



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

June 10, 2020

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

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

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-four (24) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the May 2020 meeting were approved by consensus.

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

The Executive Committee met this morning, as did the ARWC Board of Directors. The ARWC 2020 Budget was approved. The committee also discussed project work going on, including the South Arkansas Stream Management Plan. Talked about channel restoration, how that might affect hydrology, and how to ensure avoiding injury to water rights holders.

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

Sam: We just heard back that the severance tax operational fund grants that were heard during the March board meeting will not proceed through to contracting just yet.

The \$120,000 that was just allocated to each basin may be the last we see for awhile. In the next fiscal year, zero dollars will be added to basin accounts. The following year will likely be challenged as well. The state will not be allowed to have any meetings that are outside the statewide social distancing guidelines.

We are making progress on the BIPs, and all roundtables are on track. Moving forward with listening sessions. Sam is happy to facilitate any conversations about grants.

April was dry for everyone except for the Front Range, particularly the San Luis and Arkansas Valleys. The next meeting of the Drought Monitoring Committee will be held on the 23rd at 9:30 am.

A June IBCC meeting will be held on the 17th, from 9-12.

Russ: Thank you to the roundtables for helping us think through this process. Grant funding for the BIP is still secure and is not coming from individual basins.

Greg:

Did talk to Becky Mitchell this morning for a little update. Uncertainty as to funding sources and various pots of money.



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Russ: As we're talking with local experts from each basin, we're looking for overlap to determine focus for this BIP. There's enough synergy around forest health, that it will likely be given priority. We are working on a Framework for a Cross-Basin Study of Forest Health.

BIP UPDATE – Will Koger

Will: Work has proceeded, beginning with participation in the CWCB workshop listening sessions. The coordination process has launched with roundtable leadership.

Task 2 will dive in to updating project information. It also includes the preparation of a work plan for the BIP update. The work plan will be a scope of services that includes a list of meetings, how we'll be coordinating with Brown and Caldwell, and how we'll work with the BIP update committee and gather information from members and project proponents.

Task 3 is the draft BIP update, which is due next June.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Russell Sands

June 17th 9-12. Next IBCC meeting will be by zoom. Focusing on the topic of equity around demand management. If something were to be developed, it needs to be cognizant of each basin's needs. It's so subjective – it feels different to each basin. Will try to wrap up the collective thought and get that to the CWCB. Then, will discuss what else the IBCC wants to work on? Will meet next in October.

PEPO – Amber Weber

The future of PEPO is also uncertain. We've changed the scope of one of our grants, maximizing monies available.

- Story map is being repaired and will be added to the website.
- BIP update
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum sponsorship
- Will sponsor Creek Week, through the Fountain Creek Watershed District
- Will sponsor the River Science program

Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

We do still have some money in our basin account, around \$400,000. We'd like to continue to leverage that and continue to move forward on critical projects for our basin. As a result, we have extended the deadline for grant applications to June 25th. Will have a needs assessment meeting on June 30th.

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs, Amber Shanklin

The next meeting will be held June 29th, virtually. Participated in a call on June 15th with other enviro/rec reps throughout the state. Seems like we are pretty far along compared to other basins in regard to updating the BIP. There will not be a lot of room for other types of projects than those already in the pipeline, mostly through ARWC.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

Project Update:

- Moving forward with EWP projects in partnership with Chaffee County. Design is complete and moving into construction. We saw some pretty serious storms last weekend, but no flows from the burn scar thus far.



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- Spring Fire – alluvial hazard mapping. Next task in our next grant is to convene a stakeholder group, sit down with the modeling, discuss mitigation locations. Where do we want to put our money and our time.
- Hayden - still doing some work there. We're a few years out from that burn. Hoping that we're moving more into long-term sustainability there.
- Working with a couple folks on the potential for Stream Management planning. Figuring out who needs to be on that board, who needs to be represented. Chaffee County.
- Meeting tomorrow with Amber about the story map and the science plan work.
- Working with CS Utilities, on an early warning system for Fremont County for flooding that might happen from the Decker Fire. Monitoring that would warn Fremont county so that they could shut off their water intake.

Greg Felts thanked Chelsey for the work she's doing in Chaffee County. There are eight EWP site-specific projects going. ARWC has been doing a lot of the outreach work with landowners and has been a good collaboration.

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MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: July 8th Virtual Meeting www.arkansasbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec Committee – June 29th Virtual Meeting.
- CWCB Virtual Meeting: July 15 Virtual Meeting
- IBCC Virtual Meeting: June 17th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 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/>