



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

May 13, 2020

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

More information and presentations may be found at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### **Roundtable Business**

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-two (22) members were present.

### **Approval of minutes of prior meeting**

*The meeting notes of the March 2020 meeting were approved by consensus. The roundtable did not meet in April.*

### **Public Comment**

Ann Bunting introduced herself, visiting from Crestone.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

Mark talked about the logistics of the GoToMeeting application. The Executive Committee met this morning, and on April 22. Meeting topics focused on the ARWC Budget and on the BIP Update.

A BIP Update committee will be formed to provide support to and oversight of local coordinators. All Roundtable members need to assist with the update process, however, to ensure that projects in your jurisdictions are included.

#### **CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Greg Felt, Russell Sands**

New website: [cwcb.colorado.gov](http://cwcb.colorado.gov)

Greg: The CWCB met on March 11 & 12 in Denver. There was a big agenda, and 32 or so grant requests were reviewed. Due to Covid-19, the financial outlook is of very real concern. New criteria may be assigned in future, and grant funding will be competitive. A strong commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit was expressed, which still must be approved by the Joint Budget Committee. That one is a \$10 million grant and \$90 million loan combination.

The next CWCB meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be a one-day virtual meeting.

Sam Stein: Sam introduced himself as the new CWCB liaison to the roundtable. He echoed the uncertainty regarding the budget. \$120,000 was recently put into the Basin Accounts. That's the only funding we are certain will come in 2020. Sam introduced Kat Weismiller, new CWCB Deputy Section Chair.

**BIP UPDATE – COVID IMPACTS** – Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell; Russell Sands, CWCB; Brett Gracely and Will Koger, local experts.

Matt Lindburg: Local expert workshops were held between April 29 and May 6. The workshops discussed the technical update. The aim was for a forum where we could talk to local experts around the state and dig into the weeds regarding assumptions and scenarios. Looking at different demands and how the gap is calculated. Got into the different tools that were developed. It was a smaller group format so that there could be good discussions. They also discussed activities that the roundtables will be engaged in.



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

Russell Sands: Webinars are on the website, and water plan listening sessions will also be added.

Will Koger: Will gave a Basin Implementation Plan Update. A written update was also emailed to roundtable members and interested parties.

- Follows 2019 Technical Update to Colorado's Water Plan
- Five 2050 planning scenarios driven by changes in population, density, economy, energy, climate, technology, ag market, and social values
- Incorporates better data (e.g. HB 1051 data), available CDSS modeling, new environment and recreation (E&R) evaluation tool
- BIP Update to recharacterize and update future gaps considering IPPs
- Will "meet in the middle" with respect to top-down and bottom-up approach
- Scoped and budgeted with Implementation Work Group input:
  - Streamline the BIPs and provide statewide consistency
  - Update project needs
  - Improve cost estimates with new costing tool unless better info. is available
  - Help identify and direct funding to implement projects
  - Consider cross-basin collaborative efforts, e.g. forest health

## Outreach and RFI

- Compile Project Needs
- IPP database for statewide roll-up
  - Continue with larger Arkansas Basin database (Master Needs List)
- Extensive outreach effort needed to identify projects, costs and inputs for costing tool, and potential yields
- Strategies:
  - Basin Roundtable standing committees and membership help to maximize value
  - Outreach subcommittee coordinated with PEPO
  - Regional workshops

Sub-Committee: Bob Hamel or Amber Shanklin, Mark Shea, Mike Weber, Amber Weber, Chelsey Nutter – who can we deputize to flush out projects throughout the basin. This will be a standing item on our monthly meeting agendas.

## **COVID IMPACTS – Russell Sands**

There is now a 3.3 billion deficit in funding expected for the state of Colorado. There will be cuts to CWCB funding, and CWCB is aiming to fund the things that it is committed to. Originally we thought we'd be able to approve new water plan grants, but the governor's office is now asking that new grants be put on hold for the moment. Current basin funding requests should be honored. We're hopeful that we'll be able to move forward with loans.

Future WSRF funding will be low for some time. The oil market was having an impact even before COVID.

Regarding the new sports gambling measure, that number is very low so far, since most sports have been put on hold.



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

## **IBCC Report – Russell Sands**

There will be a virtual IBCC meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. It will track what the workgroups are doing and what's next on the agenda for the IBCC.

## **PEPO – Amber Weber**

By next meeting, will have a detailed budget for existing funding and an idea of where we're headed. The webisodes are mostly finished and will be published on the website soon. Working with Chelsey to update the story map. There was a loss of data, and a focus on replacing that. The Water Festival has been changed and working on how to get virtual activities that are alternatives.

## **Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega**

Normally, the next round of grant apps would be due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Abby is asking folks to hold off submitting something new, unless it's a small basin grant only. June 18 was to be the next needs assessment meeting, but it may not be needed. Do let Abby know if you have something in mind. There are four WSRF grant applications going forward at next month's CWCB meeting.

## **Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs**

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will participate in a virtual meeting with other enviro/rec committees around the state. We're meeting in order to help each other get through the BIP update together.

The May committee meeting will not be held.

## **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter**

Chelsey submitted a draft 2020 budget to the Executive Committee and received feedback earlier today. Will finalize the budget in the next couple of days and send to the whole roundtable. Will be working on a membership package in conjunction with that, and will also be working on the 2021 budget before long. Chelsey described projects that are underway, including field work with Chaffee County, additional funding for the Decker Fire, and Huerfano County projects. For mitigation work, we are still scheduled to begin the Monarch Pass Steep Slope Treatment on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We won't be able to capture that project in action as originally planned, but will be documenting the project. The project will take more than one season to complete. We put in a proposal for funding to support the BIP project, but unsure as to the result of that funding now. In Salida, they are working on the South Arkansas Stream Management Plan.

**Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM**

## **MEETINGS/LINKS:**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: June 10<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- Env/Rec Committee – No May meeting. Plan to meet the last Monday in June.
- CWCB Virtual Meeting: May 20<sup>th</sup>
- IBCC Virtual Meeting: June 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- PEPO: [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://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](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>