

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
June 10, 2015 – Steam Plant, Salida
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Jim Broderick called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty two (22) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

April minutes

April minutes will be approved at next month's meeting.

Public Comment – none

IBCC Report – Jay Winner, Jim Broderick, Brent Newman

Jay – Sub-groups have been formed as the Colorado Water Plan is being tweaked. Most activity is regarding the Conceptual Framework.

Jeris – The next meeting will be held on July 13th.

Brent Newman – The Conceptual Framework Subcommittee was formed in January. The group is meeting; not to change the statements in the framework, but to provide clarification for some of the terms in the statements.

CWCB Report - Alan Hamel

The CWCB last met May 19th – 21st in Sterling. The Statewide fund balance is \$2.1 million, and the Basin fund stands at \$361,000. An additional \$2 million will be added to the Statewide fund in July, and the Basin fund should receive another \$160,000 as well.

At the meeting, LAVWCD was awarded an Alternative Ag grant in the amount of \$174,000 for the Catlin Canal project.

The main piece of business conducted was for all basins to present their Basin Implementation Plans. The Arkansas Basin's plan was well received by the CWCB Board. They were impressed with the tracking tool and list of IPPs. Alan complimented the BIP team. Executive Summaries are available for Roundtable members at this meeting.

There was also some preliminary discussion of how to support the roundtables as they move from planning and studies to implementation. We're ahead of the curve with our grant request for BIP Coordination. We have an opportunity to be a pacesetter once again.

Now, Brent Newman and his fellow CWCB staff members are working on taking the draft Colorado Water Plan to final draft form. CWCB staff will have a workshop on June 22nd with the CWCB board. The final draft will be completed in July.

The next CWCB meeting will be held July 15 and 16 in Ignacio, Colorado (near Durango). September's meeting will be held September 16 and 17 in Montrose.

Jim and Jay thanked the Basin Implementation Plan project team, Project Manager Gary Barber, the Executive Committee, and all who gave input to the plan.

Executive Committee – Jim Broderick

Since the roundtable last met, the executive committee has met and talked about the grants that will be presented today, the need for a coordinator for the implementation phase that the roundtable is now entering, the Arkansas River Watershed Health Collaborative, and next steps for the roundtable.

Non-Consumptive Needs Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

The next meeting will be held on June 26th, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the BLM offices in Canon City. The Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan will be discussed.

GRANT APPLICATIONS – Review and Approval (presentations available at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Horse Creek Flume – Fort Lyon Canal Company – Steve Jamieson

Basin Funds	\$ 50,000
Statewide Fund	\$ 450,000
Matching Funds	\$ 75,000
Loan	<u>\$ 1,613,000</u>
Project Total	\$ 2,188,000

This application moved forward by consensus.

Agricultural Improvements and Sustainable Water Supply using Horizontal Wells – Box Springs Canal and Reservoir Company – Garrett Markus

Basin Funds	\$ 50,000
Statewide Funds	\$ 150,000
Matching Funds	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Project Total	\$ 300,000

This application moved forward by consensus.

Repurposing of Lamar Wells 12 and 13 – Lamar Water/Wastewater Department – Josh Cichocki and Andrew Sparn

Basin Funds	\$ 25,000
Statewide Funds	\$ 136,625
Loan	\$ 100,000
Match	\$ 49,300
In-Kind	<u>\$ 86,700</u>
Project Total	\$ 397,625

This application moved forward by consensus.

Cucharas Basin Collaborative Storage Study – Huerfano County Water Conservancy District – Sandy White

Basin Funds	\$ 25,000
Statewide Funds	\$ 195,000
Partner Match	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Project Total	\$ 250,000

This application moved forward by consensus.

Arkansas Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator – LAVWCD – Jay Winner

Basin Funds	\$ 27,880
Statewide Funds	<u>\$ 70,000</u>
Project Total	\$ 97,880

Project Summary (no powerpoint)

The proposed water activity follows the Executive Summary of the 2015 Arkansas BIP (pp. 10-12), namely to implement Identified Projects and Processes identified in the BIP Preliminary Needs List, through a Cyclic Planning Process as shown below:

Building on the previous decade of work, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable organized the compilation of basin needs in three steps. First, a complete data set of Needs was identified and compiled. Needs are also referred to as "challenges." Projects that might address the Need were solicited, with each project assigned a project status:

- a) Concept,
- b) Planned,
- c) Implementation Ongoing, or
- d) Completed

After the projects were assigned a Project Status, a multi-step process was used to assign a Project Classification.

Project Classification types and definitions are listed below:

All Input List: All identified needs from all sources are included in the All Input List.

Preliminary Needs List: The All Input List was filtered to remove the Completed and Obsolete needs, resulting in the Preliminary Needs List.

