



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

December 8, 2021

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

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

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

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

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Statements regarding demand management have been submitted to Becky Mitchell at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and to Dan Gibbs with the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), with the request to distribute them to others engaged in the conversation.

The executive committee talked about some public comments that were submitted on the draft Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) documents. Brown and Caldwell have rounded up those comments and are working with Mark to resolve them. Will share results with the roundtable as needed.

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

Sam announced that the next CWCB meeting is January 24-25. The board workshop will be virtual.

The Forest Health White Paper is out.

The changes to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Criteria and Guidelines were accepted at the last board meeting.

Elizabeth will be reaching out to set up a PEPO meeting to explain the new Public Education Public Outreach (PEPO) grant program.

The statewide survey is still open till December 15th.

Greg informed the roundtable that the demand management statement was delivered to the board. The South Platte Basin also had a statement. Greg presented on the highlights of the document at the last meeting, including the question about measurement capabilities on the Western Slope, the legality of demand management, and the potential need for legislation.

Colorado Counties had their winter conference, and the opening session was on the compact and the drought and what that means for counties, how to bring county officials up to speed, and how it effects county government. The session demonstrates the concern that the subject has brought up regarding secondary impacts of demand management, since these impacts will fall on local communities.

IBCC- Mark Shea

IBCC has renewed interest in the demand management conversation with intentions to meet specifically to discuss it.



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Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega

There has been a minor change to a grant application. AGRA reduced the amount they needed. Abby adjusted the grant amount and sent a new letter of support.

Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich

A small group was able to convene and discuss concerns about water supply, water storage, and agriculture's role in the state's economy. The group agreed to meet again and will discuss some more concrete ideas, governance, and ask "Who isn't at the table?"

Colorado Springs Utilities Program—Kim Gortz and Julia Gallucci

Kim presented on Demand Management and the Reuse aspect of CS Utilities Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP). The IWRP includes the reuse goal of adding 1,200-1,500 acre-feet per year and developing 50 to 75 million gallons per day of indirect potable reuse capacity. The demand management goal is to meet 11,000-13,000 acre-feet per year of demand savings. Julia emphasized that a big way to meet this goal is by implementing water efficient landscaping in residential areas.

Comments & Questions:

- The importance of water to the agricultural community.
- What kind of mechanism is used for the direct potable reuse, and what are the water quality regulations to achieve that? Kim clarified that the regulations have not been decided on yet, and that the JD Phillips Wastewater Treatment Plant has the capacity to do advanced water treatment.
- How are conservation rates related to block rate structures? Julie answered that they differ in how rates are created on indoor use and outdoor use, and that this rate system has been implemented in other Colorado cities.

Break

Colorado Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Dan Gibbs

Dan introduced himself, shared his extensive background and spoke on some issues that the IBCC is addressing. Dan spoke about the IBCC's goals to share information across basins, look to cooperate, and look for solutions to Colorado's water resources and challenges.

He also spoke about the dry conditions in the state, the connection between forest health, wildfire and water supplies, Senate Bill 258, Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP), and the Rapid Fuels Reduction Assessment.

Mark highlighted the establishment of the watershed nonprofit organization to address watershed health issues in the entire river basin, the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, and introduced Jonathan Paklaian.

Greg spoke about how our water infrastructure is designed to work with a healthy forest, and that there seems to be a movement towards viewing the forest as a part of water infrastructure, and the importance of wildfire mitigation, and recognizing and calling out communities that are succeeding or neglecting fire mitigation. Dan responded that we also need to look at the needs statewide and look at all issues through a lens of fire management.

Terry Scanga talked about the barrier of federal lands. Dan spoke about the importance of identifying critical landscapes and unifying the associated communities connected to that land to do necessary work in those areas.



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

The Enviro/Rec Committee did not meet in November and will not meet in December. They are taking a break to reflect and revise the agenda.

Bob noted interest in connecting to new counties and areas and working together on projects.

The forum is still meeting. The next planning committee meeting is January 4th and interested roundtable members can reach out to Bob.

ARWC – Jonathan Paklaian

Interviews have finished for the fire mitigations specialist and hoping to offer the job soon.

Upcoming projects will focus on the middle Arkansas, with projects in the Wet Mountains.

An after-action review with the forest service on the Monarch project is coming up.

Idlewild recovery work is ongoing and hoping to wrap that up before snow comes.

Paul Fanning talked about the types of collaboration between ARWC and PEPOW, and an upcoming meeting to discuss that connection.

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

PEPOW will also be taking a break in December.

Paul brought up that communication and outreach are critical pieces for collaboration and called for contact information for folks interested in the Roundtable.

Alli is continuing to work on social media and the website as well as archiving Roundtable documents, the Faces of the Watershed Project is in progress, and Alli purchased the Live-Like-You-Love-It toolkit, so has access to those materials, and will be helping with the statewide brewery and water initiative for Water 22.

Paul mentioned a request from Water Education Colorado for a letter of support for the engagement and innovation grant fund and requested that Mark Shea be authorized to send that letter.

This request was approved by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Annual Meeting: January 12, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: No December meeting www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: No December meeting
- CWCB: January 24-25 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: TBD
- 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://cwcb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>



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- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>