



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

March 11, 2020 – Pueblo Community College, 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-eight (28) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the January and February 2020 meetings were approved by consensus.

Public Comment

Peter Barkmann notified the group that an update of the Colorado Groundwater Atlas has been completed and has been made available on their website: coloradogeologicalsurvey.org.

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Amber Shanklin has been added to the Executive Committee. She will serve on the ARWC board as Secretary/Recorder.

Regarding the local BIP contractor, two firms provided proposals: Leonard Rice Engineers/Forsgren and GMS Engineering. The Executive Committee discussed the proposals and the majority preference was for Leonard Rice Engineers. A minority of four voted for GMS. Roundtable consensus is needed in order to move forward.

Minority opinion: Our constituents represent folks that often don't have a voice, that are typically poor, rural, and unable to speak for themselves. GMS would excel in this area.

Majority perspective: LRE/Forsgren bring experience at a higher level of planning. GMS is very good at system infrastructure project work, but has less experience with big picture planning. As we've mentioned before, there will be a need for roundtable members to provide local advocacy for projects. Both teams expressed their willingness to listen to folks from small communities throughout the basin. Both applications will be on the website within a few days.

The recommendation of Leonard Rice Engineers was met with consensus by roundtable members.

Mark Shea welcomed Bill Banks, new director of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District. He replaces Larry Small as a voting member on the roundtable.

CWCB Report – Ben Wade

New website: cwcb.colorado.gov

The CWCB board meeting will be under the tab: public information. CWCB meeting may be viewed there as it occurs. Grants from this basin will go to the board for approval tomorrow. Webinar – water availability and flood taskforce. All are welcome to join.



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There was a Demand Management Regional Workshop. The exploration of feasibility of demand management program continues.

There will be meetings on April 9th in Salida and on May 7th in Frisco for the Environmental Considerations Work Group.

CWCB Staff changes:

- Megan Holcomb moved into Climate Change Specialist
- Sam Stein is new liaison for all nine roundtables. We won't see Ben anymore. Sam will likely attend every-other month.
- Brent Newman left last fall. His position was Section Chief of Federal and Interstate Issues. Greg Johnson is moving into that role
- Russ Sands is now Water Supply Planning Section Chief.
- WSRF questions are being handled by Craig Godbout.

IBCC Report

Jeris – The IBCC met March 4&5. The first day was an IBCC meeting, and the second day was a meeting of the Demand Management Work Groups.

- The Rio Grande Basin reports a major push to export water from the San Luis Valley.
- There is a big move in the state for the state to take control of the administration of USACE Sections 104 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. The state is currently split between three (404) ACOE divisions. This could be very important to the state, and we should perhaps have a presentation regarding this at a future meeting. The roundtable may wish to officially adopt a position regarding this matter.
- State Engineer Kevin Rein talked about the compact, what authority he has, and what it would take for him to act. Showed the hydrology of the Colorado River. Compact administration needs clear rules as to role of the state.

PEPO – Amber Weber

New webisodes are near completion and will be shown at the Forum.

Water Education Colorado tour is getting close to finalization. Registration is open. Make sure you get signed up for that. The tour will start in La Junta and work its way up to Pueblo Reservoir.

Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

Grants will be taken up by CWCB tomorrow (that were approved at our January meeting). June 1st is the deadline for the next round of grants. Bring your projects forward!

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Brand

The next meeting will be held March 30th at 10:00 am, at the BLM offices in Canon City. We're working on our piece of the Master Needs List. We've found ARWC projects and agency projects. With agency projects, we're looking for ways to create lists within lists. Some are on the list just to let us know that they are happening versus projects that need project partners and funding.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

Chelsey handed out a report. Call or email her with any questions you may have. Amber Shanklin has joined the ARWC board and the Executive Committee.



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Arkansas Valley Conduit Update – Jim Broderick, Chris Woodka

It's been a vision since the early 1950's. The last few months have been exciting to watch, as this dream comes to life.

