



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes

June 10th 2020 – GoToMeeting

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Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber - Vice Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Abby Ortega – Needs Assessment Committee; Al Tucker, Brett Gracely, Jeris Danielson, Amber Weber – PEPO; Amber Shanklin – Secretary of ARWC; Chelsey Nutter – ARWC; Paul Fanning, Sandy White – Past Chair; Greg Felt - CWCB Representative; Bob Hamel; Tim Canterbury; Wil Koger; Terry Scanga - IBCC, Russell Sands – CWCB.

Call to order:

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

Minutes:

Consensus approval of the May 13th, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- **Project update:** ARWC continues to work with Chafee County on the Decker Fire Project, they expect to start construction in the weeks to come.
- ARWC continues to work on the Spring Fire Project, they just contracted with Ingenuity and will finalize the modeling, and the next step would be a stakeholder engagement group to help identify projects to make sure they meet all criteria that they will need before moving into any engineering design or construction work.
- ARWC continues to work in Hayden with is primarily planning for some long-term recovery.
- ARWC 2020 budget received consensus approval to move forward.

Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments:** Mark Shea mentions Muni listening session was on Wednesday June 3rd, and Forest Health listening session was on Friday June 5th Environmental Recreation listening session will be on Thursday June 11th Mark hopes others are tuning into sessions when they come available. He's glad Forest Health was a shared issue of interest across the different Basins and Roundtables, CWCB is recognizing the importance of that topic as it relates to protecting our water resources through-out the state of Colorado. Mark believes there will be more attention given to Forest Health and the risk of Catastrophic Wildfires when the state water plan is updated. Mark believes there are some consensus across many of the Roundtables that there should be additional attention given to that topic as Roundtables update there BIP.
- **PEPO-Amber Weber:** PEPO is looking to close out two grants so they can focus on the BIP update. One grant will focus on the story map which a lot of the data was lost PEPO plans to revive it and make it better now that the funds are in place, as soon as that's complete they will then turn it over to the local experts for the BIP update.



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- PEPO only has \$4,988.50 left in the Colorado Water Plan Budget, and \$3,000.00 of that budget will go to the Water Forum that was approved and sponsored by the Roundtable. The main task that was left in that grant was the Children's Water Festival, but with COVID-19 still in effect Amber thinks it's unwise to pursue the Water Festival.
- Next budget is WSRF. PEPO has changed the scope, so it focuses on the story map; task two is a website transfer and payment which is the original grant to create the website and to make sure everything is exported over correctly. Story Map is under task 1.A which is a little over \$8,000 and then the website transfer and payment PEPO has the domain extinction that way the website is sustainable and it will be set up through 2022.
- On the budget is an interactive map application which is used on the website to host the Story Map.
- Education action dollars (EAP) those funds were closed out a month ago; the new EAP will start in the upcoming month.
- Amber has two organizations that she would like to sponsor in place of the Children's Water Festival.
 - a. First is the Fountain Creek Water Shed District for their Creek Week, which then they will focus on small group clean-ups, to sponsor them it will be \$925.00.
 - b. Second is the River Science Education Program (focusing on water literacy) to sponsor them it will be \$1,000.00.
 - c. Consensus approval to move forward with the funding of both Fountain Creek Water Shed District (creek week) and River Science Education Program.
- **Other outstanding reports:**
 1. **Q:** Abby Ortega sent out an email regarding the Needs Assessment Committee and would like to know how the Roundtable would like to move forward with the grant applications?
A: Mike Weber states the deadline was June 1st but now we are going to push it back with no notification before that June 1st date doing so shows some concerns.
A: Russ Sands with CWCB thinks they will move forward with at least approving, so the Roundtable can keep giving recommendations to the board it's just going to be a challenge. If you know that you won't have money for 1-2 years those dollars will have to stretch to your highest priority project. In regards to Water Plan grants it's still kind of out there, as far as WSRF the board may approve any Basin account funds, but come September the board will be able to approve state account funds for WSRF.
 2. **Q:** Greg Felt wanted to get clarification from Russ Sands who stated previously that there won't be any Basin orientated grants that would be approved in March, but there was a big one for ARWC Greg was told back in May that what they had been approved in March.
A: Russ Sands states not being able to advance things that were approved in March only applies to Severance Tax Operational Fund Grant. ARWC grants was approved through another funding bucket.
S: Terry Scanga thinks we need to re-look at Needs Assessment for Roundtable and decided which grants we will promote and what the requirements need to be, we have limited funds and we should look over projects where we can get the most out of it for the Basin and the state before we advance those. That means CWCB needs to look at reducing the percentage of a grant and increasing cost share before we even approve it.
 3. **Q:** A lot of money was taken out for loans for CWCB how much money was being taken out of Severance Tax Funds from the loan program, and will those funds will be replenished?
A: Russ Sands does not know if the Severance Tax Funds will be paid back.



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4. **Q:** Abby Ortega would like to know if the Roundtable wants to move the date on accepting grants or keep the date at June 1st. Do we want to process the grant applications that are sitting in our laps and move forward with the needs assessment meeting to be able to process that grant application?

A: Mark Shea knows there is \$400,000 in the Basin Fund, and 5.77 million sitting with the state-wide fund for WSRF, Mark agrees to move forward to consider applications.

Consensus approval to place a notice on the website to extend the date for grant applications, understanding that it's after the published date of June 1st.

New Business:

- **ABRT BIP Update/Local Experts:** Brett (Leonard Rice, chosen local expert) explains that task order one has been completed per the contract with Brown & Caldwell (CWCB consultant for the Basin Implementation Plan)
- Local Experts began work under task order two which has four main element:
 - Writing out an actual work plan.
 - Updating project data in the IPP data base.
 - Local experts will be participating in a cross-basin work shop with other Roundtable local experts on June 23rd hosted by CWCB and Brown & Caldwell.
 - Task order two provides the Project Management and Administrative task that are supporting the Roundtable in the BIP update and the collaborating with the general contractor.
- Local experts have formed a BIP update committee, this committee includes Mark Shea, Mike Weber, Amber Weber, Amber Shanklin, and Chelsey Nutter. As part of that LRE is making an open appeal not only to Roundtable members but any Stakeholders in the Arkansas Basin that has specific knowledge on projects as they exist in the basin wide project list (master needs list).
- Local experts participated in eleven local expert workshops which were half day sessions over a 6 day period, they have begun the coordination process under task order one with the Basin Roundtable leadership.
- **COVID-19 Financial Implications for the Roundtable:** No update

Work Session:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting:

- None

Roundtable Business:

- None

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – July 8, 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 – July 15 & 16 Virtual Meeting with information to follow.

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