



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING NOTES Wednesday December 8, 2021

Executive Committee/Guests Present:

Mark Shea – Chair

Al Tucker - Rec

Paul Fanning – PEPO

Sandy White – Past Chair

Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec

Sara Mudge – Lake County

Abby Ortega – Needs Assessment

Jonathan Paklaian – ARWC

Amber Shanklin - ARWC

Chris Wisemen -

Avid Aahmed – Aurora Water

Greg Felt – Chaffee Cnty Comm

Sam Stein - CWCB

Russ Sands - CWCB

Greetings and necessary introductions:

Minutes/Notes of Previous meeting:

Mark called the meeting to order @ 10:35AM noting a quorum present. Minutes of November 10th Exec Session approved by consensus.

ARWC Matters:

- Executive Director Updates. Jonathan reported on scheduling our first Board of Directors meeting since his appointment as ARWC Executive Director. He's sent a Doodle Poll for available dates in mid to late January ARWC. Jonathan is looking to hire a fuel mitigation specialist and has interviewed some candidates that look promising. Still a lot of end of year grant work that requires wrapping up. In 2022 fuel mitigation funding looks favorable. Mark requested that Jonathan have the ARWC staff available at our Board meeting to introduce themselves. Mark stated that he's advised CWCB that we would like to add some additional Board members to ARWC. These seats would be filled with individuals other than the Executive Committee members and would broaden ARWC's expertise base. Al Tucker suggested we review the existing ARWC Bylaws to ensure any change to the ARWC Board doesn't create a conflict. He's offered to assist Jonathan in doing this. Mark agreed we avoid any perceived conflicts with the ARWC Board. Sandy White reaffirmed that if there are any concerns that CWCB may have with the ARWC Board structure that we review these issues. Mark felt that the CWCB concerns would be with the funding of grants and the close affiliation between ARWC and EC. Sandy pointed to the issue of not creating further complications and suggested that understanding these concerns via written documentation then we resolve them quickly and felt this is doable. Mark felt subject matter experts in financial and the work that ARWC performs would be beneficial additions to the ARWC Board. Important we review the current Bylaws then proceed from there.



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Reoccurring matters:

- Chair Comments – Mark Shea reported that we have given the Demand Management statements to CWCB and the IBCC and asked Greg Felt to brief us regarding this. Greg said our four main concerns have been reported during the virtual meeting held at the South Platt. Greg sensed there was a great deal of overlap between the Roundtables and Demand Management issues. Mark stated that he has reviewed the public comments documentation submitted to Brown and Caldwell regarding Demand Management concerns. Mark finally reported that Dan Gibbs will report on his new position as Inter-basin Compact Director at our regular session on water topics and work by the Department of Natural Resources focusing on the Arkansas Basin.
- Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Member Greg Felt reported on Colorado's County Inc. Convention (CCI) a statewide entity made of county commissioners and officials. Greg discussed the groups meeting on drought issues. Several of the state organizational directors, such as, Kevin Rein state Engineer and others gave presentations. Several organizations that focus on water discussed the Demand Management concerns they had with the secondary impact that will be had. Sara Mudge added comments regarding land use and development as it relates to water concerns that were discussed at this meeting. This concern is now a bigger issue as water availability is more limited. Greg further added that this meeting showed a shared interest that hasn't been seen before regarding water availability.

ABRT BIP Update – Public Comment period ended November 15 –

- Mark asked Russ Sands CWCB if he had comments regarding this round of revisions with our Basin Implementation Plan. Russ reported the BIP revisions are over for this round but one concern is when some logged in to make a project revision it appeared they may not have been done by the project sponsors. Mark concluded that all the other roundtable's BIP's are currently being finalized and said there is some shared interests and it may be to our advantage if our members become more aware of these other BIP's pointing to Trans-mountain Diversion. Sandy pointed to the issue of "Who determines what projects are in the BIP?" reiterating the point rose earlier. Sandy said case in point are two projects now listed in our BIP that will divert water from Huerfano County that aren't currently sponsored by our county reps, water districts or our Roundtable members. These projects being listed in our BIP raise concerns as how they got placed in the Basin's BIP? This is questionable as if a Roundtable member is not the project proponent who sponsored the project "who is and how does it get listed as one of our projects that our Basin supports? Russ responded that this is an issue but some of the safeguards are projects have to meet all the criteria for funding to go forward if they don't meet these they won't pass the scrutiny for grant approval.

Roundtable Business:

- Demand Management Discussion Greg discussed that at the CWCB meeting it was established that Colorado was further ahead on this issue than the other upper basin states in terms of



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figuring out feasibility on alternatives to the compact based approach. It was felt that Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico need to catch up to better position themselves. Greg pointed to the fact it may be a good time to fall back and see what these other states are doing with this issue and feels we need to ask IBCC their comments before pushing this ahead at this time. Mark added that now is the time to continue our programs regarding water usage and availability as it relates to Demand Management and our other programs. Sandy said at the last IBCC meeting they voted to have a special meeting but has not been posted to date. Russ said there may be a timing issue with posting this meeting due to time constraints and the time of year.

- Greg brought up two issues that need addressing that are Legality and water Measurement. The first will require legislative work to address. The second is the measurement process on the western slope. Kevin Rein is looking into these two very important issues.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basing Roundtable –
 - Executive Committee – 10:30 AM
 - Roundtable – 12:30 PM
- Committees –
 - PEPOW
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.
 - Ag/Municipal Comm.
- IBCC –
- CWCB –
- Colorado Water Congress –

Adjourn