



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes

April 22nd 2020 – GoToMeeting

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Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber - Secretary Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Abby Ortega – Needs Assessment Committee; Al Tucker, Jeris Danielson - IBCC, Ben Wade – CWCB; Amber Weber – PEPO; Amber Shanklin – Secretary of ARWC; Chelsey Nutter – ARWC; Paul Fanning, Sarah Mudge – Executive Committee Member; Sandy White – Past Chair; Terry Scanga – IBCC, Bob Hamel; Tim Canterbury; Ryan Bolton, Russell Sands – CWCB; Sam Stein – CWCB; Rob White; Cathy Garcia; Wil Koger; Matt Leimbeck; Scott Lorenz, Rena (Brand) Griggs.

Executive Committee Absent and Excused:

Greg Felt, CWCB Representative.

Guests Present:

Julie Knutson – Purgatoire; Luke Javernik – River Science;

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 2:18 PM Greeting and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval of the March 11th, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- **Follow-up from March:**
- **Update on the 2020 Meeting:** Chelsey Nutter distributed a budget spreadsheet. She indicated that this task is difficult during this time, and requested CWCB to answer a few questions for her. Chelsey explained that everything in green on the spreadsheet has been completed (grants closed out), everything in yellow represent current projects, with approved funding, and everything in purple represent grants that have been submitted that are in contracting or scoping.
- Spring Fire 2020 grant was submitted to CWCB; approved by board but still in contracting.
- Fire and Flood approved by CWCB; in contracting stage.
- CDPHE Scope of work for \$150,000.00 is going towards recovery efforts for Decker Fire is not contracted yet but will go through Water and Power Authority Funding.
- COCO: Colorado Springs Utilities to do mitigation work.
- Mike Weber questions how sustainable grant funding is during COVID-19 process, he believes living off grants is not sustainable at this time. Chelsey mentions ARWC has been successful and reliant on CWCB grant's, Chelsey agrees ARWC needs to find other support, and that's why it's been brought up to the Roundtable that ARWC needs more support from the Stakeholders moving forward.



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- Mark Shea gives some insight with the pandemic and economic impact and states that there is recovery and stimulus packages being put together at the Federal Level to help address those impacts. At the COCO level Carol Ekarius is pursuing funding through the payroll protection program which would secure a very low interest rate loan to cover the payroll of COCO employees which would also include ARWC for a Six-month period as long as we keep the employees on the payroll for those Six months using the funding that's made available then that loan is converted into a grant and would not need to be paid back. There would be a 1% interest on it that would need to be paid back to the program. It's a Grant to protect a portion of small businesses budgets.
- Chelsey mentioned ARWC has received funding through the payroll protection program and has been placed in the budget for 2020.
- Currently, the Education part in the budget is suspended, but it was created to enable 6-7 ARWC employees to attend at least one conference/event throughout the year.
- **Project Updates:** ARWC is still working on projects, they are moving forward with Decker Fire, and are hoping to secure some funding from CDPHE to do more recover projects, ARWC'S trying to get that done before the flooding starts later in the summer. ARWC received the green light on one of their grants for Spring Firework. Engineers are working on the modeling and as of right now they are still scheduled to start Monarch August 1st 2020.
- **Any other Matters:** No other Matters

Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments:** Mark Shea mentions other issues going on regarding the pandemic with Stakeholders and board members. The stay at home order places a huge impact on the Jurisdictions. The Executive Committee are here to support Greg Felt during this tragic time. While Mark Shea knows the pandemic is affecting others in different ways he hands out his support and has requested to reach out to him with any concerns that may arise to the surface.
- Colorado State Forest Service is finalizing and updating the States Forest Action Plan, which is a state-wide plan that has been developed and was originally put together in 2010, and is now being updated in 2020, it is to identify and lay-out priority areas of Forest Health Management Needs for the state; it identifies the act of Water Resources and Water Supply as one value that drives the prioritization of where we need to be doing Forest Management work throughout the state of Colorado, specifically mitigation of Catastrophic Wildfire on our water resources and infrastructure. It's not a perfect plan as we have some concerns with how water shows up in it and how water is prioritized state wide, we don't know if it will be perfect when it comes out-of-State Force Service pre-typed timeline. The State Forest Service will also develop an online forest atlas for the state of Colorado that will also incorporate and reflect other types of data like water values and how water values drive areas of priority needs to do Forest Management work throughout the state.
- **Other outstanding reports:** No other outstanding reports from the Executive Committee members.



