



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, , 2019, 10:30 am
Pueblo Community College
900 W Orman Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee Present

Mark Shea – Chair

Mike Weber – Vice Chair Cons

Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Env/Rec

Jeris Danielson - IBCC

Al Tucker - Recorder

Tim Canterbury - IBCC

Terry Scanga - IBCC

Chelsey Nutter – Ch NAC

Jean Van Pelt – PEPO

Jack Goble - CWCB

Sandy White – Past Chair

Amber Shanklin – Env Rep

Executive Committee Absent

Amber Weber - PEPO

Guests Present

Nick Koch

Ben Wade

Carol Ekarius

- **Greetings and necessary introductions;** Meeting called to order at 10:35 by Chair Mark Shea.
- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes;** Mark called for approval of the January 9, 2019 Executive meeting minutes with correction pg 2 Restraints to Constraints so noted and minutes were approved by consensus.
- **Reoccurring matters;**
 - **IBCC – Jeris Danielson/Terry Scanga** Terry reported the next IBCC meeting will be February 28th in Denver. Discussion regarding the Status of IBCC coordinator, John Stulp? CWCB staff stated Possibly Becky Mitchell or DNR Director Dan Gibbs but not sure. Implementation group held kick off meeting at CWC conf. \$3M available for BIP updates.
 - **SWSI Implementation Group – Terry Scanga/ Amber Shanklin / Abby Ortega**
 - **CWCB – Ben Wade/ Jack Goble** - Jack reported on watershed restoration grants, Cucharas #5 dam, JMR permanent pool, CO River DCP, Demand management for SWSI.
Ben, CWCB staff, Water Plan grants, RT deadline for grant apps, update on projects bill, projects bill will be designed to move quicker, \$30M is proposed for Water Plan implementation \$s and drought planning \$s, there is not 2 bills only one. Resources & guidance documents are available on the water plan website.
Sandy ? for Jack & Ben - Cuchara #5 loan status for water rights, heard CWCB took a security interest in the rights, heard 2 rivers defaulted on the loan. HCWCD interested in water rights, what if 2 Rivers go into bankruptcy does CWCB have ownership, can the district work with them?
 - **PEPO – Jean Van Pelt, Amber Weber** CWCB 's should report out on the timeline for updating the BIP & CWP. Mark asked how the transition with Amber is working. Jean explained Coordinators met to discuss and decided to divide basin work into lower and upper, with Amber covering lower and Jean upper. Amber will be responsible for website/communication plan updates. Jean will oversee other projects & support for ARWC.

- **Sub-committee reports, as necessary;**

- **Needs Assessment – Chelsey Nutter** No Report.
- **Environmental/Recreation – Bob Hamel** Interested in curtailment of transbasin water. Robust meeting was held regarding developing a Hayden Pass Fire & Flood Recovery Coalition. This group needs to understand CO River DCPs & the direction the plan is going. If there is pending legislation that could change water rights & the impacts on this group & others. The RT needs to be aware of what is happening in the legislature. Need to keep an eye on the demand mgmt. program, conserved consumptive uses, & how water is stewarded to Lake Powell. What are the Impacts to consumptive and non-consumptive water rights? Colo Springs/Pueblo Water/Southeastern District and others are the Eastern front range water council & are heavily involved. Discussing with each other on how to educate the basin about the ramifications & how to work together to educate stakeholders. Southeastern Colo needs to educate constituents that a good portion of our water come from the CO river. The Front Range Water Group may have a communications scope next month. PEPO offered to assist with these efforts. The Enviro/Rec community doesn't understand what curtailment impacts are. We could ask CWCB and Attorney General's office staff to explain what they are working on. Or better yet, we should hear voices that are independent of CWCB staff, coming from front range organizations. This will provide a different view & needs to be scheduled asap. Could be scheduled for March meeting, pending enough info is available, at least to provide an introduction to the issues. We should be arming our IBCC reps with questions, opinions, etc.
- **Watershed Health – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius** ▪

- **ABRT Meeting Adjourned at 11:08**

ARWC BOARD MEETING Mark called ARWC meeting to order at 11:10 AM

ARWC Coordinator Position - Carol Ekarius reported that Chelsey Nutter has expressed interest in the Executive Director position. To save time, she is a very qualified candidate, experienced in managing projects & grant writing. Carol asked for a consensus to employee Chelsey as Exec Director. CO-CO, Colorado Springs Utilities and Lower Ark Water Conservancy District have committed funding that will cover the ED costs for the first year. The approach will be to look for additional sustainable funding from other RT entities based on the ability to pay. It will be up to the ARWC board to secure future funding for this position. Entities need to have this support identified in their 2020 budgets by June/July. ED will need to meet with and ask for funding. Do we want a flat ask or a range? Up to the board. Mike Weber developed a spreadsheet listing who to ask & who can support. Mike will share the spreadsheet with ARWC Board. As part of the RT today members need to be made aware that a commitment for money to fund this position is needed.

Carol reported that the position will start ASAP because there are grants & agreements that need to be moved. Also work on a strategic plan, a work plan, & financial support from stakeholders are priorities.

Updating the Basin Implementation Plan needs to also be considered. Mike Weber suggested waiting to see what comes out of C9 summit for direction on the update.

ABRT Executive Meeting Reconvened at 11:45

- **Roundtable responsibilities** - new TMDLs affecting the River from Avondale to JMR from CDPHE .
 - CWCB reported to Mike Weber that the ABRT is the most heavily funded basins in the state. If CWCB would be audited we may need to cut back, but he is not aware of any right now. Funding for Elise Bergsten, RT Secretary was supplemented by the BIP Coordinator's funding. With that gone, add'l funding is not available. ABRT is trying to develop other resources, website & communication plan in order to bring Elise's job in alignment with budget the RT is given. Mark has asked Elise to define her tasks and time that she uses. May need to reduce what she is doing

or figure out what we as the RT can do. PEPO volunteered to do the Executive Committee minutes and have the Recorder, Al Tucker review and approve. Al will manage the minutes timeline, etc.

- **Locations, frequency & subcommittees** - will maintain at the current frequency of RT meetings with sub-committee meetings monthly.
- **Other matters** – selenium & TNDLs from Avondale to JMR concerns. Exec Committee asked Mike Weber to update RT on this.
 - Programs ideas – Give Mike Weber any new ideas for the program, Front range opinion of CO River DCP is upcoming.
- **Meetings – listed on the agenda**
 - A consensus recommendation to the RT to move the April RT meeting to Tuesday, April 23rd to coincide with the ARBWF & VIP dinner. Jean Van Pelt and Bob Hamel will work on venue, etc.

- Meeting adjourned @ 12:00 pm
- Submitted by Al Tucker & Jean Van Pelt Co- Recorders

Committee membership; Mark Shea – Chair, Mike Weber – Vice Chair Cons , Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Env/Rec, Jeris Danielson – IBCC, Al Tucker – Recorder, Tim Canterbury – IBCC, Terry Scanga – IBCC, Chelsey Nutter – Ch NAC, Jean Van Pelt – PEPO, Jack Goble – CWCB, Sandy White – Past Chair, Amber Shanklin – Env Rep, Amber Weber - PEPO

Additional distribution: Ben Wade (CWCB staff), Carol Ekarius (ARWC Coord), Elise Bergsten (Secy)