



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

August 14, 2019 – Pueblo Convention Center, 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 July meeting were approved by consensus.*

### **Public Comment – none**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

- Last Friday there was an All-Chairs conference call. They discussed the technical update to the state water plan, the C9 Summit agenda, and the BIP update process, including the general contractor and local experts. We'll hear more about that at the C9 Summit. CWCB staff is finalizing the RFP for the BIP General Contractor.
- C9 Summit: Statewide Summit of Colorado's 9 Basin Roundtables – September 25 & 26, Winter Park. Please attend. There is an opportunity for travel cost reimbursement – let Mark know if this would enable you to attend.
- An email will be coming out later for voting on what CWCB is calling Basin Water Heroes. Please help identify and nominate individuals within our basin that are doing exceptional work within the basin.
- Mark attended a joint 4 West-Slope RT several weeks ago. The main topic that was discussed was the Colorado Risk Study – an update and findings as it relates to a potential compact call on the Colorado River. Also discussed Demand Management and the Drought Mitigation Plan and how it should be handled within the state of Colorado. There was a focus on transmountain diversion projects. There is a well-defined position that west-slope folks are promoting. The statewide process is just beginning, but west slope folks are already positioning themselves to protect their own interests.

#### **CWCB Report – Ben Wade**

- At the last CWCB meeting, it was decided that the Demand Management working group meetings will be public, rather than private, as earlier planned.
- <https://www.colorado.gov/cowaterplan>
- More information regarding the technical update (SWSI) and Basin Implementation (BIP) can be found on the Colorado Water Plan website (link above).
- Tomorrow an Education and Outreach Workshop will be held in Salida from 10 – 2.
- <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- More information about CWCB activities can be found at the above link.
- There will be a regional workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Water Congress, which is being held in Steamboat.
- CWCB board meetings are recorded and posted on youtube.



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- 31 Water Plan Grants will be heard at the November CWCB meeting. There were a couple of categories not in as high demand as usual. There are still funds available for Env/Rec or Water Supply/Storage Projects. Twelve WSRF grant apps, including three from the Arkansas Basin will be heard in September.
- The CO Water Loss Initiative started in April. If you're a water provider, there is still time to register for Stage 2. You will work with water law experts as you go through water loss strategy. More info at: [coloradoWaterloss.org](http://coloradoWaterloss.org)
- Anna Mauss was promoted to COO at CWCB. Matt Stearns will replace Anna regarding Feasibility Studies and Loan applications.
- New FEMA community assistance - Doug Mahan, flood insurance program
- If you have questions regarding demand management: [demandmanagement@state.co.us](mailto:demandmanagement@state.co.us).
- The working groups are working on the timeline and objectives of the demand management initiative. Ultimate goal is to find out if it is feasible for Colorado to pursue. Timeline is on the website. Will continue into the next year as well. Will take a couple of years to work through these issues. A pro-active, voluntary effort to leave water in the Colorado River system in order to avoid a future compact call. What would it look like? Is it good for us? The same thing is happening throughout all 7 basin states. If you have interest in attending the meetings, they are public. It will be a working group meeting. You'd be in the room witnessing, but not participating.

## **IBCC Report –Jeris Danielson**

- The IBCC met in a joint meeting on July 18 in Leadville with CWCB. The main topic of discussion was Drought Contingency Planning and Demand Management of the Colorado River. To look at the entire basin and how we might deal with drought if it becomes a major issue. Demand Management is a project the upper basin is looking at, in order to avoid a lower basin call.
- There were a couple of panel discussions regarding what equity is in a demand management scenario. Is it shared equally between Ag, Muni & Industrial users? Where would the water come from? How would water providers be compensated? How is management handled within the Prior Appropriations system? How would you administer a lower basin call? Everyone agreed that it would take a lot more study.
- Any demand management plan would be voluntary, temporary and compensated.
- The next IBCC meeting will be in September.

## **SWSI/BIP Implementation – Abby Ortega**

- Finished the SWSI update. That was laying the foundation for what comes next with the BIP update. Technical Update to the State Water Plan will be finalized in September.
- As the statewide general contractor is hired, we'll be looking to RT members as to the best way to update the list of projects.
- We will then be getting a local contractor, but local RT folks will be relied upon to provide information in order to update the list.
- New scoring sheet for projects to be included in the BIP will be emailed and posted on the website.

## **PEPO – Amber Weber**

- Working on a funding series with Chelsey. Bring your projects, let's work through them together.
- Water Law Workshop coming.
- We have funding set aside in order to help you with grant apps.
- Work Group regarding the message about the Drought Mitigation Plan.



