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

**Meeting Summary**

**Monday, June 24, 2019**

**10:00am – Noon**

**BLM Office, 3028 E. Main, Canon City**

**Environmental & Recreation Committee Purpose and Goals: (see next page).**

**Attendees:** Bob Hamel, (Envi-Rec Chair for Ark Basin Roundtable & Ark River Outfitters Assoc),Chelsea Nutter (Ark River Watershed Collaborative Exec Director), Andy Lerch (new ARWC guy), Rena Brand (Colorado Parks & Widlife – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (Ark River Watershed Collaborative & Co Spgs Util), Jay Winner (Lower Ark Valley Water Conservancy Dist), John Smeins (BLM), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Ashely Smith (Canon City, City Council), Will Colon (Whitewater Kayak Recreation Park), Kyle Horne (Canon City Recreation & Park Dist), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Buffy Lenth (Central Colorado Water Conservancy).

**June Meeting Summary**

**-Update on Oil Creek / Ark River Restoration**

Key discussion points :

Canon City council members need more education on this issue.

Black Hills property is a key component to this effort (timing is 12-18 months from now…Dec 2020?)

Canon City urban renewal district needs to be involved (?).

What are Canon City’s priorities? (Stormwater? River restoration? Black Hills?). They must decide.

**-Statewide Water Supply Initiative update & Basin Implementation Plan Update**

-Rena printed the 2015 Basin Implementation List of just CPW’s projects, or CPW with a partnering agency…came to ~100 projects. Of those, on her own, she starred these priorities:

-Great Plains Reservoirs – getting/keeping water in them for recreation

-Salida Low Head dam removal

-Salida Hatchery water quality & quantity improvements (whirling disease).

-DeWeese Dam & Grape Creek flow improvements

-Instream flow improvements for various streams in the basin.

**- Update on the Amity Mutual Canal Company's desire, along with CPW, to perform dam infrastructure improvements at Great Plains Reservoirs (Kiowa County & Prowers County) in order to rehab Queens dam for safe storage, and keep water in the reservoirs for recreation & wildlife.**

-The committee advised Rena that Amity should do a feasibility study so that they can apply for grants and have adequate documentation. (It appears Amity did do an Engineering study…will find out more).

-Grant/Loan due dates are December 1, 2020. (Approved at January RT, final approval from CWCB in March).

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

On June 21, BLM announced release of Draft Eastern Plains RMP and EIS. Comments due Sep 20. See the helpful online story map [here](https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7ff7182ac6444b53b0d5b7b48210bc11) .

-USFS has an augmentation plan in place for Lake Isabel. They received 3 statements of opposition and are working on the comments.

-Ryan Bouton is doing a PhD and is studying Voluntary Flow Mgmt Program economic viability. He’ll be collecting data and doing lots of interviews. He’ll send a summary of his objectives to us. He’s needing help with travel costs – if anyone knows of opportunities/scholarships for him to operate on. (Bob & Rena will ask ARBWF).

**Mark your calendar:**

Next Ark Basin Roundtable Meeting – Wed, July 10, 12:30 – 3:30, Pueblo Community College.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting - Mon, July 29, 10:00 to Noon, BLM, Canon City

**Helpful notes about this committee’s mission from our July 30, 2018 meeting:**

**The Environmental - Recreation Committee's purpose**

- Ark Basin RT legislative directive...to propose projects or methods, structural and non-structural, to meet environmental and recreational needs.

-Constantly review Basin Implementation Plan, evaluate goals and priorities.

-Consider sustainability values (economic, social, environmental) as we evaluate environmental & recreation issues, projects, and priorities.

-Work with Needs Assessment Committee to advise on environmental and recreation priorities (but do not infringe on Needs Assessment Committee).

-Encourage environmental & recreation groups to come to this committee before approaching Needs Assessment Committee or Roundtable. This committee can aid by providing letters of support of certain projects.

-Outreach and education. Continually strive to bring awareness of past, present, and future envi & rec projects.

**Environmental - Recreation Committee structure**

-Bob Hamel (AROA), Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Recreation Rep, Chair

-Rena Brand (CPW) vice-chair

-Amber Shanklin (Palmer Land Trust) Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Environmental Rep

-Mark Shea (CSU)(ARWC) Ark Basin Roundtable Chair

-Mike Weber (LAVWCD) Needs Committee Rep and Ark Basin Roundtable Vice Chair

-Chelsea Nutter Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC)

**Difference between Non-Consumptive Committee and the Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC)?**

-Discussion: ARWC is like the "operating body" or "fiscal agent" of the NC committee...

...whereas the NC committee itself is the group of experts offering advisement on projects and priorities.

**Future Non-Consumptive Committee Meeting Goals**

-strive for a purpose for every meeting; provide an agenda prior to each meeting.

-set a regular schedule - last Monday of every month in Canon City (and occasional other locations).

-send out a meaningful agenda, ahead of meeting.

-emphasize all folks are welcome; grow the invite list; invite special guests for specific planned topics.

-for each month's agenda, expect agency updates from USFS, BLM, CPW, and ARWC.

-offer folks to join the meeting by telephone or web-meeting options, if needed.