Master Needs List: The provider of each need on the Preliminary Needs List was asked to identify a Solution and a Plan of Action to implement a solution for the identified need. All needs with a defined Solution and Plan of Action carried forward onto the Master Needs List. Projects on the Master Needs List were located by latitude and longitude for later mapping.

IPP List: Needs on the Master Needs List were compared to the criteria for an IPP per the SWSI 2016 draft glossary.⁶ The glossary provides a detailed articulation of the criteria for an IPP, distinguished by types for Municipal and Industrial, Agricultural, and Nonconsumptive. Needs on the Master Needs List that met the SWSI 2016 IPP criteria are included in the IPP List. This data set, which included everything that was proffered from all sources, was screened and filtered by the Roundtable to remove items that were duplicative of other input received."

A Cyclical Planning Process

The Plan represents a snapshot in time of the Arkansas Basin's needs, as articulated through the energetic efforts of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. Since projects to meet needs will be completed and new needs will arise, the final section of the Plan describes a cyclical planning process. The process consists of five phases:

1. Quality Input
2. Technical Data to Support Decision Making—The Statewide Water Supply Initiative
3. Collaborative Problem Solving and Defining Alternatives
4. Design, Permitting and Funding
5. Tracking Progress to Completion and Refreshing the Input

The goal is to move 3-6 subregional projects forward to funding and implementation. The Implementation Plan Coordinator will support the Roundtable and manage projects in steps 3, 4 and 5 of the cyclical process.

Roundtable members discussed this project, which was then moved forward by consensus.

Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan – Keith Berger, BLM Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office

The Royal Gorge Field Office covers 670,000 surface acres, and 6.7 million acres of federal mineral estate. It covers a third of eastern Colorado.

They are kicking off the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan (RMP). John Smeins is lead for this project, which will take several years. The RMP, similar to a county master plan, is a land use plan that describes broad multiple-use guidance for managing lands and federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Decisions in the RMP guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions.

The RMP utilizes an EIS process – an open process with significant opportunities for public involvement and involvement from partners and stakeholders.

Many of you have received an invitation to be a cooperating agency in this effort. CAs become “partners” in the analysis, and can help develop and review the EIS process. Large water providers, county governments, and conservancy districts are invited, but other agencies may also be included. If you have questions about being a CA, please contact John Smeins or Keith Berger.

The BLM is required to perform a full Wild and Scenic River analysis when revising land use plans. A more in-depth meeting for the Non-Consumptive Use Sub-C ommittee will be held on June 26th at the BLM office in Canon City from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Roy Smith, BLM’s State water rights coordinator, will be there to explain the process in depth and to answer questions.

BLM’s last Wild and Scenic River Analysis was completed almost 20 years ago, in 1996. BLM has completed only the first phase of this analysis, which is eligibility. Eligibility is exclusively an inventory process to identify stream segments with outstanding river-related values. The eligibility process contains no analysis or decisions as to whether a stream should be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It simply identifies the appropriate set of stream segments for intensive analysis. BLM welcomes any comments you might have on the draft eligibility analysis, to ensure that their analysis and documentation of values is correct.

See <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html> for the Royal Gorge Field Office website, and a link to information about the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan.

PRESENTATION – ArkSWAM Shortage Analysis (Simplified Water Allocation Model) – CDM Smith

Purpose

- Develop basin scale planning tool
- Assist in evaluation of projected regional shortages

Hydrologic Modeling Technical Committee Outcomes

- Water Supply Portfolios
- Reservoir Storage Accounts
- Winter Water Storage Program Operations
- Variable Transbasin Imports
- Variable Irrigation Demands
- Future Scenario Selection Year = 2050

Demands, Hydrology, Environment & Recreation and IPP Portfolio

Future Scenario Development

Five drivers – IPPs, Env & Rec, Irrigation Demand, Hydrology, M&I Demand

Summary of Future Scenarios – Qualitative

Plausible and Comparable

Shortage Analysis Results

Next Steps

Not meant to replace the DSS

This piece will fit into the Arkansas BIP

This is a useful tool that can be used by smaller municipalities and areas.

Next Steps on WSRA Grant Process and Arkansas Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan

Jim Broderick invited roundtable members to discuss next steps forward. The BIP Coordinator will help to develop criteria to move identified projects forward. We want to help people in the basin to move projects forward, being inclusive of the entire basin.

Alan Hamel - Another process starting is SWSI 2016. Having outreach throughout the basin is going to be very important. CWCB staff will come down to help us with that process.

Other business

- Next meeting July 8th – CSU Pueblo
- June 26th, BLM meeting at Canon City at 10 am. 10-12

Links:

www.arkansasbasin.com Input forms are available in printable pdf and online survey formats, along with a Public Meeting Schedule, Roundtable Meeting Agendas and Meeting Notes, and other information regarding the Arkansas Basin.

<http://coloradowaterplan.com/>