



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

May 8, 2019 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-six (26) members were present.

### Approval of minutes of prior meeting

*The meeting notes of the April meeting were approved by consensus.*

### Public Comment – none

### REPORTS:

#### Executive Committee – Mark Shea

- The Executive Committee has been discussing how the roundtable conducts business, policies and procedures. A new website is coming, as well as a new Roundtable-specific email address. You'll be sending and receiving email to and from this new address soon, rather than from Elise's business email address. Please send emails to: [arkbasinrt@gmail.com](mailto:arkbasinrt@gmail.com).
- We've also been discussing voting member vacancies and will be reaching out to counties that don't have municipal or county seats filled.

#### CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

- The next CWCB meeting will be held next week in Gunnison. We'll be considering 42 Colorado Water Plan grant requests totaling \$7.6 million, several Basin grant requests, and we'll get an update on the Ark River DSS. Our basin is the last major river basin to have a DSS (Decision Support System), a project that is initiated and completed by the CWCB. Some of the work on our DSS is already available. There is a dashboard on the CWCB website that shows who is making releases and exchanges.
- Three bills affecting water have been passed:
  - SB212 – \$10 million from the general fund to DNR for water plan implementation. End of fiscal year 21/22 to spend those dollars. This bill also codifies Water Plan elements into legislation, including criteria and guidelines.
  - SB221 – Projects Bill has passed and includes \$17.5 million for continuing implementation of the State Water Plan, including the following:
    - \$4 million for watershed health
    - \$3 million to facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers, and dredging existing reservoirs.
    - \$1 million to agricultural projects.
    - \$1 million to conservation, land use, drought planning
    - \$1.5 million to environmental and recreational
    - \$5.5 million to BIP updates and water plan implementation
  - HB1327 – Sports Gambling Bill has passed, awaiting governor's signature. Refers a ballot measure to the public in November that allows sports gambling. Part of the proceeds will go to water plan funding.



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- Ben Wade thanked those who attended Water Loss training.
- Water availability task force meeting is next Tuesday and will include updates on temperatures and precipitation.
- Webinars are recorded and available on YouTube and linked from the Water Plan website. CWCB board meetings are also livestreamed and on YouTube.
- RFP for BIP updates will be discussed next week, info back to RTs in June.
- Brent and work team are finalizing work groups for the DCP implementation.

Mark would like to know the make-up of the work groups and the work plan.

## **PEPO – Amber Weber**

- SWEAP – draft plan should be set by mid-May and finalized by August.
- 2 Water Festivals
- Several webisodes are being worked on. They are 10-15 minutes each.
- The water forum went really well. Amber thanked those who participated.
- A quarterly newsletter is part of the new communications plan.
- The ability to opt-in/out will be added to emails from the roundtable.

## **IBCC Report –Jeris Danielson**

- No meeting since the last report out. Scheduled to meet July 18, joint meeting w/CWCB. Next IBCC meeting will be in September.
- Russ George has been appointed to head up the IBCC. A very positive thing for the IBCC and roundtables. He originally conceived these groups.

## **SWSI Implementation Working Group – Abby Ortega, Amber Shanklin**

- Nothing new to report. Draft documents have already been distributed to the RT for review.
- Project Tier matrix is being developed by CWCB in order to do an apples-to-apples comparison throughout the state. Please test the worksheet out with your projects to see how well it works.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> next phone call.

## **Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) – Abby Ortega**

- Nothing additional. (See CWCB report)

## **Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega, Mike Weber**

- Grant apps are due by June 1. More information and procedure to be found on our website.
- Submit to Abby, Chelsey or Mike
- Roundtable letters of support for Colorado Water Plan grant apps are highly recommended by CWCB. They must also follow the Needs Assessment process in order to be considered.

## **Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Brand**

- Met April 29<sup>th</sup>. Working closely with ARWC.
- Projects that are making progress include the Oil Creek Diversion, the Arkansas River Master Plan in Canon City, the Canon City diversion and Hydraulic Ditch.
- CWP will have an internal meeting regarding their projects on the IPP list. An internal review will prioritize projects.



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- Hayden Fire Restoration area. Starting to do some work. They lost some grant funding, due to local folks being unwilling to sign up for follow-up requirements. Lost \$2 million from the NRCS emergency funding program, which requires a local sponsor as fiscal host. It's a great program that awards 75% reimbursement for authorized costs. Requires 25% local match. The full cost must be covered by fiscal sponsor, then reimbursed; which can be a challenge for small entities. There is also a 3-5 year follow-up and maintenance requirement.
- The group will skip meeting in May and will next meet in June.

## **ARBWF – Amber Weber, Bob Hamel**

- Wrap-up meeting this Friday. Had about 200 at VIP dinner and forum. Great turnout. Raised more money at the auction than ever. Still gathering feedback.
- Next year's forum will be in Salida. The planning committee will begin meeting in late summer, likely in Salida.
- Bob introduced Kristie Nackord, who has taken Jean's place. She did a great job this year.
- The Bob Appel Award went to Jean Van Pelt.

## **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea**

- Business call last Monday. Discussed priorities for ARWC and Chelsey. Grant funding.
- Science Plan – working with ARWC. RFP going out soon for a contractor for that plan.
- Chelsey will be going out to different parts of the basin to talk about needs and opportunities throughout the basin.
- She'll be working on creating sustained funding for ARWC.
- Strategic Plan will be updated.

## **BREAK**

**PROGRAM** - Please check out full presentations at [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com).

## **2019 Request for Water Process – Kate Ryan, Colorado Water Trust**

The Colorado Water Trust is a Denver-based non-profit working statewide to restore flows to Colorado's rivers in need. They were formed in 2001 to partner with Colorado's Instream Flow Program and amplify its work. They work with water users to put together voluntary transactions to benefit the environment. Transactions are flexible – temporary or permanent, split-season, ATM. They work within the prior appropriation system and compensate water users at fair-market value.

The Colorado Water Trust has successfully completed 28 projects, adding nearly 32,500 acre-feet of water to over 323 miles of rivers and streams in Colorado.

## **Questions/Discussion:**

- Biological assessments? Informal assessments are done by the Trust, but technical assessments are also done by DNR, Fish and Wildlife, and outside sources at times.



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## **Arkansas Basin Roundtable Website – Amber Weber, PEPO**

PEPO has been working on the creation of a new website. When live, it will use the existing URL:

[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com).

This website simplifies and expands on the old website where appropriate. A one-time grant was received for its creation, and Education to Action dollars will be available for future maintenance.

Amber walked through the new website and invited input. The website will go live and replace the current website by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

More documents will be available on the website, rather than emailed to the membership. We'll remind you that new documents are available.

A map of roundtable members will be added, as will a calendar with meeting dates of sub-committees and other water events in the region and state.

## **New Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM**

Please use this email beginning today rather than Elise's business email ([elise.balancedmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:elise.balancedmgmt@gmail.com))

## **NEXT STEPS/LINKS**

- Next Meeting – June 12, Pueblo Community College
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPO: [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>