



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

June 12, 2019 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-two (22) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the May meeting were approved by consensus.

Public Comment – none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

- There will be a follow-up discussion on the administration of contract exchanges on July 2nd, Pueblo location tbd. A full presentation on that at our July meeting.
- BIP Update – how we are going to do that here in the Arkansas Basin. CWCB will hire a general contractor state-wide, plus local experts. Exec Comm is in consensus regarding the importance of project proponents being involved with their own projects. More info will come out from the PEPO committee regarding what is being looked for from project proponents. As RT members, we all have constituents. RT members need to represent their constituents and identify projects needed in our areas. If/when the Sports Gambling measure is passed, there will be new dollars flowing to projects. We need to be ready for that.
- BIP information need: Only 4% of our projects have cost data associated with them. There is room for improvement within our roundtable.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble

- 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. More information is available on the Colorado Water Plan website.
- An RFP will be available in August for the General Contractor for statewide BIP work. They plan to make this hire before the C9 Summit at the end of September. The GC will work with each roundtable to hire subcontractors by the end of 2019 at the latest.
- C9 Summit will be held September 25 and 26, in Winter Park. The Summit is free to roundtable voting and non-voting members, and \$75 for others to attend. There will be scholarships given to two students from each basin, and some scholarships available for those who don't have an entity to send them. Contact is Elgin Turner: elgin.turner@state.co.us.
- The Drought Contingency Plan was finalized on May 20th, and implementation has begun. Colorado is working on demand management feasibility investigations.
- Work groups of subject-matter experts have formed think tanks. List of work groups is on the front page of CWCB website.
- The CWCB will be hosting an orientation webinar for these workgroups in August.
- Meetings will be private, with report-outs to the public. The CWCB board will be kept apprised as well. Jack and Ben will keep the roundtable informed.
- Demandmanagement@state.co.us



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- 2019 Projects Bill was signed by the governor last week. It appropriated funds for CWCB programs. CWCB's two main funding sources right now are income from the loan program and severance taxes. Funding has increased over recent year, and \$17.5 million has been allocated to water plan implementation.
- Gov Polis has appointed Dan Prenzlowl as the new Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director. His job just prior was Southeast Regional Manager based in Colorado Springs.
- The next CWCB meeting will be held on July 17 and 18 at CMC in Leadville. A joint meeting with the IBCC will be held on the afternoon of the 18th.
- Coloradofloodthreat.com: The website has current flood threat information.

Roundtable members expressed concerns regarding the privacy of the demand management feasibility meetings. Work groups are being asked to sign non-disclosure agreements, not to divulge what's been talked about at the private meetings. CWCB made the decision in order to encourage out-of-the-box thinking without the threat of being mis-quoted or taken out of context in the media. CWCB staff worked with the AG's office to set this up.

IBCC Report –Jeris Danielson

- No meeting since the last report out. After the joint meeting with CWCB in July, the next IBCC meeting will be in September.

SWSI Implementation Working Group – Abby Ortega, Amber Shanklin

- June 25th next meeting by conference call.
- New scoring sheet for projects to be included in the BIP will be emailed and posted on the website.

Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) – Abby Ortega

- Nothing additional. (See CWCB report)

PEPO – Jean Van Pelt

- Each year CWCB provides \$6,500 for PEPO's basic work. The final report for this fiscal year will be submitted by the end of June, and PEPO is working on scope for new year. PEPO has met with Chelsey Nutter and Kristie Nackord, discussing how the three groups can work together. Intend to schedule stakeholder workshops focusing on local areas within the basin. Meeting again on the 25th. Will be drawing on RT member experience regarding local constituency and needs.
- WSRF grant – Has been used for the new website: arkansasbasin.com. This will be our vehicle to communicate with roundtable members and others. We'll be reminding you to look on the website for meeting notes, updates and other information.
- 2018 Colorado Water Plan grant. Requested to transfer remaining \$2,300 dollars to the 2019 Water Plan grant. CWCB approved moving those dollars, which will be spent on 5 – 10 minutes webisodes on subjects not covered by the documentary.
- The Education to Action program has three projects coming up.
- As of July 1, your main PEPO contact is Amber Weber, as Jean Van Pelt is leaving for travels in Canada and Alaska.



