



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

July 8, 2020

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

More information and presentations may be found at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### **Roundtable Business**

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-six (26) members were present.

### **Approval of minutes of prior meeting**

*The meeting notes of the June 2020 meeting were approved by consensus.*

### **Public Comment - none**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

The Executive Committee met this morning. Based on ongoing Covid-19 issues and the resulting economic impact on CWCB, our plan is to meet virtually for the remainder of 2020.

#### **CWCB Report – Greg Felt, Sam Stein, Russell Sands**      New website: [cwcb.colorado.gov](http://cwcb.colorado.gov)

The CWCB meets next on July 15 and 16.

Every year, the governor calls attention to specific goals that he identifies as “WIGS”. In the category of Natural Resources, the following goal has been identified around water: “Coordinate with Colorado’s eight major river basins to create a prioritized statewide database that identifies accurate costs for 160 critical and readily implementable (Tier 1) projects.”

That means that each basin is tasked with the job of coming up with 20 Tier 1 projects.

Dan Gibbs will give a better overview of this at our next CWCB board meeting. It will be vital to have the best data possible for the BIPs in order to achieve this WIG.

Appreciate those of you who attended the June listening sessions. We’re compiling comments and results of those sessions. Good news: All the grants that were held up in May will move forward in the July meeting.

#### **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Russell Sands**

The IBCC met on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Focused on the topic of equity around demand management. Members and interested parties were emailed a summary of IBCC discussions around equity in demand management earlier today. The IBCC sent out a survey and got feedback regarding subjects that IBCC members would like to work on. Trying to better connect the loop about how the IBCC interacts with the roundtables. The IBCC will meet next in October.

#### **PEPO – Amber Weber**

- Story map is showing good progress. Working to gather all of the projects that we’ve ever done and get them added to the map.
- BIP update – working with the local experts on outreach and education aspects of the BIP.



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## Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

You received a link to today's grant applications. There will be three presentations later in the meeting.

## Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs, Amber Shanklin

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: We've gotten word that Kristie Nackord is resigning effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Forum board will meet in August to make a plan for what's to come. A new hire may stay on hold for a bit while we identify what that job will entail for the next year.

The Enviro/Rec Committee met on June 29<sup>th</sup>. We've also been meeting with other enviro/rec groups in the state, learning what their priorities are. For example, Stream Management Plans (SMPs) are a much bigger deal in other basins. Because we have the Voluntary Flow Management Plan (VFMP), we've done a lot of that work already. Re-use is also something that other enviro/rec committees have looked at. We talked about how enviro/rec projects can be incorporated into WIGS. We have realized that east and west slope enviro/rec issues are very different. We're looking at whether some of those issues should be on our plate as well. And we've been talking about how to produce combined projects with adjacent basins at junctions (like where national forests overlap more than one basin).

Julie Knudson, from the Purgatoire, described their Stream Management Planning process. It's a multi-step process that includes interviewing stakeholders as to what they need. Stakeholders include all types of water users. We work on gathering needs together, prioritizing them, developing collaborative multi-beneficial projects. Education is a big part of this. Once we've shown that we've done our due diligence, the next step would be to apply for funding for these projects. A stream management plan must ensure that water rights are not harmed.

## Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

Chelsey has made the decision to step down as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. She thanked all for their encouragement, support and guidance. ARWC is in a good position to move forward.

## Project Updates:

- Moving forward with post-fire recovery projects after the Decker Fire in partnership with Chaffee County. Design is complete and moving into construction. We saw some pretty serious storms last weekend, but no flows from the burn scar thus far.
- Spring Fire – alluvial hazard mapping. Next task in our next grant is to convene a stakeholder group, sit down with the modeling, discuss mitigation locations. Where do we want to put our money and our time.
- Hayden - still doing some work there. We're a few years out from that burn. Hoping that we're moving more into long-term sustainability there.
- Working with a couple folks on the potential for Stream Management planning. Figuring out who needs to be on that board, who needs to be represented. Chaffee County. South Arkansas River. Doing data collection. ARWC is collecting GIS data, putting them all into one map. Bring in key stakeholders.
- Meeting tomorrow with Amber about the story map and the science plan work.
- Working with CS Utilities on an early warning system for Fremont County for flooding that might happen from the Decker Fire. Monitoring that would warn Fremont county so that they could shut off their water intake.



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Mark thanked Chelsey for her work with ARWC. She has really stood up this fledgling non-profit, creating great opportunities for the future of ARWC and for the future of watershed health management in this basin. She has initiated, managed and completed numerous watershed health projects.

## **BIP Workshop – Mark Shea, Will Koger, Brett Gracely**

Brett and Will went over the BIP Update Work Plan. Please review the work plan and submit your feedback to them.

The Work Plan will be posted on our website, as well as links to the project list and to the form for updating project information. The basin has been divided into six regions, and workshops will be held in each region in the next two months, in order to gather projects and information. If you're comfortable filling out forms yourself, please feel free to do that. Whatever works best and you are comfortable with is how you should submit information – so feel free to contact Will and Brett directly if that works better for you.

Six Regions:

1. Upper – Headwaters downstream to Chaffee-Fremont County line includes Chaffee, Custer and Lake counties.
2. Central – Fremont and Pueblo counties along the Arkansas River
3. Lower – Mainstem of Arkansas from Pueblo – Otero/Crowley county line to state line includes Bent, Crowley, Otero and Prowers counties.
4. Northeast – Tributary watersheds north of the mainstem includes Cheyenne, Kiowa, Lincoln counties.
5. Southeast – Tributary watersheds south of the mainstem comprised of the Purgatoire and Huerfano-Cucharas basins includes Huerfano, Las Animas, and Baca counties.
6. Fountain Creek – Northern tributary watershed includes El Paso and Elbert counties.

Brett Gracely: [brett.gracely@lrewater.com](mailto:brett.gracely@lrewater.com)

Will Koger: [wkoger@forsgren.com](mailto:wkoger@forsgren.com)

## **Needs Assessment Projects – Abby Ortega**

### **Italian and Suburban Lateral Water Efficiency Case Study (structural process-conversion of open ditch to pipeline)**

Applicant: Pueblo County (for Suburban Lateral Ditch Company)

Basin Funds Request:	\$ 46,400
Statewide Request:	\$ 162,900
USDA NRCS funds:	\$ 462,700
Suburban Match:	\$ 50,000
Pueblo County In-Kind:	\$ 186,700
Bessemer Ditch In-Kind:	\$ 20,000

### **Round Mountain Reservoir**

Applicant: Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District

Basin Funds Request:	\$ 15,500
Statewide Request:	\$ 155,000
Round Mtn W&S:	\$ 41,330
UAWCD (cash & in-kind):	\$ 20,670



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## Headgate 199 Lining

Applicant:

Basin Funds Request: \$ 18,000

Statewide Request: \$ 180,000

LAVWCD: \$ 252,000

*All three grant applications moved forward by consensus.*

Meeting was adjourned at 3:21 pm.

**Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM**

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

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: August 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- Enviro/Rec Committee – July 27 at 10:00 am
- CWCB Meeting: July 15 & 16
- IBCC Meeting: October 21
- In-Stream Flow Workshop: August 3 (rule revisions due to new legislation)
- PEPO: [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>