



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes Wednesday, July 14, 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; Chris Wisemen; Alli Schuch, Bob Hamel – Vice Chair (Recreational and Environmental Committee); Rick Kienitz; Abby Ortega, Carol Ekarius-ARWC, Terry Scanga, Sam Stein; Russ Sands, Amber Weber, Amber Shanklin, Brett Gracely Consultant; Tim Canterbury; Gracy Goodwin, Tracy Pepper, Lindsay Griffith

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM. Greetings and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval for June 09, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- Executive Director Update- ARWC is accepting resumes through the end of 7/23. Carol plans to schedule interviews with the Executive Committee within the next couple of weeks to fill the (ARWC) Executive Director position via Zoom.

Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments- Mark stated with the new direction from the Governor he'd like to start in-person meetings in August and/or September and making Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC) a preferred meeting space.
- Sam Stein stated if the Roundtable is asking to be reimbursed for meeting space and/or catering, then CWCB will request the Roundtable submit a social distancing guidance document or guidance plan. Sam or other CWCB staff can help the Roundtable to compose this plan, if needed.
- Sam shared, that Russ George has stepped down as the IBCC Director.
- The next Water Plan Grant deadline is December 1st.
- Sam addressed the WSRF stimulus package; the 5M is separated into the State and Basin accounts, giving \$200,000 to each Basin. These funds will have to be approved during the May 2023CWCB Meeting. The plan is to spend the stimulus funds first and leave the Native Basin funds in the account.
- Other Outstanding Reports- No other outstanding reports.

ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies- Lindsay Griffith briefed the Executive Committee on the project database and the tiering process. Lindsay stated that 360 projects are active in the database which were tiered based on a rubric that was developed



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by CWCB. Some of the tiering process is based on a calculated formula within the database itself. Lindsay would like to come up with a plan on how to move forward with a Phase 1 review.

- Mark would like additional input from the Executive Committee on the tiering process. Also sharing that the Roundtable has an Agricultural and an Environmental Recreation Stakeholder group available.
- Lindsay states the BIP Volume 2 (draft) will be available by the end of July and Volume 1 (draft) will be available by the end of August.

Roundtable Business:

- Demand Management Discussion: Terry and Mark went over the equity outline but didn't get fully involved in that issue and feels it deserves a lot of discussion by the committee.
- The first bullet point is:
 - Understanding the water administration on the Colorado River
 - Giving the ability to administer demand management in Colorado
 - Entity managing, leasing demand management
 - Quantification and change of the water rights (court process)
 - Protocols and terms for leasing water and
 - Proportionality and equity

Refer to the Demand Management Feasibility Investigation report for more information.

- Jeris stated, the first thing that has to be determined is the concept; even legal and the Attorney General is silent on this issue. Second, how is the State Engineer going to administer a call? We are not in this by ourselves; there are three (3) Upper Basin States that all have to agree on a plan.
- Mark noted that Terry put together the initial draft Demand Management report and circulated the draft with the smaller committee that was formed at last month's meeting (June) involving Jeris, Sandy, Terry, Greg, Mark, and Al. This committee will continue to work on the draft document and then it will be distributed to the Executive Committee at next month's meeting in (August) for review. During that time, they will discuss if the Demand Management report is ready to be addressed at the Roundtable level.
- In paragraph 4.B Terry mentions return water flow, Sandy would like to hear his thoughts.
- Terry states, there is a responsibility to maintain storage return flow by time, amount, and location. In order to do that, some of that water needs to be stored in order to be made available. There will need to be a current amount of water released to the stream to mimic historic return flows.
- Draft policy addressing letters of support for Stream Restoration Projects: Paul stated we've had a lot of conversations on this topic and understands Terry's concerns. The fact that we raised this issue on (Water Rights) gives us the opportunity to fully contemplate those potential affects and he feels like we don't have the consensus to institute a policy.



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- Sandy stated that we need a policy but feels it's unnecessary for the Roundtable to adopt. Instead on the Needs Assessment website there could be a reminder for people of that statutory requirement.
- Terry thinks its covenant of us as water users in Colorado that we should be better than the law itself. The policy that was written may be a little overboard, but finds it important to consider the potential injury to water.
- Abby doesn't think it's the Roundtables responsibility, but feels it's the state's responsibility. It's upon the Executive Committee while reviewing the applications to bring up the letter of support on a case to case basis; having a policy for the Roundtable to push forward is not in our best interest.
- Mark and others on the Executive Committee agreed a small Committee should be put together; Terry will send out the recent draft for those who want to be involved.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – August 11, 2021
 - Executive Committee- 10:30am
 - Roundtable- 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.- July 26, 2021: 10:00am
 - PEPOW- June 21, 2021, 1:30am
- Statewide PEPO- October 20, 2021
- CWCB Board Meeting- July 21 & 22, 2021 (hybrid)
- IBCC- October 21, 2021

Adjourn:

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