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Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

- Grant apps were due by June 1.
- A Needs Assessment meeting will be held on June 27 in Canon City, 10:00 am, at the Fremont County Admin building. There are three grant requests, plus three requests for letters of support. Will try to set up a phone-in option.
- Will send a link to grant apps, which will be on the website.
- The requests will then be brought to the roundtable for review and approval at our July meeting.

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Brand

- Didn't meet in May, but kept working on a few things. Chelsey will report to that.
- Each month the committee is tying together tighter with ARWC.
- At Exec Comm, reiterate re: BIP updates. For projects that pertain to env/rec, the project proponents will have to show up to support. Projects are going to come off the list if they do not have a proponent. Env/Rec Committee is here to help you down the path towards funding of these projects.
- The next Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held April 23 and 24, 2020. The Forum will be held at the Steam Plant in Salida again. Rena Brand is joining the Water Forum board.
- Next meeting June 24th, 10:00 am, at the BLM office in Canon City.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – (see presentation after BREAK)

BREAK

PROGRAM - Please check out full presentations at www.arkansasbasin.com.

ARWC - Projects & Strategic Plan Update - Chelsey Nutter, ED

ARWC Major Milestones

- 2015: Established as a sub-committee of the roundtable
- 2016: First strategic plan developed
- 2017: ARWC received 501c3 nonprofit status & adopted bylaws
- 2018: Built partnerships, developed projects, and secured funding
- 2019: Hired Executive Director, continue to develop & implement projects, update strategic plan, develop sustainable funding
- 2020: Sustainable funding and capacity to meet the goals & objectives of ARWC

Forest Health Fuels Mitigation, Post-Fire & Flood Projects:

- CWPPS & WFDSS
- Lake County Mitigation Project – fuels mitigation
- Monarch Pass Forest/Watershed Health
- Hayden Pass Fire & Flood Recovery Project
- Spring Creek Fire Recovery Project

Restoration Projects:

- DeWeese Reservoir Feasibility Study



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- Lower Grape Creek SMP
- Purgatoire SMP
- Oil Creek Diversion Project- Canon City River Restoration Project – not ready yet.

Water Quality Projects:

- Science Plan – Data collection and mapping in-house.
- LAVWQWG – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Quality Working Group

Support RT Needs – working with committees and other groups

Update Strategic Plan

- The original plan is still valid, but will benefit from updating and specificity
- Funding plan – aiming towards sustainable funding by 2020.

More specifics regarding supplemental funding for 2019. Bring to the roundtable and begin the ask here at the roundtable.

Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance – Amber Weber, Executive Director

Mannie is president of DARCA. Amber became ED a few months ago.

The entire State of Colorado is represented by DARCA, and there are members from Arizona, Wyoming, and Kansas as well. Most members are agricultural, but there are also members that are municipalities, conservancy districts, policy makers, engineers, etc.

What is DARCA

- It has primarily been an educational and outreach organization.
- Mediation and advocate
- Partnerships and networking
- Action-oriented/Advocacy
 - Legislation
 - Grant Guide
 - Grant writing and management services

DARCA and the Ark Basin

- Workshops
- Host new events

New Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Next Meeting – July 10, Pueblo Community College
- Env/Rec Committee – June 24, 10 am, Canon City
- ARWC – BOD business call, July 1, 10 am
- Needs Assessment Committee – June 27, 10 am, Canon City, Fremont
- C9 Statewide RT Summit – September 25, 26



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- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPO: www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwc.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: www.coloradofloodthreat.com
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>