



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

July 14, 2021

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339826655?pwd=YzY0eWhmb3Bsc1VFNDhjYWWh0T1JHZz09>

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

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm. There are 18 active members as of May 2021; a quorum is a simple majority of active members, therefore 10 is a quorum.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Canterbury	Seth Clayton	Jeris Danielson
Paul Fanning	Greg Felt	Mike Fink
Shiloh Freed	Tom Grasmick	Bob Hamel
Steve Kastner	Rick Kidd	Scott King
Sarah Mudge	Kevin Niles	Abby Ortega
Tracy Pepper	Gil Ramirez	Karen Salapich
Amber Shanklin	Mark Shea	Greg Teter
Al Tucker	Tom Verquer	Amber Weber
Mike Weber	Sandy White	

Non-Voting Members Present: Rick Kienitz

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

June meeting notes have been circulated for review. *Meeting notes were approved by consensus.*

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

The Executive Committee continued the ongoing discussion on demand management and development of a statement document on behalf of the Arkansas Basin. There's a group working on the statement, and roundtable members interested in participating can reach out to Mark or Terry.

Mark acknowledged the departure of Russ George, who was a founder of the roundtable process. His shoes will be hard to fill.

The Exec Committee also continued to discuss a draft policy regarding letters of support for stream restoration projects. Terry Scanga has proposed a policy that doubly ensures the protection of water rights. A committee will be set up regarding that, and any policy that is developed will be brought to the full roundtable for approval.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Greg Felt – engagewcb.org

The IBCC will meet again on October 21st. They will continue to discuss equity and proportionality issues related to the demand management feasibility investigations via survey.

Sam thanked members for their work on the basin implementation plan, and for submitting projects. It is time for implementation. There are great avenues through grant sources, water plan grants and WSRF grant funding. The



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next deadline for water plan grants is December 1. Stipulations are that funds have to be allocated by fiscal year 2023 and will need to be approved by the CWCB board by their May 2023 meeting.

Sam also mentioned the dire drought conditions. 21 counties are in drought. Information is available on the CWCB website

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson & Terry Scanga

Jeris states there is not much of a report since there has not been a meeting. Jeris noted that Russ will be sorely missed. He was the father of the roundtable concept and a stabilizing influence.

Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega

There is a request for a letter of support for a Colorado Water Plan grant from Julie Knudson.

Julie is with the Purgatory Watershed Partnership and is applying for a grant to conduct work on Baca Picketwire Diversion Dam on the Purgatory River. The board has provided a previous letter of support for the Bureau of Reclamation grant last fall and that work is under way. This new funding would add boater passage, new irrigation infrastructure improvements, and construction design work for project components. There is also a pending grant for an automated head gate and ditch lining. This is a \$1.4 million project for the Purgatory River.

This request for a letter of support was approved by consensus.

Gracie Goodwin will help with the next needs assessment meeting and reviewing grant applications. We're looking forward to good applications, which must be submitted to the needs assessment committee by October 20th to be reviewed before the roundtable meets in November.

Ag/Muni Committee – Mark Shea

The committee has not fully activated yet, and we want to be sure that Ag stakeholders are included in discussions. Arkansas Basin Roundtable members should let Mark or Matt Heimerich know if they are interested in participating.

Enviro/Rec Committee – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, Rena Griggs

The last meeting mainly focused on the discovery of the New Zealand mud snail in the Badger Creek drainage. Not to be confused with zebra mussels which are more damaging to water, but the New Zealand mud snail could affect macroinvertebrates which affects fishery. CPW is monitoring this situation.

Flows on the Arkansas are over 100 at the Wellsville station which is great for recreation and the fishery. This kept us from having to go into voluntary flow management, and the commercial boating business has been exceptional.

The forum is kicking in with several tours, including the June 18 tour at Blue Triton with lunch at River Runners followed by a raft trip. There will be a farm tour in the Lower Arkansas Basin on August 16, and a tour of Goodnight Ranch in September.

We are looking for a Forum director. Please keep an ear out for interested applicants.

ARWC – Carol Ekarius

The executive committee has received three worthy applications for executive director. These will be reviewed by the committee next week, and interviews will be conducted via zoom.

There has been flooding off all fire scars to various extents. On the bright side, there is a reduced likelihood of a high intensity fire. Sarah Mudge is helping with the Lake County proposal for California Gulch. On the forestry



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side, there will be a demo project on the road to Turquoise Reservoir, so people will see it as they go to the reservoir. The Monarch crew has mobilized to start steep groundwork across from the ski area again this season.

PEPOW – Alli Schuch, Paul Fanning (meets on the 3rd Wednesday each month, at 1:30 pm)

PEPO has completed a grant application with an action plan for base funding. Waiting to hear on that. We have a really cool list of projects for Alli.

Alli has been networking, she participated in the tour of Nestles, and made connections that she is continuing to nurture. GARNA is interested in facilitating a Creek Week in Salida. If there are any opportunities that come up, please let her know.

BREAK

At-Large Vacancies – Nominations – Mark Shea

There are nominees for the two vacant at-large seats; Kent Ricken and Randy Case. Letters of nomination and additional information was circulated to the membership earlier.

Kent Ricken introduced himself, provided a brief bio and thanked the roundtable for the opportunity.

Kent Ricken was approved as an At-Large roundtable member by consensus.

Randy Case next introduced himself, provided a brief bio and expressed his interest in the other vacant At-large position.

Huerfano County representatives expressed concerns regarding this nomination. Randy Case responded to questions and concerns. After lively discussion, consensus was not reached. It was decided to bring the matter back to the roundtable in August for a vote. The August meeting is expected to be a hybrid meeting. Folks will be able to vote in person and zoom attendees will vote privately in the chat box, addressing Elise with their vote. For those interested, the bylaws that discuss these processes are available on our website: arkansasbasin.com.

BIP UPDATE – Brown and Caldwell, Local Experts

Lindsay Griffith- We are drafting the 2021 BIP update. This update will be split into two volumes. Volume One is focused and shorter, reflecting current planning strategies. Volume Two will be evergreen, building on the first basin implementation plan, adding background material and all the things that don't change.

Look out for a draft of Volume Two. Roundtable members will be able to email feedback or mark-up physical copies.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting: August 11, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: Third Wednesday monthly at 1:30 pm www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: June 28, 10:00 am
- CWCB: July 21 & 22 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- IBCC: October 21st



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- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: www.coloradofloodthreat.com
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>
- In-Stream Flow Rule Revisions: <https://cwb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>