



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 10:30 am

Pueblo Community College

Executive Committee Present:

Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber – Vice Chair Consumptive; Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Enviro/Rec; Jeris Danielson – IBCC; Al Tucker – Recorder; Terry Scanga – IBCC; Abby Ortega– Chair Needs Assessment Committee; Jean Van Pelt – PEPO; Sandy White – Past Chair

Executive Committee Absent and Excused:

Amber Weber – PEPO; Jack Goble – CWCB; Tim Canterbury – IBCC; Amber Shanklin - Vice Chair Enviro/Rec; Chelsea Nutter – ARWC

Guests Present

Ben Wade - CWCB; Andy Lerch - ARWC; Mike Fink - El Paso County

Call to Order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:35. Greetings and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Jeris stated he did not receive the meeting materials for this month. Mark will check with Amber and Elise to make certain all Roundtable Members are receiving the Meeting information. The meeting minutes from the September 11, 2019 Executive Committee were corrected and approved by consensus.

Recurring matters:

Mark indicated that one vacant seat nomination for At-Large Representative has no volunteers and, if none are nominated, this position won't be filled today. The vacancy needs to be filled by a water right owner or represent an organization with a water right. There are also 3 ex-officio seats for out of basin representatives. Tom Simpson (Aurora Water) will be nominated for one of these positions; there are still 2 of these positions vacant.

Mark asked John Stulp if he would be interested in serving as our Legislative Appointment. Mr. Stulp replied he is currently unavailable. The Roundtable usually provides a recommendation to the House/Senate Ag Committee who makes the appointment. It is understood that the Roundtable recommendation should be provided to Kerry Donovan and Leroy Garcia who represent the Arkansas Basin on the House/Senate Ag Committee. Jean suggested contacting Paul Fanning to measure his interest in filling this position. Mark will contact Paul.



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Mark reported that he has been involved with the selection and procurement process for the General Contractor for the BIP Update Task. We at the Roundtable will need to suggest a local Subject Matter Expert to work with the General Contractor for the BIP Update. Mark suggested that a leader from the General Contractor at a future Meeting. Mike Weber indicated that he requested senior CWCB staffers to attend the November Ark Basin RT Meeting and to bring a representative from the General Contractor to that Meeting.

Mark asked if anyone had thought about our choice process here at the Roundtable for a Local Contractor to work with the General Contractor. Sandy asked what the expectations would be for the Local Contractor. Sandy indicated that before we can draft an RFP, we need to have that basic understanding of what is the expectation. Mark indicated that updating the Project List should be a large part of this task. Discussion also ensued about some elements that were defined in the Technical Update, which is posted on the Colorado Water Plan Web Site. The BIP deliverables need to be known and were the processes that we followed in the BIP that was adopted are still valid.

Sandy asked the status of the DSS for the Arkansas Basin RT. Mark indicated that the Decision Support System for the Ark Basin was due sometime in early 2020. How can we make decisions as we go through the BIP update without an operable Decision Support Tool? Can we use our BIP funding for the Decision Support Tool? As part of the BIP Update, we need to have the DSS input to more completely define the Gaps.

Terry described the M&I Gap definition that the Roundtable followed and it was more difficult to quantify the Agriculture Gap. The Enviro-Recreation Gap was identified using the HUC system. Terry questioned what parts the Roundtable plays in the Projects. Discussion indicated that the actual proponents for any given projects will be responsible for bringing these projects to the Roundtable.

Mike Fink indicated that there are a lot of projects that are moving through to completion that are not in the BIP and have not been brought to the Roundtable. He also indicated that the El Paso County Water Plan calculated the M&I Gap for the for El Paso County Water Plan independently from the State Water Plan resulted in the identified Gap in El Paso County being relatively close to the State Water Plan M&I quantification.

Other Outstanding Reports:

C-9 Summit – Mark has been involved in the selection process for the General Contractor who will be responsible for updating the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans (BIP). The selection process is in its final stages. Once the General Contractor has been selected the focus will be on hiring the BIP local expert. The Executive Committees needs to develop a selection process. A good place to start will be to review the current BIP, determine the work that needs to be completed, and work with the General Contractor to understand their process and services. Greg Johnson & Russ Sands with CWCB will present at the November meeting. Mark asked them to bring the General Contractor to the meeting to discuss the process.



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The first issue will be to develop the Local Expert's scope of work. The scope will be used for a selection process through an RFP process. Mark asked for input from the Executive Committee. The committee discussed that updating the BIP will be a heavy lift because of the need for new data for over 500 identified projects on the BIP Master List. It would be good to know what the expectations and service the General Contractor and the Local Expert can provide. This needs to be known before the scope of work is drafted. Currently updating the BIP Master List is important. This task should be part of the scope.

Mike Weber indicate that there was never a capture of the trans-mountain diversions in the Technical Update and is not mentioned in the BIP planning.

As stated in the Technical Analysis Update changes were made to the Arkansas basin data base (BIP Master List). There is a need to get the modified Master List from Brown Caldwell, who developed the Technical Analysis (TA) Update because the Roundtable needs to be informed as to what has been updated/changed. Ben Wade will provide the link to CWCB's FTP site that houses the TA Update so it can be shared with the Roundtable.

It was discussed how the Gap analysis in the TA Update is difficult to understand. The Committee also discussed whether the same process for updating the BIP and Master List would be used as was used last time. The Roundtable developed additional tools for reviewing projects that other basins did not. The Executive Committee decided to use these tools again because they were helpful and provided good BIP data.

The status of Decision Support System (DSS) for Arkansas mainstem was discussed. The DSS should be finished June 2020. The Ark Basin data CWCB used in the TA Update is from current work being done on the DSS. The committee feels it is important to use data from the completed DSS when updating the BIP.

The Committee discussed the need to focus on the "maximum utilization" of water in the basin in the updated BIP. It should identify what water is available and how to use it best. The updated BIP should also identify the projects that will enable the maximum utilization of basin-wide supplies. It was determined the Roundtable should spend its limited financial resources to update the BIP to define how to use maximum utilization of the water resources we have for the most beneficial use.

The committee provided feedback on their impressions of the C-9 Summit. Some wanted more interaction with others around the state. Another comment was there was not enough time for networking and there isn't a need to have a speaker for every moment of the conference. It was also difficult to hear the speakers.

RT Business:

Mark stated there is time to accommodate new nominees with time to speak if needed. A list of upcoming events needs to be posted on the ABRT website. Jean will provide to Amber for posting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53.