

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
January 14, 2015 – CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Roundtable Chair Jim Broderick called the meeting to order at 12:30 am. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty five (25) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of December

A motion to approve the minutes of December 10th, 2014 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Valda Terauds, Bureau of Reclamation – Valda announced that the BOR is providing a funding opportunity for communities in the West which may be seeking new sources of water supplies using water recycling and reuse technologies. Funding will assist communities in determining whether water recycling and reuse projects are feasible. The Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Study Funding Opportunity Announcement is available at www.grants.gov by searching for funding opportunity number R15AS00015. It is estimated that \$1.3 million may be awarded this year. Funding applications are due on March 3, 2015.

IBCC Report

Jeris Danielson – The IBCC will meet next on January 28th.

Jay Winner – The WSRA Basin Account stands at \$186,423 in basin funds. \$2,127,000 is available in statewide funds.

Jacob Bornstein – \$60,000 will be added to each basin fund later this month. Funds are replenished in January, April, and July; depending on availability.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

Alan thanked Jacob Bornstein for attending. The draft Colorado Water Plan was presented to the governor last month. Copies of the Executive Summary were available at the meeting. The full plan is on the IBCC website. Alan thanked RT members for their input to the draft BIP and state water plans.

Alan introduced Diane Hoppe, visiting CWCB board member, and thanked her for attending.

Andy Moore, CWCB – Decision Support System

The feasibility study was completed 3 years ago. Funding for the next phase has trickled in slowly, but an additional million dollars will be in this year's Projects Bill, for a total of \$2 million. This will allow the CWCB to issue a RFP and proceed with a significant portion of the ArkDSS. The total cost of the ArkDSS is estimated to be \$7.6 million. The DSS tools will be extremely helpful in future BIP processes.

Executive Committee Opening - Jim Broderick

Betty Konarski has resigned her roundtable position, leaving the Vice-Chair position open. Email Jim Broderick if you are interested in filling this position.

Letter of Support Request

The South Platte Roundtable has asked for a letter of support from the Roundtable regarding a project they are pursuing; a Water Information Dashboard. The Dashboard would be available across all of the basins, as a

clearinghouse for documents. *Roundtable members agreed by consensus to submit a letter of support to the CWCB for this project.*

PRESENTATION – IBCC Conceptual Framework – Jacob Bornstein, Program Manager (see docs on web)

The IBCC Conceptual Agreement sets the framework for future detailed negotiations on a potential new transmountain diversion (TMD). It reflects major statewide areas of concern that should be discussed and negotiated between project proponent(s) and affected communities.

The IBCC acknowledges that overdevelopment of limited Colorado River System water is a serious risk that could result in a Compact deficit, and all planning has to recognize that risk. The purpose of the Conceptual Agreement is to provide an initial conceptual agreement about how a future increment of Colorado River water could be developed under the right circumstances.

IBCC Summary Points

1. The East Slope is not looking for firm yield from a new TMD project and would accept hydrologic risk for that project.
2. A new TMD project would be used conjunctively with East Slope interruptible supply agreements, Denver Basin Aquifer resources, carry-over storage, terminal storage, drought restriction savings, and other non-West Slope water sources.
3. In order to manage when a new TMD will be able to divert, triggers are needed.
4. An insurance policy that protects against involuntary curtailment is needed for existing uses and some reasonable increment of future development in the Colorado River system, but it will not cover a new TMD.
5. Future West Slope needs should be accommodated as part of a new TMD project.
6. Colorado will continue its commitment to improve conservation and reuse.
7. Environmental resiliency and recreational needs must be addressed both before and conjunctively with a new TMD.

Jacob presented each basin's discussion of Colorado River Development as included in their respective draft Basin Implementation Plans. He provided a memo quoting each basin regarding Compact Discussion and Transmountain Diversions. Roundtable members asked questions and discussed the positions of the various roundtables. Jacob also answered questions regarding the Colorado River Compact and the path forward from the seven agreements.

Comments and Q/A:

- No specific project has been assigned or contemplated.
- The Lower Basin states have been using more than their apportionment for a long time, and they recognize that they need to reduce their demands.
- The role of the IBCC is to provide guidance for interbasin agreements. That's what this is trying to do, not advocate for specific projects.
- Regarding the first two items, RT members discussed how this supply would be helpful for growth needs. Once combined with other supplies, could it be recognized as firm yield? Almost any supply can be firmed up with additional storage.
- This is just the start of a conversation, but if you have serious heartburn over any of the concepts, then now is the time to say so.

Roundtable members agreed by consensus to accept the IBCC Conceptual Framework.

