



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

November 13, 2019 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Chair Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

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

Public comments – none

Reports

Executive Committee – Chair Mark Shea

- Mark reported the vacancy for the Legislative Appointee was quickly filled by the House with the appointment of Paul Fanning to the position. The Executive Committee agreed through consensus. Paul Fanning introduced himself to the Roundtable.
- Mark presented to the Legislative Water Resources Review Committee a summary pertaining to work being done within the basin. The group discussed various successes and challenges and the BIP Updates with the Committee.
- A request for a letter of support by the HCWCD for a watershed restoration grant application was approved by the committee by consensus. Sandy provided a quick overview of the scope for the grant.
- The Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting scheduled for December 11 has been canceled. However, the Exec Committee will meet that date and so will the Needs Assessment Committee. This scheduling was prompted by the structure of the Basin Implementation Plan Update. Brown & Caldwell has been retained as the overall Contractor for the Basin Implementation Plan Update and each Basin has been allocated a fund of \$140,000 to retain Basin-Specific Consultants and Subject Matter Experts. The Executive Committee will meet to define the Scope of Services that the Ark Basin will assign to the chosen Consultants. All Roundtable Members are invited to attend and contribute to this discussion.

CWCB Report – Ben Wade and Jack Goble

- Ben reported the demand management workgroup will meet November 22nd in Frisco from 10am – 2pm. The funding workgroup will meet in Denver.
- Jack reported that the CWCB board meeting will be November 21 – 22 in Denver. CWCB will consider 31 Colorado Water Plan grants, 3 loan requests, the projects bill will be considered for approval, and a funding package for Arkansas Valley Conduit will be heard.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson



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- Jeris reported the IBCC met on October 23rd. They discussed a demand management program for the Colorado River. All agreed that no sector or geographic region should be disproportionately appropriated and there was a need to know how water rights will be administered by the State Engineer. The IBCC members discussed ways to define equity. They also discussed ways to include a voluntary demand management policy into a conceptual agreement because all 4 upper basin states have to agree on the program.
- West slope entities are looking at a curtailment in a risk study. The study recommends a voluntary demand management program. Jeris felt a curtailment issue needs to be viewed at a state-wide level rather than just a west slope perspective because transmountain diversions would be impacted by a compact call.

Environmental / Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel

- A tour of mitigation needs on the Decker fire was held yesterday. VFMP meeting will be held Friday. The Ark River diversion and boat chute will be tested on the 21st using reservoir releases to increase flows for the fish passage and boat chute.

PEPO – Amber Weber

No report

Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

- WSRF grant applications are due December 1st and the Needs Assessment Committee will meet December 11th at 12:30 at Pueblo Community College. Please email application to arkneedsassessment@gmail.com.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

- A Decker fire meeting was well attended by various stakeholders. They discussed recovery and the approach. The group also discussed a need to enhance the BAER (Burn Area Evaluation Report) process and the need for the evaluation to include downstream impacts. By consensus of the Roundtable, Mark will act on the ABRT's behalf to send a letter to our congressional delegation to support federal funding for mitigation projects throughout the state.
- ARWC is leading a tour of the Decker fire next Monday. This illustrates the value of ARWC to come in and help with stakeholder engagement for landowners and agencies.
- Chelsey reported ARWC will submit a WSRF grant request. She also requested financial support from ABRT members and the agencies they represent. This type of support is needed to build unrestricted funds to grow ARWC. She is looking to Roundtable members for input on how ARWC can support and benefit their communities. She is open for opportunities to personally visit with stakeholders.

BIP/Technical Update – Greg Johnson, Russ Sands, Matt Lindburg, Beorn Courtney, Kara Sobieski, and Bryan Macpherson

- CWCB staff and the Colorado Water Plan General Contractor was asked to present on findings in the Technical Analysis Update. Please review the full presentations at www.arkansasbasin.com. Rather than two 45-minute long presentations on the BIP Update, there were six presenters,



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three from the CWCB and three from consultants who provided intensive background on the Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan. The Roundtable Membership needed this full-immersion dive to understand how the BIP needs to be redeveloped to mesh with the Technical Update.

- There was considerable discussion about the Demand Calculations that were included in the Technical Update. The Demand Projections for the Arkansas Basin deviated from the numerical values of the Gap presented in the original 2015 Water Plan Demands for all sectors (M&I, Self-Supplied Industrial and Agriculture) under almost all five of the Scenarios. Much of the presentation from the six presenters addressed the different criteria that were applied to the Demand definitions, one of which was the introduction of HB 1051 water use reporting as a primary source for M&I Demand. This had the effect of increasing the Gap for almost all sectors of water users under almost all of the Five Scenarios.
- The Technical Update values of Supply do not include the effects of Projects and the calculations for the Agricultural Gap in all the Basins have, as a base assumption, that all M&I Demands are met in each Basin. These assumptions were questioned by some Roundtable Members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Meetings and Links

- ABRT Meeting – December meeting is canceled
- ABRT Executive Committee Meeting – December 11, 2019, 10:30 – 12:30, Pueblo Community College
- Needs Assessment Committee Meeting - December 11, 2019, 12:30 – 3:30, Pueblo Community College
- CWCB Board Meeting - November 21 – 22 in Denver
- Environmental / Recreation Committee Meeting – November 25, 2019, 10:00 am, Canon City
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative: <https://www.arkcollaborative.org/>
- 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/>