



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

February 10, 2021

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

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

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Mark read off attendees. Mark invited changes to the agenda, and none were suggested. Twenty-seven (27) members were present.

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

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

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Mark and the Roundtable offered congratulations to Jim Broderick, who has received the Aspinall Award! Thanks all around. Jim chaired the roundtable in 2015, one of many contributions to the world of water in our basin.

Alli Schuch has been hired as PEPO Coordinator for the rest of this term. Alli introduced herself and expressed her enthusiasm for the work ahead. Mark thanked the PEPO working group.

Discussion on BIP Storage Goals from the 2015 BIP, which will be updated for the latest version. We met with the state BIP contractors as well as local and regional experts and stakeholders. If you have interest in this conversation, there will be an opportunity for anyone to review draft updates and give input.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands & Greg Felt

Thanks to those who attended the CWCB Riverside Chat. If you were unable to attend, a recording is on the CWCB website. If you haven't yet done so, please do fill out the water plan survey at: <https://engagecwcb.org/water-plan-update-survey>. Your input is invaluable.

Upcoming Meetings:

Feb 16	Water Availability Task Force Meeting
Feb 22	PEPO Statewide
Feb 23	IBCC
Mar 3	Ogallala Aquifer Management Workshop
Mar 11-12	CWCB Board Meeting
Mar 17	Agriculture Water Infrastructure Workshop
Apr 7	Environment & Recreation Workshop
Apr 8	Forest Health Workshop
Apr 14	Land Use Planning Workshop
Apr 21	Agricultural Viability and Food Supply Workshop



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IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson & Terry Scanga

Next IBCC agenda includes updates on PEPO, Colorado Water Plan, ATMs, Scenarios on climate change, Forest Health white paper, and an open discussion on funding water issues. This could be interesting, as sports gambling has increased considerably. There will also be a discussion on demand management, which has been a controversial subject.

Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega

We are at an in-between point, so nothing to report.

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

Met in January. We meet the last Monday of each month, so February 22nd will be the next meeting.

- The VFMP renews every five years, and that has been signed recently.
- Tennessee Pass Rail Line – environmental concerns regarding potential cargo. The Surface Transportation Board has issued a delay in their issuing the lease for operation of that line.
- Great Plains Reservoir situation – that group is meeting monthly, hosted by the Kiowa County economic development team. They would like to see at least one of the Great Plains Reservoir have enough water to provide for better recreation opportunities. Looking for funding sources, water sources. This group meets the first Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join, if interested. Let Rena know.
- ARWC and Enviro/Rec will meet on the 17th. re: program director for ARWC.
- The Upper Ark Watershed Partnership did receive their grant. Watershed restoration stream management plan.
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – no in-person conference will be held this year, but there will be a series of tours this year, including a half day Brown's Canyon raft trip on June 18th.
- The scholarship fund has been approved for this year - \$3,000 for students in studies around water. Contact Blake Osborn if you know someone who should apply.

ARWC – Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea

Carol isn't here today – she got scheduled for a vaccine, congratulations. The ARWC board will meet later this month to discuss next steps for ARWC. Mark mentioned ARWC's work on the steep slope mitigation project on Monarch Pass, and a discussion around wildfire mitigation prioritization work in Lake County. This is the headwaters of the Arkansas River.

PEPO – Paul Fanning

Paul added comments regarding upcoming tours for the Forum. There will be a tour of Pueblo's hydro project (the Jim Broderick Hydro-Electric Plant).

PEPOW is the workgroup for PEPO. Paul is the chair of that group, which includes Chris Woodka, Terry Scanga, Matt Heimerich, Julie Knutson, Bob Hamel, Carol Ekarius, Mike Fink and Mark Shea. They've had a very robust conversation regarding PEPO. They're very glad to have Alli Schuch on board. Came up with a huge list of education and outreach needs. Have done their best to refine that down to the critical elements for the remainder of this year.

Both Alli and Paul will participate in the statewide PEPO meeting. Will report back on where assistance and leverage will be from the state level.



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BIP Update – Brett Gracely and Will Koger

After the break, we'll be discussing Statewide Updates from Brown and Caldwell, a little description of the Volume 1, Volume 2 structure and how we'll structure Volume 2 for the Arkansas Basin and the tiering process.

BREAK

Basin Implementation Plan Project Tiering – Brett Gracely, Will Koger (please see presentation at www.arkansasbasin.com)

- **The CWCB recognizes the roundtables have been doing hard work on their BIPs – a lot has been accomplished**
- **A detailed BIP production and review schedule is being developed based on where we are today**
 - A draft version was discussed with LEs during the cross-basin check-in meeting
 - Comments on the draft schedule are being incorporated and the final is being reviewed by CWCB this week
- **High level description of the schedule:**
 - The draft BIP is still due by June 30, which is consistent with our original schedule
 - We had contemplated having BIP subcommittee review prior to June 30 and launching public review immediately thereafter, but that could be a strain on the Roundtable, LE, GC, and CWCB
 - BIP subcommittee and BRT/public reviews can take place after June 30
 - The final BIP will still be completed by end of January 2022 as scheduled
- **A detailed schedule will be sent to LEs as soon as it is reviewed and approved by the CWCB**
- **Vol. 1 – General Contractor (Brown & Caldwell)**
- **Vol. 2 – Local Expert (LRE Water & Forsgren & Associates)**
 - Light Touch, Not a Complete Rewrite
 - Focus on Tying Project Database to Basin-wide Goals and Objectives
 - Strategies for Implementation
 - Identification of Funding Sources, Opportunities, Timelines
 - Back Reference to Enduring Elements of 2015 BIP with Updates
 - Forward Reference to Vol. 1
 - Basin-wide Strategies, Goals and Objectives
 - Integration with Forthcoming CO Water Plan Update

Please see the presentation and tiering documents on the Arkansas Basin Roundtable website:
www.arkansasbasin.com.

There was a lot of discussion regarding the tiering process, and the point was emphasized that ranking is based on project readiness rather than on funding priorities.



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The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS: (all meetings in 2020 will be virtual)

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting: March 10, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPO Workgroup: This afternoon www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: February
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- IBCC:
- PEPO Statewide Mtg:
- 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/>