



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

January 8, 2020 – Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo, CO

More information and presentations may be found at: www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-nine (29) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the November 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

Public Comment

Ray Shaw, Wildlife artist from Huerfano County. Mr. Shaw asked about the Orlando Reservoir, money being spent on water projects near La Veta, and about possible plans for water projects on the north side of Huerfano County. Sandy White described Huerfano County projects and offered more information later.

Russ George:

Russ George is the new IBCC director and is visiting the roundtable meeting today. Godfather of the IBCC and the Roundtable process. Russ complimented the Arkansas Basin Roundtable on its work. Mark thanked Russ for attending the meeting and welcomed him.

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Jean Van Pelt has decided to wrap up her involvement with PEPO. We've been working towards this transition within the last year. Amber Weber has been working with Jean on PEPO. A special thanks to Jean.

BIP Process – Mike Weber

Mike described the timeline for hiring a local expert.

- Prior to January 28th, each RT should have a list of preferred qualifications.
- Post the RFQ request on each basin's website. Submittals will be due by Feb 28.
- March 20th selection. Interviews if we like.
- April 10th hired
- Working by end of April.

More info will be emailed to you as soon as RFQ is released. We have a small group within the Exec Comm that will review and make comments, and all of your comments are also welcome.

A lot of things are going to happen quickly. It will be important to keep our eye on the objective of the Basin Implementation Plan, which is to identify projects and methods to meet the needs of the Arkansas Basin. It is each members' responsibility to advocate for, and act as representative to their constituents. Good project list, with all info needed, so that your projects can be prioritized for funding. You are the first line of contact for your area, and you will be working with the local expert who can assist with valuing projects.



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CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack – The CWCB's last meeting was in November. Water Plan grant applications were approved at that time. The deadline for the last round for this fiscal year is in February.

Projects included \$100 million: for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. The final piece of the Fry-Ark project. 10 million grant, 90 million loan. Hopefully will be the catalyst for federal funding that will allow this project to be constructed.

Ben Wade – A workshop on Colorado River Demand Management will be held during Water Congress, on January 29. The next workshop will be held in Salida on February 10th. More info can be found on the CWCB website, water management tab. The public is invited and welcome to attend and participate.

Water Supply Reserve Fund & Colorado Water Plan Grant Fund – Jack Goble (presentation)

Total WSRF Funds Received = \$101,648,419

Distribution:

State Account: \$67,273,864 (66%)

Basin Accounts: \$34,374,555 (34%) - \$3,819,395 to each basin

Colorado Water Plan Grant Approvals:

- Environment & Recreation
- Engagement & Innovation
- Conservation & Land Use
- Water Storage & Supply
- Agriculture

We're second only to South Platte/Metro Basins in CO Water Plan funding to-date.

IBCC Report

Jeris Danielson: The IBCC has not met since our last RT meeting. We will next meet on March 4 and 5, which will be a joint meeting with CWCB. The meeting will likely focus on CO River Demand Management.

Russ George: It's worth commenting on the relationship between the IBCC and CWCB. They intertwine and overlap. IBCC has not been officially engaged in the work groups, which are informal. CWCB provides staffing for IBCC. The IBCC has no budget itself. The demand management workgroup is separate from IBCC, but we're all from the same place. We recognize that conversation on demand management affects all of us in Colorado, especially during drought. We're all in this together. What is the key piece, while the workgroups are doing their job? We decided it's the part that talks about that no economic or geographical area should have more or less weight. The Equity conversation.

PEPO – Amber Weber

Amber thanked Jean.

\$10k remains from the grant that was used to build the new RT website. The grant requires tracking of the results of the funding. The Exec Comm has agreed to allow funding of social media. There will be a trial period of about a year. We see this as a valuable way to reach out to the public.

Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

When the committee met on December 8, we had 8 requests, more than there was money for. We tweaked some of the projects, and one applicant has chosen to wait until the next round. More info after the break.



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Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Brand

The committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be held January 27th at 10:00 am, at the BLM offices Canon City.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

Next month's roundtable meeting will be an ARWC workshop rather than a regular roundtable meeting. The workshop subject will be strategic planning. Please attend that workshop if you are interested.

- Grant app revisions are being made regarding the Spring Creek Fire. Updated, new budgets, new SOW. A little more modeling and engineering up front. Phase 3 application. A 2020 application will be guided by that engineering and modeling.
- Chelsey is assisting where she can for Fremont County post-fire recovery projects.
- Monarch – Cut to Length fuels mitigation project. They are meeting with preferred contractor in January.
- Chelsey is working a lot with the water forum this year. She will have several presentations, including one for the VIP dinner.

BREAK

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

WSRF GRANT APPLICATIONS – Abby Ortega

ARWC and PEPO Engagement and BIP Project Development – Chelsey Nutter

- Basin Funds \$ 89,892
- Statewide Funds \$ 255,182
- Matching (cash & in-kind) \$ 39,000

1. Forest Health - Fuels Mitigation Projects
2. Post Fire Recovery – Deckers Fire
3. Basin Support – ABRT, BIP, Sub-Committees & Member Support

This application moved forward to CWCB by consensus.

Huerfano County Water Conservancy District 1: Bruce Canyon 50% Design – Sandy White

- Basin Funds \$ 17,643
- Statewide Funds \$ 35,286
- Matching (cash) \$ 17,643

This application moved forward to CWCB by consensus.

HCWCD2 (CWP): Maria Stevens 50% Design

- Basin Match (see below) \$ 17,500
- CO Water Plan Grant \$ 35,286
- Matching (cash) \$ 17,786



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This application was approved for a letter of support from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

HCWCD3: Maria Stevens 50% Design

- Basin Funds \$ 17,500
- Matching (cash) \$ 4,375

This application moved forward to CWCB by consensus.

St Charles Mesa: Cottonwood CID2 Diversion – Gracy Goodwin

- Basin Funds \$ 10,040
- Statewide Funds \$ 100,400
- Matching (cash & in-kind) \$ 73,560

This application moved forward to CWCB by consensus.

WATER PLAN GRANT APPLICATIONS

AGUA: Reservoir Purchase and Joint Loan Application – Kevin Niles

- CO Water Plan Grant \$ 500,000
- CWCB Loan \$ 3,000,000

This application was approved for a letter of support from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (LAVWCD): Soil Health Demonstration Plots – Amber Weber

- CO Water Plan Grant \$ 200,000
- Matching \$ 200,000

This application was approved for a letter of support from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Next Meeting – February 12, Pueblo Community College
- Env/Rec Committee – January 27, 10 am, Canon City
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPO: 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
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>