



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – Zoom Meeting
www.arkansasbasin.com

Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Paul Fanning, Al Tucker, 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, Kara Sobieski, Carol Ekarius-ARWC, Mike Weber, Chris Wiseman, Amy Ostdiek, Wil Koger (Forsgren Associates); Terry Scanaga, Amber Shanklin

Call to order:

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

Minutes:

Consensus approval for April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- Executive Director Update- Carol said that the May 26th planned ARWC Board of Directors meeting is rescheduled for 2:30 PM June 3rd.
- The money from CWCB for the Huerfano Restoration has been received and has a short pay period. She requested permission to advertise for a new Executive Director. Carol would like to publish in May; does the board want to be involved?
- Paul suggested that this could be a sub-committee, not the entire board of directors. Al Tucker agreed with Paul. Additional discussion about finalization of the business model for ARWC before a new director is hired, and this discussion will be picked up at the June 3rd meeting of the ARWC Board of Directors meeting. The advertisement and position description will be discussed at the June 3rd meeting.
- Carol also spoke to the funding for the cleanup after the Lake County and is looking for a bigger package including channel restoration, fire prevention, etc.

Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments- Mark noted that there are still open seats on the Roundtable; potential candidates must be water rights owners.
- The Lower Arkansas Water Conservancy District has some governance personnel changes and the person who held the Lower Ark on the Roundtable is leaving the leadership position in this District. Mark has been speaking with Jack Goble who is interim chair for the Lower District which Jack will discuss this with his board of director at the Lower Ark District.
- There may be a mid-year-round of State Water Plan funding; the CWCB will take this to the board and, if approved these could be acted upon by the CWCB Board at their next



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week's meeting. Abby Ortega will need someone else to tackle the lead on Water Plan applications if there is a potential new round of funding in June; she had planned her summer vacation during the review of these applications that may come before the Needs Assessment Committee.

- Other Outstanding Reports- Matt Heimerich reported that Mark asked Matt to head up an ad hoc committee addressing the Agricultural Water Gap in the Arkansas Basin. The group met as an Ag-Muni Task Force, which is a small group including and representing the augmentation groups (AGUA and CWPDA), irrigation farmers and the water resources personnel at the municipalities. Matt notes that we need to explore with CWCB what CWCB sees their role in getting a group such as this together. This group needs to build its Statement of Purpose and decide what it wants to achieve. Matt is looking at taking a global approach in addressing this Gap.
- Sam Stein and Russ noted that the CWCB Representatives are all still under the travel and attendance with large groups prohibition for the employees of DNR and there is a lot of uncertainty about in person attendance from these State Agencies.

ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies-
- Lindsey Griffith and Matt L from Brown & Caldwell presented a PowerPoint on the Arkansas Basin Strategies as of May 12, 2021. She reported that Brown & Caldwell are working on Volume 1 Topics. She has two topics to share:
 1. Lindsey alluded to Bill Tyner's report from the April Roundtable about the vulnerability to supplies for Augmentation; Brown & Caldwell wants to add this to the current discussion addressing the vulnerabilities to M & I use.
 2. The strategy section will address what the "Big Picture" topics that the Roundtable will be involved with to accomplish the BIP Goals. This is the content of the strategy section. The connection between the strategies and the goals need to be solidified and to highlight some examples of these connections.
- Mark Shea indicated that "support" is not just the financing, but also includes the political support for projects.
- There was extensive discussion addressing some draft strategy topics. These discussions specifically addressed the targeting funding to meet the Basin's goals; maximize economic impact of Basin dollars spent; and the vulnerability assessments to identify needs.
- Kara Sobieski then addressed the M & I "Water Supplies and Vulnerabilities." The "colors of water" that are used to meet different demands look different in different areas of the Arkansas Basin.
- There is 210,000 acre-ft "Gap" in M&I across the Basin. This gap is concentrated in the Lower Arkansas region (106,000 acre-feet) and in the Fountain Creek (81,000 acre-feet) communities. She noted that these gaps also capture "First Use" Water Gaps, but she acknowledged the re-use component is accounted for.



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Roundtable Business:

- Draft policy re letters of support for Stream Restoration Projects- Mark suggested continuing this discussion via e-mail and return to it at either the June or the July Executive Committee meeting.
- Demand Management Statements- This conversation will be continued via e-mail, and we will pick that up at the June Executive Committee meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 9, 2021
 - Executive Committee- 10:30am
 - Roundtable- 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm.- May 24, 2021: 10:00am
 - PEPOW- May 19, 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 12:25 PM.