



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

March 10, 2021 – GoToMeeting

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Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Paul Fanning, Al Tucker, Tim Canterbury, Jeris Danielson - IBCC, Sandy White- Past Chair; Matt Lindburg, Sam Stein-CWCB; Alli Schuch, Bob Hamel – Vice Chair (Recreational and Environmental Committee); Brett Gracely and Wil Koger - Consultant; Sarah Mudge, Chris Wiseman, Amber Shanklin, Lindsay Griffith, Matt Heimerich-Vice Chair, Beth Albrecht, Abby Ortega

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Greetings and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval for February 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- Executive Director Update- No new update

Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments- Mark was contacted by Brown & Caldwell regarding the General Contractor's work on Forest Health and how it relates to the BIP update process and the State Water plan update.
- Other Outstanding Reports- No outstanding reports

ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:

- Project Tiering Process- Brett Gracely gave a quick update on the tiering process. This process has been divided between two local experts; one is tackling all the 2015 projects that have been updated and revised and the other one is tackling the 2020 projects.
 - Q:** Mark Shea was curious about the alignment with local plans for projects within that tiering score and what are the criteria's that the project component should be thinking about?
 - A:** Brett explained that a tier one characterization with a local plan alignment would have local planning, organizational support, and water right support to the project. Tier two is some local planning, and tier three will not be clearly identified.
 - Q:** Sandy White wants to know if there is an opportunity to cure omissions in the local plan alignment info for individual projects.
 - A:** Brett is trying to figure out the most efficient way to get the database system backup, where people can look back on some of their criteria. In addition to the plan alignment theme, there are also living criteria of the project phase, concept plan or, implementing the number of core data needs that was sent out to customers.
- CWCB is going to be developing an online project database that will keep a catalog of projects.



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- The WIG is reinforcing the need to get better project data and it fits a goal of identifying a lot of projects in each Basin that has good data and ready to go. So what's reported is the number of projects.
Q: Brett wants to know if any members of the Executive Committee has recommendations as to how we could organize the reporting into smaller subsets for distribution?
A: Mark Shea states, if anyone has recommendations to please reach out to Matt Lindburg or Brett Gracely.

Roundtable Business:

- Ag/Muni Committee discussion- Mark wants to know if it makes sense to set up a committee for the consumptive stakeholders that will look similar to the Environmental Recreation committee for non-consumptive. This committee can be used to get involved deeper with the consumptive use within the Basin and provide more opportunity for stakeholders to talk with each other about those issues.
- Matt Heimerich states there are always going to be needs for municipal users in our potable water districts for additional water supply or temporary recovery of yield supply. Matt thinks it will be well worth our time to have some forum where agricultural water users can interact with ditch company superintendents, farmers, local conservancy districts and M&I folks.
- Abby Ortega thinks it's a great idea to put together a committee; municipal interests continue to work with agricultural in a variety of ways.
- Mark Shea asked Matt Heimerich to take steps to identify some core folks he can work with and would like him to put together a monthly meeting.
- Draft policy re letters of Support for Stream Restoration Projects- Mark states if we are going to put a policy in place, we need to have input from both sides of the table. Mark would like to continue discussing the topic with CWCB as well.
- BIP draft Goals and Actions- GC Team- Lindsay gave a quick overview on the BIP draft goals and actions. (see presentation for more details)
- Lindsay states the revised goals have been sent out to the Executive Committee and the Roundtable for review. Storage goals have been reduced from four (4) goals down to three (3) to avoid duplicates between goals two (2) and four (4) while removing numerical target.
- The three storage goals as listed in the presentation are:
 - Continue to develop storage opportunities within the Basin
 - Develop alluvial and designated basin aquifer storage in gap areas within the Basin
 - Promote multiple uses at existing and new storage facilities
- Jeris had some concerns in the wording on bullet (3A) under storage goals. In his mind, there could be a single use reservoir or a multiple use that might not include environmental and recreational attributes and what he sees in the wording is if you don't include attributes, you don't qualify for WSRF funding.
- Abby suggest adding a bullet (3D) under storage goals that supports the State of Colorado's efforts to obtain an if/when storage account in John Martin Reservoir and feels that benefits multiple users across the basin.
- Mark stated the title under storage goal number one (1) should be changed to "limited to opportunities within the Basin" because (1D) specifically addresses storage outside the Arkansas Basin. Mark heard a comment regarding ability to store fully consumable water more flexibly, and feels that should be another bullet point or placed into another sub-goal.



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- The four M&I goals as listed in the presentation were unchanged from 2015:
 - Meet the projected Municipal Supply Gap in each sub region within the Basin;
 - Support regional efforts for cost-effective solutions to local water supply gaps;
 - Reduce groundwater dependence on unsustainable aquifers for municipal users; and
 - Develop collaborative solutions between municipal, agricultural, and E&R users of water, particularly in drought conditions
- The four Agricultural goals as listed in the presentation were modified to reflect focus on staining agricultural communities, and recognize ATM implantation:
 - Sustain a productive agricultural economy in the Basin that sustains viable rural, agricultural-based communities;
 - Provide augmentation water as needed to support increased farm efficiencies
 - Support the development of viable alternative transfer mechanism projects between agriculture and municipal interests to address drought and provide risk management for agriculture; and
 - Sustain recreation and environmental activities that depend on habitat and open space associated with farm and ranch land
- The five Environmental and Recreational goals as listed in the presentation were streamlined goals from nine (9) down to five (5) goals within BRT influence
 - Maintain or improve native fishing populations, restore habitat for fish species, and maintain or improve recreational fishing opportunities;
 - Maintain, or improve boating opportunities, including rafting, kayaking, and other non-motorized and motorized boating;
 - Maintain or improve aquatic, riparian, and avian habitat (including wetlands) that would support environmental features and recreational opportunities;
 - Maintain, improve, or restore watersheds that could affect environmental and recreational resources; and
 - Improve water quality as it relates to the environment and/or recreation.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – April 14, 2021
- Subcommittees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.- March 29, 2021
 - PEPOW- March 17, 2021
- Statewide PEPO- June 22, 2021
- CWCB Board Meeting- March 10 & 11, 2021
- IBCC- June 23, 2021

Adjourn:

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting at 11:30 AM.