



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

May 13th 2020 – GoToMeeting

www.arkansasbasin.com

Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber - Vice Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Abby Ortega – Needs Assessment Committee; Al Tucker, Jake Goble, Brett Gracely, Amber Weber – PEPO; Amber Shanklin – Secretary of ARWC; Chelsey Nutter – ARWC; Paul Fanning, Sandy White – Past Chair; Greg Felt - CWCBC Representative; Bob Hamel; Tim Canterbury; Wil Koger; Matt Leimbeck; Scott Lorenz

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:30 PM Greeting and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval of the April 22nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- **Update on the 2020 Meeting:** Chelsey received some suggestions and input from the Executive Committee members at the April 22th meeting and incorporated them into the 2020 Budget, she will finalize the document and get it out to the Roundtable.
- **Project Updates:** Decker Fire is moving forward, ARWC is working alongside with Greg Felt and Chaffee County while supporting them with the EWP project.
- CDPHE Scope of work for \$150,000.00 is going towards recovery efforts for Decker Fire and was submitted for funding through Water and Power Authority.
- ARWC received a green light on the Spring Fire Project (phase 3) and is working alongside with Water Conservancy District.
- The Spring Fire Project is looking at additional remodeling and hazard mapping with the help of Luke Javernik- with River Science; and Kevin Pilgrim-with COCO.
- ARWC staff is working on some implementation projects that do not require any engineering or design work, the project being performed right now is cleaning out an old swimming pool; the sediment being removed will be saved and used to help repair County Roads.
- Fire and Flood (no new update)
- Spring Fire 2020 (no new update).
- Addition to recovery projects ARWC is trying to move forward with the Story Map that was put together several years ago, they have moved the GIS out of COCO and into ARWC GIS but ran into some issues while performing this task and lost a lot of the photos and links, they are working on repairing that information.
- ARWC has been working with folks in Salida on a Stream Management Plan on the South Arkansas River, ARWC is a Stakeholder on that project, with the main project lead being the Conservation District.
- **Any other Matters:** No other Matters.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments:** Mark Shea took part in the local expert kick-off workshop, which was an hour each morning Monday May 4th, Tuesday May 5th, and Wednesday May 6th. He had the opportunity to engage with CWCB and the local experts. He was asked to share and provide input on three topics; Monday's topic was the Roundtables' vision of the BIP update process. He states the importance was maximizing the value of the BIP update to the Roundtable members and Stakeholders and also the importance of highlighting and capturing the needs of smaller Stakeholders with fewer resources within each Basin, recognizing that there are large entities in each Basin who will be involved in the process. Tuesday's topic was Cross Boundary Studies; one of the main topics discussed there was Forest Health and Wildfire Risk to water resources. This was followed by a discussion of Demand Management, Conservation, Water Quality, and what we can share with the other Roundtables across the Basins. Wednesday's topic was BIP strategies, many Roundtables are standing up subcommittees for the BIP Update process and Mark states that's something the Roundtable should consider.
- **Other outstanding reports:** No other outstanding reports from the Executive Committee members.

New Business:

- **ABRT BIP Update/Local Experts:** Matt Leimbeck (from Brown & Caldwell, the CWCB consultant for the Basin Implementation Plan Update statewide) stated that the local expert workshop was a series of sections spread out over 6 days. The workshop started on Wednesday April 29th 2020 and ended on Wednesday May 6th 2020. The schedule included 3 hours each morning and 2 hours each afternoon. The idea was to dig into the details of the studies and analyze what was done in the technical update, to understand the details of the different tools that was developed during the technical update to really equip the local experts to use the data sets and information and tools to explain the assumptions and communicate the work that was done to the Roundtable.
- CWCB and the local experts discussed the big picture topics, such as what the overall schedule looks like for the BIP update, how it relates to the Water Plan, and what are more administrative type things regarding the local expert working with the general contractor. They went through some core duties of the local experts and dug into the details of the near-term priorities. They focused on Population Projections that were part of the Technical Update and how that was related to Municipal water demands, and Agricultural water demands in those calculations and how they went about calculating the Gap. They went over Environmental Recreation database and some upgrades that were done to that. Flow tools were discussed along with the Project Costing tool, and even side boards for the BIP's and why some side boards are in place. The idea was to have a smaller group setting where CWCB and the local experts could dig into the details and allow the freedom to ask questions.
- Brett Gracely (Leonard Rice, chosen local expert) explains the take away information from the workshop background and vision. (**Reference document ABRT BIP Memo01**)
 - 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



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- Will “meet in the middle” with respect to top-down and bottom-up approach; the strategy is to right size that in the middle where top-down approach provides a consistent frame work across the state so that CWCB staff and consultants can roll-up information into the Water Plan update and provide a long-term consistent frame work for state wide planning and funding opportunities. Each Roundtable will have the opportunity to customize their information on the areas that are most important.
- 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
 - Task Order includes: TO-01 Participate in Local Experts (LEs) workshops conducted by CWCB and General Contractor (GC). Conduct initial consultation with Roundtable Leadership.
 - TO-02 Using existing Project List (Master Needs List or IP&Ps), initiate requests for project needs data and coordinate with Basin Roundtables to develop BIP Update Work Plan
 - TO-03 Conduct basin analysis and prepare BIP Update. Coordinate with other Roundtables to incorporate potential collaborative opportunities
- **COVID-19 Financial Implications for the Roundtable:** Mark Shea called on Russell Sands for the financial impacts from the pandemic and how this affects the Roundtables and future funding. The State’s most recent estimate for 2020-2021 is now a \$3.3 Billion deficit. CWCB is committed to following through with the grants that have been completed, but we will need to see in July as to future WSRF Funding; it was expected to be lower, with severance tax revenue down. The April WSRF funding of \$120,000 may be the largest we see for a while. The goal is to keep moving forward. Greg asked about an update on the Sports Gambling Projection. Russ hasn’t seen any hard numbers, but he will follow up with an answer; it will probably not produce much revenue for this year and it will probably be relatively low after that.

Work Session:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting:

- None

Roundtable Business:

- None

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 10, 2020
- Subcommittees – Environmental Recreation Committee – June 29, 2020 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM via GoToMeeting. (A link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.)
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 20 and 21 Virtual Meeting with information to follow.

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Board Meeting at 12:15 PM.