

**Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, February 25, 2019**

**10:00am – Noon**

**BLM Office, Canon City**

**Attendees:** Bob Hamel, (Recreation Rep, AROA), Rena Brand (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (ARWC / Roundtable), Mike Weber (Needs Assessment Committee, LAWCD), John Smeins (BLM), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Chelsea Nutter (ARWC Exec Director), Amber Shanklin (Envi At-Large Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Tim Payne (Fremont County Commissioner), Jay Winner (Lower Ark), Tyler Benton (CoSpgsUtil), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Buffy Lenth (Central Colorado Conservancy), Amber Weber (Roundtable – Public Edu, Public Outreach), Steve Wolfe (Trout Unlimited). **Phone:** Carol Ekarias (ARWC), Carrie Tucker (CPW – Fish Biologist - Pueblo).

**1. Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) update - Amber Shanklin**

Amber attended Feb 19 meeting at CWCB – discussed funding and timelines. Update to be released this summer? This will not be a re-write of the SWSI 2010. CWCB will hire a coordinator for the effort; basins might hire consultants to help gather data. Our Ark Basin Envi-Rec committee should review the purpose & goals of SWSI, review the Ark Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) spreadsheet, and make updates and/or recommendations.

**Action item: Review SWSI info:** <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/SWSIUpdate.aspx>

**Action Item: Review Ark Basin BIP info:** <http://www.arkbasin.org/>

Jay Winner...Question to ask ourselves: How much water do we “need”? How much water do we “have”?

**2. Hayden Fire & Flood Recovery – Forming a Coalition – Chelsea Nutter**

Hayden Fire happened 2016, Fremont County. Feb 9 public meeting held in Coaldale to provide info and get feedback from public. Big Cottonwood Creek had major flooding and damage to homes & property last year. Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) process by NRCS is challenging. **Issue: How will ongoing maintenance (5+ yrs) be paid for? (Note: Fremont County will not pay). Looking for ideas & funding opportunities.**

**3. ARWC updates on Monarch Pass, Spring Creek Fire - Carol Ekarius**

-Monarch Contract (tree thinning) – start work in Fall 2019.

-Spring Creek Fire (Huerfano County) – recovery management starting

-Grape Creek & DeWeese Reservoir enlargement – GEI feasibility study & considering Stream Management Planning work.

-Oil Creek Diversion Improvement (Rafter & Environment Friendly) – grant app due in June.

-Black Hills Energy site near Canon City – make it a park? (Contact Vance Crocker)

-ARWC funding; various water conservation districts and municipals paying in.

**4. Lower Ark TMDL update from Feb 12 meeting in La Junta – Mike Weber**

WQCD held a public meeting to inform. Selenium is the main issue, Pueblo to John Martin. Four projects to reduce loads are ready to go – need ARWC help.

**5. Pueblo Tailwater Fish Structure Maintenance Needs - Trout Unlimited – Steve Wolfe**

Ark River, below Pueblo Dam to the Nature center, man-made fish structures (built 2005, repaired 2013) need maintenance. Some have filled in with cobble and large rocks due to high releases (2500 cfs to 6000 cfs). Trout Unlimited has scheduled a site visit next week with expert (Greg Policky) to evaluate.

**6. Agency / Organization updates (BLM, USFS, ARWC, CPW, etc.)**

-Rena Brand (CPW) reported that the John Martin Permanent pool effort to supply water from the Highland Canal in Bent County was approved by the Arkansas River Compact Administration (CO & KS) on Feb 14, 2019. This was a 40-year effort.

-Question: AHRA Management Plan Revision and EA – status? (USFS or CPW?)

**Mark your Calendar:**

Next Ark Basin Roundtable – March 13, 2019, 12:30, Pueblo Community College

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, March 25, 2019, 10am to Noon, BLM Office Canon City.