GRANT APPLICATIONS – presentations are available at www.arkansasbasin.com

Regional Water Supply Infrastructure Project: Preliminary Engineering of Area 3 Facilities – Sean Chambers, PPRWA

Basin Fund request:	\$ 26,000
Statewide request:	\$100,000
Project partners:	\$ 41,000
Cash total:	\$167,000
In-kind value:	\$ 13,500
Project total value:	\$180,500

This project follows the work of a Phase I Regional Infrastructure Study, which recommended this project as a next step. The project is an appraisal-level feasibility study and preliminary engineering of a collaborative infrastructure project that includes storage, conveyance and a potential future treatment facility in the northern part of El Paso County. Sean described how the project meets the WSRA criteria.

Roundtable members asked questions and made comments regarding the project.

The application was approved by consensus, conditional on a February presentation of the results of the Phase I Regional Infrastructure Study, the precursor to this project.

Phase II Repurposing of Water Supply for Multiple Beneficial Use – Jack Goble, LAVWCD

Basin Fund request:	\$ 25,000
Statewide request:	\$ 275,000
Cash match:	\$ 1,194,000
Phase II total:	\$ 1,494,000
Phase I CWCB loan:	\$ 2,535,000
Cash match Phase I:	\$ 48,000
Project total value:	\$ 4,077,000

This project acquires a total of 558 Colorado Canal and Lake Henry/Lake Meredith paired shares. Phase I purchases 408.6 paired shares with the help of a CWCB loan. Phase II purchases 149.4 paired shares with the help of WSRA grant funds. Water varies between 100 – 900 acre feet, averaging 450 acre feet in consumptive use.

The water is decreed for any beneficial use, and it is anticipated that it will be used in several ways. It will benefit recreation and the environment, be available for Rule 10 and Rule 14 augmentation plans, and for return flow replacements for lease/fallowing projects. It keeps the water in the basin, available for Ag related uses.

This application was approved by consensus.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea, Kim Gortz, Carol Ekarius, LAVWCD

Basin grant request:	\$ 25,000
Statewide request:	\$ 240,000
Cash match:	\$ 146,000
Cash totals	\$ 411,000
In-kind match	\$ 410,000
Project total value:	\$ 821,000

Last month, the Arkansas Roundtable agreed to establish the Collaborative as a sub-committee of the Roundtable. The Collaborative is now seeking funding to support and develop the collaborative and implement watershed health projects.

The first task is to stand the collaborative up and get it going. The second task will be that of data review, mapping, and data sharing. The third task is the development of a strategic plan for the first five years, and the prioritization of projects. The fourth task is public outreach and education. The fifth task is to tackle three projects immediately.

Cucharas Watershed Protection Projects	grant 80,000/20,000 match
Purgatoire Invasive Species and Habitat Restoration	grant 10,000/5,000 match
Tennessee Creek Fuels Mitigation	grant 60,000/283,000 match

This application was approved by consensus.

UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS – Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan – Gary Barber

Three Steps

January	Preliminary Needs List
February	Master Needs List
March	IPP List

Preliminary Needs List

- Meets the minimum criteria for an IPP definition: “is an identified need in the Basin Implementation Plan...”
- A Solution can be articulated
- Does not require a Plan of Action to implement the solution
- Does require a location, particularly which County or Counties

Data for Master Needs List

- The Lat/Long coordinates will auto-populate the spreadsheet
- Technical Assistance is available from the Project Team (rebecca.moores@ch2m.com)
- The quality of the Master Needs List will be determined by the quality of the data provided

Project Summary Sheets

- Summary sheet information comes directly from the Master Needs List Data
- We can query the data based on location (County, Region, WCD, etc.)

Request for Input

- Currently we have eleven (11) sources of Input
- We will contact you with a targeted request for feedback
- Our goal is to make this simple and easy

Summary

- Finalize Preliminary Needs List
- Roundtable Members are requested to provide data on Needs asap
- Needs which have a defined Plan of Action
 - Will be displayed on an interactive map
 - The data set will generate a project summary sheet
- Goal: A 1st Draft Master Needs List for the February 11th Arkansas Roundtable meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – February 11, 12:30 pm, at CSU-Pueblo
- Next CWCB Meetings: March 18 & 19, Broomfield (CDA Bldg)
May 20 & 21, Sterling
July 15 & 16, Southwest Colorado
September 16 & 17, Montrose
November 18 & 19, TBD
- Adjourned at 3:19 pm

Links:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com Presentations made at Roundtable meetings can usually be found on the roundtable website, along with agendas and meeting notes. A link to Phase I of the Basin Implementation Plan may also be found, along with other information regarding the Arkansas Basin.

Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>

Colorado Water Conservation Board: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>