



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## Executive Committee Meeting Notes

October 14th 2020 – GoToMeeting

[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

**Executive Committee Present:** Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber - Vice Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Amber Shanklin – Secretary of ARWC; Carol Ekarius – Acting Director of ARWC; Paul Fanning, Greg Felt - CWCB Representative; Bob Hamel – Vice Chair (Recreational and Environmental Committee); Brett Gracely and Wil Koger - Consultant; Russell Sands – CWCB Staff; Al Tucker; Jeris Danielson - IBCC; Sam Stein-CWCB; Abigail Ortega- Needs Assessment Committee; Terry Scanga - IBCC

**Executive Committee Absent and Excused:** Sandy White – Past Chair

### **Call to order:**

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

### **Minutes:**

Consensus approval for the September 9th, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

### **ARWC Board Meeting:**

- Executive Director Update: Carol Ekarius is getting her arms wrapped around ARWC projects and things that are happening right now. Carol's thought is to do an annual ARWC meeting in January 2021, which will give Carol some time to talk with the Roundtable members individually to find out what was working and what wasn't working. Carol believes by January 2021 ARWC will be ready to discuss any changes to governance with Russ Sands and ARWC board members, and how to go about hiring a new Executive Director for ARWC.
  - Mark Shea made some changes to the Basin Roundtable website, to clarify the partnership and relationship between ARWC and the Roundtable. There were some concerns that ARWC works at the direction of the Roundtable versus being more of a partner and support to the Roundtable.
  - The Steep Slope work at Monarch Pass is still going on; ARWC plans on doing two tours, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> following with tours next spring.
- Noteworthy: number of people are being limited because of COVID-19.**

### **Reoccurring Matters:**



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- Chair Comments- Mark Shea sent out an email from Russ on the WSRF program changes. All communications with those grants will be communicated and directed to Ben Wade.
- Sam Stein mention the disbursements into the Basin accounts is actually \$100,000 instead of \$80,000. Those are only WSRF funds that the Basin Roundtable will receive in the next three (3) years. CWCB is advising Basin Roundtables to put together a three (3) year spending plan. In terms of the three (3) year spending plan, the State's match will be just under 2.5 million, but available in March there is roughly \$600,000 available; because \$1.5 million was given out in terms of State match in the prior board meetings if you apply that across all the Basin Roundtable that leaves about \$66,000 per Basin. There is a three (3) month window for review as opposed to one (1) month that the board passed at the last board meeting and the 100% of funds allocated September 1<sup>st</sup> as opposed to three (3) over the course of a year.
- Abby Ortega states the Needs Assessment Committee has had several interest parties in grants; including two (2) from the Metro Roundtable for just Basin funds. It's about \$400,000 Basin funds she thinks the Roundtable can look at that, but the statewide limitation on about \$66,000 is going to be difficult to approve too many grants. On the website the grants need to be in by October 20<sup>th</sup>, but that doesn't give people very much time.
- Mark, Brett, and Will took part in a conference call regarding transmountain diversion modeling, and the tech update with Wilson Water Group. The way they are looking at the transmountain diversion projects is just based on historic operations. There is a certain set amount for water supply that the transmountain diversion bring into the Arkansas Basin annually. The modeling on the Colorado River shows that transmountain diversions are called out in those planning scenario conditions in the Arkansas Basin technical update sessions they don't show those planning scenarios or reduction on how much is imported by the transmountain diversion, so there is an inconsistency between how the modeling is done between the exporting Basin and the importing Basin. This means that if you really want to look at those planning scenarios, you would really have to look at supplies being further reduced based on the reductions of imports in addition to reductions caused by hydrology. This highlights that we have a water supply challenge here in the Arkansas Basin, and many of the planning scenarios that are included in the technical update; that challenge just gets bigger, and how we take it on becomes very important.
- **Q:** Terry Scanga states that majority of our water comes from snowmelt. Storage was an integral part of this and especially transmountain diversions. Do they plan on considering storage that's carried over year to year?
- **A:** Mark Shea states that they have looked at transmountain diversions that have storage attached to them specifically Colorado River storage. They have looked at change in snow pack run-off and that's one of the big things that affect hydrology if the run-off happens earlier. Those two factors are defiantly part of the simplistic modeling work that has been done. They have not looked at growth in water rights associated with trans mountain diversion projects.



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- Terry wants to know how we deal with the public message that goes out to the person who doesn't deal with water all the time; how do we deal with the misperception from the public? Shouldn't CWCB be looking to allocate resources to get an accurate view so the message we give the public is accurate?
- Other Outstanding Reports- No other outstanding reports.

## **ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:**

- Workshops Reports/Updates:
- **Q:** Mike Fink questions if the local experts have a drop-dead date on submitting IPP's? Mike is working with a couple people in the El Paso area; he understands they are still being accepted, but wants to know if there is an end date.
- **A:** The Local Experts need all IPP's by December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. The door will still be open for projects to come forward for our Master Needs List, but at some point, we need to close the door so Brett and Will can do their work with the project list. Russ describes that there is a "project portal" state wide that will be created and managed in a way that new projects can be added, and as further information for those projects are available they than can be updated.
- Brett stated that the Upper Basin Workshop held on the 29<sup>th</sup> had a higher number of attendees. The purpose of each Workshop was to provide enough background information so that way folks can feel comfortable or be informed enough to add things. We had variety of formats such as emails, phone calls, and online one-on-one sessions etc. to help walk them through the database and how they can update and enter information.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Local Experts used an online software; which allows the attendees the opportunity to enter response in a poll through their computers or cell phones. They were asked what their biggest need was, and the top two categories were Agricultural Infrastructure and Municipal Infrastructure followed by Watershed Health, Environmental, and then last was Water Quality and Recreational. The biggest hurdle was funding and capacity to pursue planning design and funding, and challenges around permitting.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Local Experts again used the polling method, but added an additional question. Which was what type of entity do you represent as a participant? They had some Industrial, Conservation, State and Federal agency, Local Governments, Municipalities, Government/Science, and NGO. Upper Basin biggest needs were Watershed Health, M&I Infrastructure, Environmental Recreation, and Water Quality. The biggest hurdle was the capacity to pursue permitting through funding.
- Work Plan Update: The work plan has been completed a couple weeks ago, and that includes task order three (3) that effort is going towards getting the BIP update and completed by January 2022. The general contractor will attend several Roundtable meetings to help the Local Experts review the technical items, and also to take part in helping with identifying strategies, goals, and adjectives.



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- Next Step Forward: The Local Experts gathered some great input from the workshops. They will now take all the input they received which will be filtered and checked against the current project list. They will move towards the BIP update strategy goals and objectives.

## **New Business:**

- None

## **Work Session:**

- None

## **Old Business:**

- None

## **Needs Assessment Meeting:**

- Update Grant Application Timeline and Information: The application will be due October 29<sup>th</sup>, and they will be reviewed November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM.

## **Roundtable Business:**

- Annual Meeting Prep- Discussed in the afternoon meeting

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – November 11, 2020
- Subcommittees
  - Enviro/Rec Comm.- October 26, 2020
- CWCB Board Meeting – November 18 & 19, 2020
- IBCC- October 21, 2020

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM.