



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday September 11, 2019,

Start Time 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

Jack Goble - CWCB

Sandy White – Past Chair

Ben Wade - CWCB

Chelsey Nutter – ARWC

Terry Scanga – IBCC

Amber Weber - PEPO

Executive Committee Absent

Amber Shanklin – Env Rep

Abby Ortega – NAC

Tim Canterbury - IBCC

Guests Present

Nick Koch

- **Greetings & Necessary Introductions;** Mark called the meeting to order @ 10:30am and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/2001.
- **Minutes/Notes of the previous Meeting;**

Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments – Mark Shea,** Mark requested that any executive committee member offer additional reports to give not on today's agenda.

- **Outstanding Reports – Any Executive member**

Sport's Betting Initiative - Mike Weber opened a discussion regarding a request from Greg Brophy who had contacted him requesting the roundtable support a ballot measure legalizing sport's betting. Today's presentation to be delivered during the general session on Ballot proposition DD, to legalize sports betting. He would like a motion after showing the Roundtable's support for this measure. Terry Scanga felt that the Roundtable as a whole should not take sides on political issues.

It was further discussed that even though this measure may eventually offer monetary support for water related issues it may not be in our best interest to make official statements regarding any political proposals since being a legislated appointed body. Mark iterated that individually, and not speaking for the Roundtable individual members may or may not support these proposals. Sandy asked if there was a legal probation and Mark replied this probably falls in that category. There was confusion on the type of support this is a vote by the body in support or a vote followed by a letter supporting this proposition?

Some committee members felt a vote was not in violation of our charter but a formal letter probably was.

This needed clarifying. It was determined that this would go before the full membership for a consensus aye or nay. Sandy suggested that perhaps a consensus relating to support funding for water projects.

Huerfano County Conservancy District Presentation Saturday – Sandy wanted all to know of the Presentation by Jeris at the conservancy district program this coming Saturday. Sandy will offer programs to the membership at the general session

BLM's Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan Review with comments due by September 20th – Bob Hamel wanted to share with everyone the importance of this review process. The preferred alternatives with plan D is looking at 188,000 protected acres which will be rolled back. Environmentally there are many concerns with several organizations. Currently, the local BLM can't take a position. There are several issues concerning watershed health, water purity along with numerous other problems that may adversely affect these protected acres. Plan B may have less impact and more environmentally favorable. Less grazing is one area that may be beneficial but these alternatives require looking into.

The issue is the Roundtable aware of the BLM review and other impacts by the BLM with opening more oil and gas exploration into previously protected areas. The BLM people in the Royal Gorge office seem to have their hands tied regarding going along with these demands from Washington. Mark agreed this should be information available for the Roundtable membership.

The BLM site has an executive summary which allows an easy overview of these issues.

<https://search.usa.gov/search?query=colorado&affiliate=blm.govdrupal>

Stakeholder Group Rocky Mountain Region & Wild Turkey Federation – Mark discussed his participation in this newly created group. This group was conceived by the USFS Rocky Mountain Region & Wild Turkey Federation. This will be a statewide forum. This organization will be focused on Forest Management work. Mark's participation as chair of the Ark Basin Roundtable is why he had been contacted. Part of the work will be protection of watersheds and preventative measures related to wildfires. As this organization develops Mark will keep the Roundtable members updated.

New Business

- **Needs Assessment –CWCB Letter of Support** – Mike reported on behalf of the NAC. CWCB is going after the water-smart grant to continue the work on the Arkansas DSS project. The deadline for this project is October 1st they want a letter of support from the Roundtable to continue their work. They want \$180K to continue this work. Mike said they wished this presented to the Executive Committee members to see if this is something they would support. Sandy stated he felt he could support the continuation of this program. Terry agreed this program is needed and would also help in leveraging federal funds.

Work Session

- **Water Plan Update, Technical Analysis, and BIP Updates** – Mark informed everyone that September 25th in Winter Park there is scheduled a meeting of the Selection Committee to support the technical update to the Basin Implementation Plan. Mark stated to those who still wish to attend this meeting there are reimbursement funds still available that include mileage and lodging. There are still tours that have available space to any who wish to participate. The hotel reservations are up to attendees to secure. The \$75 conference charge is waived to Roundtable members.
 - **General Contractor** - They have a list of available contractors that will likely be the participants in the proposal process. The Roundtable is the ultimate selection for the contractor. This is to finalize the work for the local contractor to work on the updates to the Basin BIP. Terry felt there should be discussions on what are the necessary qualifications the local contractor is to have. Sandy wanted to know if the Roundtable has final say on the choice.
 - **Local Contractor**
 - **Basin Representatives**
 - **BIP Master Needs List** – Mike discussed the work needed for the master needs list which is lengthy at this time and needs to be looked into. And asked everyone review. Mark suggested that perhaps we could review this by October.
 - **Process and Timeline** - The BIP timetable is work during 2020 and completion fourth quarter 2021. By this year's holiday season have the local contractors on board and ready.

Old Business

- **None**

Roundtable Business:

- **Today's Roundtable Agenda – review and revise as necessary** – Bob will report on the BLM Review Plan to the general session.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 23rd is the Interim Water Resources Review Committee will meet. This follows a CWCB joint meeting in the morning. Topics watershed health, water quality, fire recovery and more.
- **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – October 9, 2019 Pueblo Community College**
 - **Annual Meeting and Elections**
- **Subcommittees**
 - **Enviro/Rec Committee – July 29, 2019 Canon City BLM office @ 10 am**
 - **ARWC BOD Business Call Meeting Aug 5, 2019 Conference Call @ 10 am**
- **C-9 Basin Statewide Summit – Sept 25-26, 2019 Headwaters Center, Winter Park**
- **CWCB Board Meeting – Sept 17-18 @ Rio Grande Water Conservancy District**

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by:

Amber Weber & Al Tucker Recorder

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, Jack Goble – CWCB, Sandy White – Past Chair, Amber Shanklin – Env Rep, Amber Weber – PEPO – Abby Ortega, Needs Assessment

Additional distribution: Ben Wade (CWCB staff), Chelsey Nutter (ARWC Coord), Elise Bergsten (Secy) Jean Van Pelt (PEPO), Carol Ekarius (ARWC)