2018: New Concept Report...no federal funding

Costing and Technical Study – why not use Pueblo's water system to carry the water through town rather than building a big pipeline around Pueblo.

One of the larger customers on the conduit decided they didn't want to be on it anymore (St Charles Mesa)

2019: Joint Senate Memorial – Unanimous support in both houses. Asked to get back in the federal budget.

New plan starts near Hwy 50, east of Pueblo. Pipeline would be built mostly by Reclamation. Lines off the trunk line would have various funding sources.

Nov 2019 – CWCB awarded a \$100 million finance package. \$90 million loan, \$10 million grants. This package will be in the water projects bill this funding session. Thank you to Jack Goble. These funds also give leverage for the federal funding ask.

February 4, 2020: Congress announces \$28 million in funding for AVC in FY 2020.

February 10, 2020: President requests \$8 million for AVC in FY 2021.

Construction outlook: Planning meetings are underway. Will start building at the east end of Pueblo's water system.

Pre-Construction Activities:

- Environmental review
- Cultural resources review
- Field exploration review
- Land planning and utilities investigation
- Final design
- Land acquisition
- Construction procurement
- Contract with Pueblo Water (mid-2021)

Construction with the next couple years

- First 12 miles of pipeline to Boone
- Breakpoint chlorination facility
- Pumping station
- Surge tank

Next steps: drafting project management plan with Bureau of Reclamation. Boone still has about 1.4 million in grants that could be applied to this project in some way. This plan starts delivering water as soon as the pipeline reaches each customer.

15-year timeline for the whole thing. It won't likely happen that quickly. Pipeline is ~ \$2million per mile.

BREAK



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

Innovative Governance of Scarce Surface Water and Groundwater - CO School of Mines USDA Water Mgmt – Alex Gebben

Project Overview

- USDA-Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Grant
 - 3-year project spanning the Arkansas, South Platte, and Rio Grande Basins
 - Build upon prior National Science Foundation grant that focused on the Rio Grande Basin
- Generate Scientific Knowledge on what governance structures and decisions are effective for managing irrigation water
 - Provide inputs for stakeholder policy deliberations
- Three Overarching Goals
 - Assess the agricultural, ecological and socio-economic impacts of financial incentives for groundwater commons
 - Analyze dynamics and performance of self-governing irrigation services
 - Use experiments to test and promote institutional innovations for local water governance.

Cretaceous Sedimentary Bedrock and its Impact on Uranium Concentrations in Irrigation Return Flows to the Arkansas River, Southeastern Colorado - Colorado Geological Survey – Martin Palkovic

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) asked CGS to investigate how the subsurface geology may be affecting groundwater uranium concentrations along the Arkansas River...
- From John Martin Reservoir to the Kansas State Line. This study area roughly corresponds to the extent of the irrigated land in the area.
- Groundwater in southeastern Colorado has uranium concentrations above the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). U MCL = 30 µg/L. Main concern is U loading into the Arkansas River
- Kansas estimated that between 12-20,000 lbs/yr enter their state from 2012-2016. CDPHE's main concern is U loading into the Arkansas River
- The study area shows that most high uranium zones are located within areas of irrigated agriculture. On the presentation, bright red dots are >4x the MCL. How do these high uranium zones correlate to the geology? I set out to find out by looking at oil and gas logs and developing a drilling program to understand the geology of the area
- Agricultural practices in the Lower Arkansas River Basin believed to be contributing to water quality degradation of Arkansas River water
- Martin described study efforts and results (see presentation)

One World Solutions Institute Overview, Colorado State University – Tyler Wible

One World Solutions Institute (OWSI) Overview

- OWSI – One World Solutions Institute
- Catena Analytics
- eRAMS – Environmental Resource Assessment and Management Systems
- CSIP – Cloud Services Integration Platform
- Catena Analytics - examples



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MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Env/Rec Committee – March 30, 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://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/>