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- Statewide Water Education Plan will be dispersed by the end of the day today. They described the mission, and hope to sustain partnerships, capacity build, and have a cohesive message statewide. One vision, with strategies that everyone can use. Asking for PEPO folks to provide feedback. Amber will do this.
- Working on ARWC's website soon. Part of our grant was to do the RT website. Remaining funds will go to improving the story map so that it can be released.
- Webisodes - 2 or 3 are complete, more are in process. They will be posted on the website.
- Grant Guide is coming out. Water funding, loans and grants. Hoping to have it ready in November. They are looking for donors to get it published.
- PEPO is putting together a funds request form. It will lay out what funds are available for, in order to bring those requests to the RT Exec Committee.
- For the Love of Colorado – to bring online funding for projects in Colorado.

## **Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega**

- The Needs Assessment will likely be meeting the next couple of months in order to review upcoming opportunities.

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

- We met July 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Rena, for doing the updates. Is everyone getting the meeting notes for the Env/Rec Committee meeting?
- Had a presentation by Julie Knudsen regarding the Purgatoire Water Partnership. A multi-use project is happening down that way.
- Several things continue to roll along. Going to meet with the Amity Canal folks to try to get the Great Plains Reservoir plan going. Amity needs to fix the Lower Queens Dam. Trying to help them out with the scope and possible funding sources.
- Chelsey and Bob will meet with Canon City Council regarding that project. Hopefully give them some insight as to the resources that we can provide.
- Env/Rec will not meet in August.

## **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea, Sandy White**

- Chelsey is out making rounds promoting ARWC, to make sure that stakeholders are familiar with ARWC so they can talk about their needs. She's working with folks impacted by the Hayden Fire.
- ARWC has done a great job at post-Spring Creek Fire mitigation, as follows:
  - 1600 log irrigation barriers
  - 950 contour felled logs
  - 60 sills
  - 20 check dams
  - 4 crib walls
  - 106 acres of hillslope treatments
  - 27.5 acres of debris cleared
  - Cleared almost 11,000 linear feet of streams. Upstream outside of the municipalities.
  - The municipalities got money to clear streams in La Veta and Walsenburg, could only be spent in the municipalities.
  - Have spent about a third of the money
  - Next third is for hillside treatments



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- Last third will be for catch basins
- CDPHE grant has been received. They not only help manage grant projects, they identify more needs and find new funds.
- Next phone call will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **BREAK**

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

### **Reservoir Trades and Substitutions – Bill Tyner, Division Engineer, Division 2 Pueblo**

We used to call this “contract exchanges.”

- It's legal to transfer water from an upstream reservoir to a downstream reservoir through a river. Transit loss is measured. Have to make sure a “Calling Right” is not harmed. That's a traditional operation defined by statute.
- Reasons for NOT delivering water via the river:
  - Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) target flows for fishery management
    - Goal to achieve winter incubation October 15-November 15 (250-400 cfs)
- Physical exchange by downstream release; capture of inflows above the upstream reservoir
  - As long as the net exchange of flows doesn't harm the calling right.
  - Participants in the VFMP may not want to exchange water at key times in order to support rafting minimum flow targets (July 1 – August 15)
- What do entities do if they want to move water during a critical time? Example scenario was given.
  - Water rights holders may trade and substitute water in up and down-stream reservoirs.
- The issue with Reservoir Trades and Substitutions?
  - There isn't necessarily an explicitly clear provision for instantaneous reservoir trades in statute and how they should be administered under the priority system.
  - Concerns have been expressed regarding impacts including water quality and junior water-rights holders.
  - A study is being made of trades between 2016 – 2019 in order to address concerns.
  - This practice has mainly taken place in our division.
- The unique nature of the Arkansas River system and the differences in natural flows led to the Voluntary Flow Management Program and also to this type of trade and substitution, which is unique in the state.

Roundtable members asked questions and discussed terms of trades and substitutions and their own concerns.

### **Arkansas Decision Support Systems (ArkDSS) Update – Brian Macpherson, CWCB**

- Program manager for Colorado Decision Support System (CDSS)
- Phase 1: 2017-2020
  - GIS
  - Administration Tools
  - Consumptive Use and Surface Water Modeling
- Phase II: Scoping at the moment, looking for funding
  - Groundwater data
  - Colors of Water viewer
  - Trinidad Reservoir 10-year Review



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- The ArkDSS is the last basin DSS. The feasibility study was produced in 2011.

CDSS (Statewide) is the umbrella over the various DSSs.

Hydrobase

- Diversion records
- Water rights transactions
- Groundwater levels
- Climate data

Software Used

- StateMod
- StateCU
- StateDMI
- TSTool
- Map Viewer

## MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Next Meeting – September 11, Pueblo Community College
- Env/Rec Committee – will skip the August meeting
- ARWC – BOD business call, Sept 3
- CO Water Congress, Steamboat Springs – August 20-22
- C9 Statewide RT Summit – September 25, 26. The 25<sup>th</sup> is tours and a dinner. The 26<sup>th</sup> is the main business.
- Oct 23 – IBCC meeting in the morning, Water Resources Review Comm mtg in the afternoon.
- 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/>