



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

November 10, 2021

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

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

Voting Members in Attendance:

Abby Ortega	Al Tucker	Amber Shanklin	Amber Weber
Bob Hamel	Chris Wiseman	Dwayne McFall	Gracy Goodwin
Greg Felt	Greg Teter	Jack Goble	Kent Ricken
Kevin Niles	Mark Shea	Matt Heimerich	Sandy White
Mike Fink	Paul Fanning	Ron Cook	Sarah Mudge
Steve Kastner	Terry Scanga	Tim Canterbury	Tom Seaba
Jeffrey DeHerrera			

Excused:

Jeris Danielson

Roundtable Business

Due to the increased concerns about the pandemic the meeting was moved from a hybrid format to virtual.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

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

Public Comment

Greg Peterson from the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance announced that the Agricultural Water Summit on December 9-10th will be happening in a Hybrid format; in-person in Winter Park, with a virtual option for those who are not able to attend in person. Producers throughout the state will be talking about anti-speculation funding, storage, and the Colorado River Compact. The Summit will be attended by both senators. The summit will be able to cover costs for all producers who are interested in attending. www.coagwater.org/summit

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Mark announced that Jeffery DeHerrera has been nominated by Pueblo West for one of the At-Large Water Right Owner seats. Jeffery spoke briefly about his and Pueblo West's interest in working with the Arkansas Basin.

Jeffrey's nomination to be a voting member, as an At-Large Water Right's Owner, was approved by consensus.

Mark spoke about an all-chairs call hosted by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), and in which they discussed several topics with CWCB and other Roundtable Basin Chairs including:

- The projects database and related growing pains
- The new grant loan portal



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- The public comment period on the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)
- The coming opportunity to provide feedback on the BIP update process
- The long-term sustainability of the Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Program, and a proposal CWCB has put together to make that program more sustainable for a longer period of time.
- The update of the Colorado Water Plan
- The public awareness survey, measuring Coloradan's awareness of water issues.
- The statewide public education effort, Water 22, from Water Education Colorado
- DNR updates and the governor's proposed budget for next year which includes funding for regional grant coordinators.

The Executive Committee also continued work on the Demand Management statement to deliver to CWCB.

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

Russ Sands explained a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) proposed program to ensure basin funding as we see funding from severance tax decreasing. The program would use the Statewide account to provide \$300,000 per basin per year for the next three years, as well as channel funding into Public Education, Public Outreach (PEPO). The proposal includes a \$750,000 cap ensuring that Basins with the highest need will receive funding. The goal is to approve this program this month at the CWCB meeting and put the new rules into place by the new year in order to be able to save that statewide account money to prop up the Basins.

Mark brought up concerns about the program being passed through without the Basins being involved in the conversation about alternative funding options. Russ explained that this discussion will happen over years, and this program would provide funding while those discussions occur.

CWCB is planning to add the positions of four Regional Grant Coordinators to address the increase of grant work at CWCB. The grant coordinators would help push grants through more quickly and provide practical support. These positions will need to be approved by the legislature.

CWCB is also going to introduce a Grant Loan Portal. The same company building the Project Database will be building this portal. This portal will serve to apply for and get information on any active CWCB grant funded project. The goal is to debut the Grant Loan Portal in the next few weeks.

Sam noted the BIP public comment period ends on November 15th, so any final comments should be made before that date.

The Statewide Water Awareness Survey is launching soon, which will help monitor changes in public knowledge and perception on key water issues.

Colorado water loss initiative is kicking off phase two, offering free water loss training and technical assistance. Registration for phase two is now open.

IBCC- Terry Scanga

The October meeting covered Demand Management and the equity discussion. Representatives agreed to hold a special meeting of the whole group to discuss Demand Management.

Demand Management

Sandy has continued to work on the Demand Management Statement, and Mark noted key points from the document:

- The measurement of diverted water as a key piece of how a Demand Management program could work.
- Getting clarity on what a demand management program looks like as opposed to a compact.
- The legal need for legislative changes to support a demand management program.



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- How far out will Basins go in considering and mitigating secondary impacts of a demand management program.

There have also been discussions about the importance of presenting these issues in the context of Colorado River Supplies imported in the Basin. Abby Ortega has been drafting an additional document regarding the value of imported water in the Arkansas Basin.

Roundtable members were in consensus that these Demand Management statements should be submitted to the CWCB.

Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega

Nothing to Report

Ag/Muni Committee- Matt Heimerich

Matt has been working to identify stakeholders to form this committee with the tentative plan for a first meeting in December.

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

Bob spoke about the Black Hills Property. There have been meetings with the Black Hills people, Canyon City, Oil Creek Ditch Company, Royal Gorge Rio. A request for proposals (RFP) went out for the work and contractors are discussing what that project may look like.

Bob took part in a Voluntary Flow Management review meeting and recognized how well the Voluntary Flow Management Plan went this year.

Rena addressed the Salida Lowhead Dam removal process. They will learn if they have received the California Gulch Natural Resources Damages Grant in December.

Rena also delivered the news that the fish, the Humpback Chub, was downgraded from endangered to threatened!

Bob spoke on the Water Forum. The planning committee met in October, and the Forum will hopefully take place in Salida. The forum is still looking for ideas and anyone who would like to help plan the Forum.

ARWC – Jonathan Paklaian

The Monarch project is very nearly completed.

They have received some feedback on the California Gulch Natural Resources Damages (NRD) proposal and adjustments have been made.

They are hiring a fuels mitigation specialist. Applications are welcome for the next week or two.

There are some forestry projects upcoming next including the National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant on the Purgatoire, private lands work, Camp Jackson, and Grand West estates in Lake County.

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

Paul: The opinion poll has rolled out on public attitudes on water. Based on the results of the poll there will be some statewide messaging developed, and they are predicting some messaging regarding water security.

The public education initiative Water 22 is the reboot of Water 2012. The umbrella organization in 2012 utilized 600 partners across the state. So, there is an expectation that there will be a lot of partners for this program, and the Basins may be a bridge to some of those partnerships.

Alli is recommending that the Basin get a membership to Colorado Water Wise. This would provide access to lots of educational and outreach materials.



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Alli also requested that anything interesting happening in the Basin be sent her way for a social media feature. Alli is doing a “Faces of the Watershed,” social media campaign, so if anyone would like to be featured let her know.

Mark recognized that Paul received the George Warren Fuller award for the Rocky Mountain section of the American Water Works Association in recognition of a career full of contributions to the water community. Congratulations Paul!

BREAK

Grant Applications

Six applications asking only for letters of support were reviewed by the Needs Assessment Committee. All were recommended for letters of support. ***Support for these applications was approved by roundtable consensus.***

Colorado Water Plan Grant Applications

- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum \$20,935 w/\$20,935 match
 - Hale Reservoir Multi-Use Project \$750,000 w/\$5,052,270 match
 - Colorado Airborne Snow Observatories \$1,799,000 w/\$715,000 match
 - Fort Lyon Canal Company-Water Sharing \$50,000 w/\$35,000 match
- #### Watershed Restoration Grant Applications
- Huerfano County – Cuchara River Corridor Phreatophyte Mitigation \$45,000 w/\$45,000 match
 - Purgatoire River Stream Management Planning/IWMP Phase 2 \$152,000 w/\$156,185 match

The following WSRF grant proposals were presented to the Roundtable:

- Natalie Allio with the Upper Arkansas Conservation District presented the application for funds to support the Sunnyside Park Ditch Rehabilitation.
 - Basin Fund Request \$12,730
 - Statewide Fund Request \$114,570
 - Total Project Cost \$628,814
- Amber Weber presented on behalf of Otero Ditch Company to restore 54 yards of culvert that is part of the Otero Ditch.
 - Basin Fund Request \$4,500
 - Statewide Fund Request \$45,000
 - Total Project Cost \$90,920
- Jeff Derry with the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies presented on the Colorado Dust on Snow Project which would study the dust resting on snow to predict when snow will melt and the magnitude of its melting.
 - Basin Fund Request \$15,000 (asking for this amount from each basin)
 - Statewide Fund Request \$120,000
 - Total Project Cost \$514,000 (over four years)
- Daniel Tucker with the Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association (AGRA) presented the West Pueblo Reservoir Project, which involves the design and construction of inlet and outlet conveyance appurtenances at a former gravel pit mining operation in Pueblo County.
 - Basin Fund Request \$86,942
 - Statewide Fund Request \$782,482
 - Total Project Cost \$1,738,848



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All WSRF grant applications were approved by Roundtable Member consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Annual Meeting: December 8, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec:
- CWCB: November 17 & 18 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide:
- IBCC:
- 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>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>