



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Executive Committee Meeting Notes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – Zoom Meeting
www.arkansasbasin.com

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 Consultant; Sarah Mudge, Lindsay Griffith, Matt Heimerich-Vice Chair, Abby Ortega, Russ Sands, Kate , Gracy; Greg Felt, Carol Ekarius-ARWC.

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Greetings and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval for March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- Executive Director Update- the CWCB grant has been approved.
- Carol Ekarius (Interim Executive Director) stated the ARWC team will start the hiring process in the next couple of months and by summer there will be a new Executive Director.

Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments- Mark shares that there are open Roundtable seats ready to be filled specifically at large water right holders; the 2021 roster is on the Roundtable website.
- Other Outstanding Reports- the CWCB Code of Conduct document dated 3.25.2021 was presented and discussed; this discussion will continue but won't be addressed at the Roundtable level for action on today's meeting.

ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies- the local experts went over the revised goals, actions and strategies document with the Executive Committee Lindsey outlined the following categories/goals:
 - Storage
 - Municipal and Industrial
 - Agricultural
 - Environmental Recreational
 - Watershed Health (combined with Environment Recreational goals)
- Mark made some corrections to the ATM (alternative transfer methods) goals and instead of using (ATM) he suggests replacing it with “water sharing”.
- Terry agrees with Lindsay we should make a definition area to define terms provided in the document he isn't comfortable using the terms “water sharing” or “water trading”.
- Sandy White states when he saw “water sharing” he immediately assumed that we were talking about rotation practices.



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- Abby states she doesn't want us to make a definition section that conflicts with what the state is trying to define. Abby suggests Lindsay locate the definition of (ATM) in the state plan and reference that.
- Tim states we need to clearly define "water sharing" or leave it as (ATM).
- During the 3.10.2021 Executive Meeting Jeris had some issues regarding Storage Goals (3A) he objected the language that stated if the project included Environmental and Recreational attributes there are rehabilitation efforts that might excluded from including that kind of thing; Jeris just suggested putting a period after funds. The final discussion is to keep the wording how it is currently.
- Lindsay mentions that there will be a couple more opportunities to go over the strategies document before its final. Lindsay and Matt developed a document on the discussion strategies to develop IP&P they have a renewed focus on strategies; there will be an entire section under volume 1 (one) The strategies content:
 - Support the implementation of projects
 - Conduct vulnerability assessments; to identify needs
 - Targeted funding to meet Basin goals
 - Maximizing economic impact within the Basin
 - Develop "water sharing" partnerships
- Matt mentions that adding an augmentation cap in the strategies content was talked about; there were several comments about maximizing the economic for the water available for augmentation. The point of this strategy is to bring goals from prior BIP's into a specific section and bring things all together and provide focus toward future Roundtable activities.

Q: Paul would like to know what the local experts' time frame is for getting some more information into the goals; reason being PEPO is scrambling around getting the Education Action Plan ready to submit, which aligns with the strategy goals? How would you like the PEPO workgroup to submit a basic outline of the Education Action Plan?

A: Section one volume 1 (one) is dedicated to PEPO; the local experts are working actively on volume 1 (one) the intent is to have 90% of that draft completed by June 1, 2021 and then by June 30, 2021 to have 100% done.
- The fifth strategy could be more defined in "partnership approaches" to projects in the Arkansas Basin; which can still include your ATM work but it also extends to all other projects.
- Lindsey states the Local Experts dove into volume 1 (one) within all the Basins and for volume 2 (two) their ultimate plan is to do a light touch up and re-organization while getting feedback where needed.

Roundtable Business:

- Draft policy re letters of support for Stream Restoration Projects- Mark wants to continue to take time and effort on this project. Mark would like Jeris to put together a small group of Roundtable members to discuss this topic's further.
- Jeris feels the document is well written and the Roundtable should move forward on a vote; Sandy agrees; Mark would like Jeris to send out a rough draft.



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Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 12, 2021
 - Executive Committee- 10:30am
 - Roundtable- 12:30pm
- committees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.- April 26, 2021: 10:00am
 - PEPOW- April 21, 2021, 1:30am
- Statewide PEPO- June 22, 2021
- CWCB Board Meeting- May 19 & 20, 2021
- IBCC- June 23, 2021

Adjourn:

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