



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Executive Committee Meeting Notes Wednesday, June 09, 2021 – Zoom Meeting www.arkansasbasin.com

Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Paul Fanning, Al Tucker, Jeris Danielson - IBCC, Sandy White- Past Chair; Alan Ward; Alli Schuch, Bob Hamel – Vice Chair (Recreational and Environmental Committee); Ben Wade; Rick Kienitz; Abby Ortega, Carol Ekarius-ARWC, Wil Koger (Forsgren Associates); Terry Scanga, Greg Felt; Amber Shanklin; Brett Gracely Consultant; Tim Canterbury; Jacqueline Armand- Sen. Bennet Office

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM. Greetings and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval for May 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- Executive Director Update- The draft for the Executive Director position has been finalized.

Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments- Mark received an “all chairs update” which will be transmitted to the Executive Committee.
- Mark stated, with the new direction from the Governor, we can start making plans for in-person meetings; even if that’s 2 out of 3 months on zoom and having a quarterly in-person meeting.
- Al asked Mark about mask requirements and vaccination confirmation during in-person meetings. Mark stated that will depend on the venue.
- Mike suggested doing concurrent zoom meetings for those people who are seated Roundtable members.
- State Water Plan funding applications are due by July 1st the House Bill 21-1260 pushed \$15 million dollars for the water grant and \$5 million dollars to WRF.
- The Needs Assessment Committee is not available to meet prior to the July 1st deadline for grant applications. Instead applicants can request a letter of support at the July Roundtable. Applicants can contact CWCB directly with question related to funding.
- \$50,000 in funding can now be directly approved by Director Mitchell; \$50,000-\$100,000 can be approved by CWCB in consent agenda and anything \$100,000 + will be presented to the Board individually.
- Executive Committee agrees with suspending the Needs Assessment Committee for reviewing; grant applications should be submitted straight to CWCB.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- Ben Wade indicated that the “matching” letter for funding must be submitted at the original deadline the letter of support may be submitted to CWCB staff after the deadline of July 1st.
- Abby suggested having a Needs Assessment meeting in August but she will need some additional support.
- June IBCC meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled to October 21st 2021.
- Demand Management will have an upcoming “listening session” in June.
Visit: (engagecwcb.org) for more information.
- Mark mentioned getting empty Roundtable seats filled. Rick Kienitz (Aurora Water) submitted a letter to fill one of the at-large seats which now leaves three (3) “at-large” seats available.
- Other Outstanding Reports- No other outstanding reports.

ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies- Volume 1 and 2 documents will be submitted to CWCB and the State Attorney General’s office for initial review; once complete they will be cycled back to the Roundtable for review in August.

Roundtable Business:

- Demand Management Statements- Jeris wants to know what the role of the State Engineer is; we also have no opinion from the Attorney General whether the Demand Management is even legal.
- Jeris and Terry represents our position with IBCC and indicated that it is imperative how we move forward. Other Roundtables have communicated directly to the CWCB about Demand management positions. Abby stated staying silent is not the right way we should go, but instead we need to recognize what the Basin needs are.
- Terry believes the Executive Committee still needs to do a real physical “water bank” with storage vessels that can store water in Colorado, and give the authority to the Administrator State Engineer to administer that water.
- Greg mentioned the Basin needs to make a statement defining our positions and not just responding to the policy adopted by the Yampa.
- Mark stated we need to go into drafting mode and use the Executive Committee as an adopting Committee.
- Terry will put together a rough outline so the Executive Committee can build on that framework. Terry will send that out to Mark and have Roundtable Members build and start on an outline.
- Jeris, Sandy, Terry, Greg, AL, and Mark will put together a draft and next steps for the Demand Management.
- Draft policy addressing letters of support for Stream Restoration Projects- Mark wants to make sure we are getting good input from the Roundtable and other folks on this topic before moving forward.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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WATER FUTURE

- Terry feels that the policy currently written speaks to the status quo given. The policy doesn't assume that if you're doing a project you're causing injury, but that it should be evaluated so that it's not causing injury.
- Amber has some concerns about implementing the policy and needs more clarification before taking a vote.
- Sandy mentions that Terry's policy basically says that "we will comply with our enabling legislation" that we are required to do current things or not do current things which will alert applicants.
- Amber states there is more to the policy which includes:
 - The Roundtable Executive Committee will determine if there is reasonable potential for the project to cause negative impacts to water rights.
 - Determine if there is a need for the applicant to confer with Division 2 Engineer
- Mark's states any member of the Roundtable and or the Needs Assessment Committee can bring that issue forward in the review of grant applications; we don't need a policy its part of our initial review process.
- Terry stated that, in the past, we had people bring projects forward that do not do an evaluation to the confirm water rights issues.
- Carol mentions if the requirement is that the applicant confer with the Division 2 Engineer to view any concerns with the projects, that's not an unreasonable expectation.
- Mark would like to facilitate a conversation with Bill Tyner and Russ Sands with (CWCB) before moving forward.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – July 14, 2021
 - Executive Committee- 10:30am
 - Roundtable- 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.- June 28, 2021: 10:00am
 - PEPOW- June 16, 2021, 1:30am
- Statewide PEPO- June 22, 2021
- CWCB Board Meeting- July 21 & 22, 2021
- IBCC- June 23, 2021

Adjourn:

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting at 12:30 PM.