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New Business:

- **ABRT BIP Update/Local**
 - **Contracting Updates:** Matt Leimbeck (from Brown & Caldwell, the CWCB consultant for the Basin Implementation Plan Update statewide) has a master task order agreement for Leonard Rice, chosen by the Arkansas Basin Roundtable as the local expert. Matt Leimbeck has been working on the first task order with Leonard Rice, it's a task order contract and the strategy is that it will help the local expert cost out the work that they can define. The first task order doesn't include the BIP update work plan, it includes getting through the kick-off and the local expert workshop then speaking to the Roundtable to relay what was discussed during the kick-off workshop. The next task order would focus on working with the Roundtable to develop that work plan, then once that scope of work is developed local experts can do another task order that would cover the rest of the updates. Leonard Rice has some homework to do, and they will watch a couple webinars, and then they will review the Basin Implementation Plan, and also included a one-on-one with Mark Shea.
 - **Local Expert Orientation Summit Update:** Matt Leimbeck outlines the six days of training for the Basin Implementation Plan and local expert consultant will receive at the workshop.
 - **Support from Roundtable to Local Expert discussion:** Mark Shea noted that the Roundtable wants to make sure they are approaching the BIP update process with a good plan how we can engage with the Roundtable, the local experts and the general contractors to make the update process effective and efficient as possible and also to ensure that local stakeholder perspective is reflected in the BIP update. The Roundtable wants to make sure we have the best project list we can; we want to make sure the project information is developed for our projects. We plan on utilizing the Basin Roundtable members to help gather up that information on the behalf of the Jurisdiction, Counties, and Municipalities that they represent along with the Stakeholders group representatives to play an active role to help pull in the project information and relayed the information to the local experts.
- **Purgatoire River Stream Management Plan Initial Set up:** Prior to Julie Knutson coming on board with the Purgatoire Water they have had a conversation about Stream Management planning but they haven't gotten very far. This first order was dispelling misinformation that Stream Management Planning was stealing water rights and violating water rights. Julie spent a lot of time getting a handle on what Stream Management Planning really was. They have been taking things very slow; they have gotten to where they can dip their toe in. They have applied for a Pre-stream Management grants and they were funded through CWCB; they will look at two river reaches on the Purgatoire; the Urban River Reach and the Agricultural Reach then they will pull together all Stakeholders on those two reaches and develop a list of gaps, needs and priorities and if Stakeholders are all on board, we would then take all that information and apply for a full stream management planning grant possibly in 2021.
- Teri believes we will see more and more stream management plans, it's important to keep everyone at ease, especially the water right owners and the junior water right owners. As part of any stream management plan there should be a study to see if there is any impact, what it might be and how it would be mitigated if there is to water rights, and should be done by a qualified engineer with water research engineering.



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1. **Q:** Right now, Julie Knutson is keeping the Environmental Recreation Committee updated as we move along, is that the level of update and engagement you would like Purgatoire to be doing, or giving larger presentation to the full roundtable?
A: Mark Shea replied that, from time to time, the Executive Committee, during the planning process, or kicking off the planning process it might be best to update the full Roundtable, other Roundtable members agreed with Mark Shea's comment.
 2. **Q:** End goal will be ending up with a list of projects, how best is it to engage with BIP efforts to get Purgatoire in the loop even without a concrete list of projects?
A: Mark Shea mentions we have a living project list, we have an issue with updating and managing our project list, and the Roundtable knows that they need to get in there and update not just as part of the BIP update additional project information developed and included. Mark's hope is having an efficient and effective way to include new projects as they are identified.
- **COVID-19 Financial Implications for the Roundtable:** Russ Sands, from the CWCB staff, indicated the State Fiscal Year ends on June 30, with Fiscal 2021 starting on July 1, 2021. Final distribution was made for 2020. 2021 is unknown. The final funding for the 2020 Grants has been distributed, but fiscal 2021 is very uncertain for all forms of State level water funding.
 - **Canon City High School River Science Certification Program:** Luke Javernik has been working on a program and he's pursuing a Grant from Colorado Department of Education. The program provides support for schools that are offering different certifications. he has been working with Canon City High School for a certification that is related to water issues and other types of technical work often used in the water arena. Luke is interested in talking with the Roundtable for a potential letter of support for that grant application. We have an interesting policy of giving a letter of support for grant applications, even those that are outside of the Water Supply Reserve Funding Program and the State Water Program. Consensus approval to sign a letter of support to Luke Javernik.

Work Session:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting:

- None

Roundtable Business:

- None

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 13th 2020
- Subcommittees – Environmental Recreation Committee - TBD
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 20 and 21 Southwest Basin

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Board Meeting at 5:18 PM.