
- Planning Integration
 - Rates, tap fees
 - Outdoor water use programs/ordinances
 - Plumbing codes
 - Site plan regulations
 - Subdivision/zoning ordinances

Arkansas Roundtable Policy Statement

- *Policy Statement: The Arkansas Basin Roundtable supports the integration of land-use and water-resource planning.*

- Creating a policy statement for this type of integration is an important first step in the future of demand management in the Arkansas Basin.

Land Use Element in Water Efficiency Plans

- “Best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation that may be implemented through land use planning efforts”

SB008-15 Land Use & Water Training

In the Colorado Water Plan: By 2025, 75% of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning.

The CWCB will work with the Department of Local Affairs, local governments, water providers, Colorado Counties Inc., Colorado Municipal League, the Special District Association, councils of governments, and homebuilders (Colorado Association of Homebuilders) to examine and strengthen the tools they collectively possess to help Colorado reach this objective.

SB 15-008: Concerning the promotion of water conservation in the land use planning process

- Develop and provide training programs for local government , water demand and land use planners regarding water demand management best management practices
- Integration of water demand management and water conservation planning into land use planning efforts

LAND USE AFFECTS WATER USE

Relevance of Land Use Planning to Water Conservation

- Land use and building regulations can change the type of housing, plumbing, and landscaping allowed.
- Waste water and stormwater must also be considered.

Water Planners & Housing Types

- With limited water supplies and the population projected to double:
 - The predominant housing type cannot be single-family homes on landscaped lots.
 - More diverse housing types are needed along with regulations of fixtures and landscapes.
- To understand this we have to understand the local land use system.

Land Use Planners & Landscaping

- Soil quality
- Water conserving plants
- Turf limitations
- Irrigation system efficiency
- Rain sensors
- Spray nozzles
- Water harvesting, etc.

Curriculum

- 5 modules are planned
- 3 are completed
 - Breaking Down Silos: Integrating Water into Land Use Planning
 - Integrating Water Efficiency into the Comprehensive Master Plan
 - Integrating Water Efficiency into the Zoning Code

Webinars & Training

- Webinar series
 - Integrating Water into Land Use Planning: Setting the Stage, September 13
 - Integrating Water Efficiency into Comprehensive Planning, October 4
 - Integrating Water Efficiency into the Zoning Code, November 1
- www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/integrating-water-land-use-planning
- Train-the-Trainer workshop
 - October 24, 1-5 pm - part of APA Colorado Conference, Colorado Springs

Ongoing Training

- 2 additional webinars will be created

- Sonoran Institute and Lincoln Institute for Land Policy have received a grant to further trainings in CO

Training Highlights

- Integrating Water into Comprehensive Planning
- Integrating Water into Zoning

Comprehensive Plans

- Include water conservation objectives
- Include zoning and land use strategies to achieve those objectives
- Water providers and experts are a necessary component of comprehensive planning

Plan Goals & Objectives

Water conservation goals and objectives:

- The plan should contain data indicating what the per-capita water consumption is
- It should then create a goal of reducing that per-capita number significantly, such as by 50%
- One objective is to plan for new development in defined growth areas to accomplish this goal
- Another is to call for water conservation through the landscaping practices and fixtures that are less water consumptive

Best Practices examples:

- Larimer County's plan calls for smaller lot sizes by requiring 80% open space preservation achieved through clustered development.
- Colorado Spring's land use chapter calls for infill development projects acknowledging their efficient use of public infrastructure including water and wastewater.
- Douglas County uses overlay zones to restrict use of nonrenewable water sources and identifies water supply and demand standards.
- Broomfield includes local water planners in pre-application Planned Unit Development (PUD) review meetings to negotiate amenities.
- *Westminster – Case Study*

Questions?

- Kevin Reidy, Colorado Water Conservation Board kevin.reidy@state.co.us
- Anne Miller, Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs anne.miller@state.co.us
- For more information (included recorded webinars), visit:

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/integrating-water-land-use-planning

Other Business

- Next meeting – December meeting will be cancelled. January 11th, 2017
- Adjourned at 3:05 pm

Links:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas Watershed Collaborative: www.arkcollaborative.org
- PEPO Committee: <http://www.pepoarkbasin.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>