



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
July 8, 2015 – CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Jim Broderick called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty seven (27) members were present. There are 40 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of April and June

A motion to approve the minutes of April 8th and June 10th was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Gabe Ortega, Mayor of Fountain: Mayor Ortega thanked roundtable members for the hard work they do for the Arkansas Basin. The City of Fountain still has some working farms right in the city. Fountain believes in smart growth and collaborative approaches to solving water issues. Mr. Ortega introduced Mayor Pro Tem Jim Coke, and Council member Sharon Thompson.

Sharon Thompson: Fountain Creek runs through her ward. After working hands-on during the recent flooding, Fountain knows that we cannot accomplish much without working together.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel, Jacob Bornstein

Alan Hamel: CWCB is focusing on the Colorado Water Plan. The second draft was released yesterday and can be accessed on their website, at: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>. There have been a lot of changes between the two drafts. Like the Basin Implementation Plan, it now has action steps in it and is really becoming a plan. Chapters 6-9 and 11 now have action steps moving forward. Alan asked members to review Chapter 10: Critical Action Plan.

Jacob Bornstein: September 17th is the deadline for public comment before the final draft is prepared. Jacob thanked Gary Barber for his assistance with the Colorado Water Plan, Sections 6.2, 6.5, 6.6. Jacob agreed that Chapter 10, the Critical Action Plan, is the most important chapter to read. 9.4, the permitting section, would also be of interest to this group.

Path forward for the roundtables: CWCB hopes the Arkansas Basin Roundtable will continue to lead for the state. Implementing the BIPs is the next phase of this process. We'll be reviewing draft concepts at the next IBCC meeting, and will be scheduling an All-Chairs meeting to talk about that.

Jacob thanked the Arkansas RT for our leadership and for having a strong Needs Assessment Committee. He stated that the CWCB is not at a point where it will just limit funding requests to projects listed in the Master Needs List. If a project meets the goals and is deemed as a high priority at the Roundtable level, it can still be considered. If it's in the BIP it gets a bump, but especially if it's multi-purpose and regional, it is eligible.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner, Jeris Danielson

Jeris: IBCC will meet Monday in Denver.

Jay: The Conceptual Framework, addressing a possible trans-mountain diversion, will remain in the Colorado Water Plan.

Watershed Health Collaborative – Mark Shea



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The Collaborative has developed a job description for a Water Health Collaborative Coordinator. The draft job description was discussed by the Executive Committee, and it will also be distributed within the Collaborative steering committee. Get comments on the draft to Mark by next week.

The Huerfano County project has executed a contract with Brad Piehl. The project will identify and develop post-fire plans and projects to mitigate post-fire conditions. That conversation has broadened, and the collaborative would like to take the work that's being done in Huerfano County and duplicate that effort in different parts of the basin. Generally, that means wildfire risk assessment, develop plans to reduce fuel load, prepare for fire response, and prepare for post-fire mitigation. Specifically, the Collaborative has talked to Pueblo Water Works regarding Clear Creek and the Upper Arkansas. There's a similar effort being undertaken by SECWCD and BLM to protect the infrastructure of the Fry-Ark system from the impacts of catastrophic wildfire. The collaborative will stay engaged and work to bring those projects forward.

Mark and Carol Ekarius also visited the Purgatoire River to look at that project, which will focus on preserving water resources and prehistoric and cultural resources that are being degraded by widespread, dispersed recreational use and cattle grazing.

There will be a meeting tomorrow of stakeholders in Leadville related to the Tennessee Creek Project. There is a very large fire mitigation project around Turquoise Reservoir being undertaken by the USFS. Our project is to expand that project off of federal lands onto adjacent non-federal property.

Mark is also engaged in the effort that BLM is undertaking – the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan Review and Update. There is a role that the collaborative can play and a possible DOLA grant that could be tapped into.

Non-Consumptive Needs Committee – SeEtta Moss

The BLM presented information to the committee on June 26th regarding their Master Plan process and the Wild and Scenic Eligibility review. There was a good turnout for the meeting, which was very informative. BLM has extended their timeline for feedback to September in order to accommodate the roundtable.

Executive Committee – Jim Broderick

We have asked BLM to come present in August. We've also asked CWCB to attend and discuss the Wild and Scenic Rivers Fund. The Executive Committee is also working on Watershed Health Collaborative and BIP Coordination efforts.

Jay: Regarding BIP Coordination, the approved grant has been submitted to CWCB, and Jay was asked to give a presentation on this at the next IBCC meeting.

GRANT APPLICATIONS (visit www.arkansasbasin.com for presentations)

WISE Partnership: Conjunctive Use Infrastructure – South Metro WISE Authority – Eric Hecox

Basin Fund: \$10,000

The WISE Authority is seeking a WSRA grant to help construct an important piece of infrastructure, specifically, a water treatment plant to allow the constructive use of ground and surface water within the same system. This infrastructure is expected to cost \$6.4 million. Timeline: June 2015 – January 2017.

South Metro WISE Authority is asking each basin for \$10,000, to demonstrate support by all basins for projects that are creating in-basin solutions to the gap.

Roundtable members asked questions and discussed this application. Concerns were expressed regarding IGAs between Aurora Water and Arkansas Basin entities. Several members expressed their support.



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By consensus, roundtable members approved this application with a stipulation that a letter is produced by Aurora Water assuring the Arkansas Basin RT and IGA partners that WISE infrastructure will not affect other agreements with Aurora.

Evans Reservoir Bypass Flume Replacement – Parkville Water District – Greg Teter, Steve Maly

Basin Fund: \$ 50,000
Statewide Fund: \$ 250,000
Loan: \$ 180,000

The Evans Reservoir Bypass Flume was constructed around 1904. It is a wooden trough measuring 6' x 5' x 450' that diverts water around Evans Reservoir. The flume carries Evans Creek contaminated water around Evans Reservoir. Water carried by the flume contains high turbidity levels. The bottom end of the flume passes through the dam.

Annual maintenance of the wooden structure has required heavy effort and expense. Changing weather patterns in the last several years have caused the condition of the flume to become an extremely urgent situation. 8,000 acres of deep snow must channel through the flume during spring runoff each year. In the spring of 2014, a sudden runoff combined with spring rains; resulting in an unusually high snow melt. The flume was overwhelmed and the portion that passes through the dam failed. Some fairly serious erosion of the dam resulted, but emergency repairs prevented further damage. Contamination of the water supply was prevented. The 2015 runoff was unusually high as well, due to the amount of snowfall in April and unusually warm temperatures in June; necessitating emergency actions again. The State Engineer has now strongly recommended that the flume be replaced. Because repairs to the three dams were also urgent, a large portion of the district's capital spending in the last 15 years has been to maintain and upgrade the dams.

This project proposes a buried pipeline to replace the flume. Concrete inlet and outlet structures will be constructed, and a trash rack will be installed at the inlet. The project Meets Tier One criteria: ArkBIP - Replace Aging Infrastructure.

This application was approved by consensus.

OTHER BUSINESS

- PEPO – 3 Year Plan: Jay met with Kate McIntire. This year \$6,500 is available per roundtable, and Kate is working with roundtables to develop 3-year plans.
- Next Meeting – August 12th, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Adjourn

Links:

Information regarding the Arkansas Basin, including meeting agendas, minutes and presentations may be found on our website, at: www.arkansasbasin.com. A link to the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan may also be found there.

Information regarding water in Colorado may be found at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>

Information regarding Colorado's Water Plan may be found at: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>