

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
November 11, 2015 – CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty three (23) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of October

A motion to approve the minutes of October 2015 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment - none

Executive Committee Report – Sandy White

Gary Barber is the new BIP Coordinator. His direction has been to bring some projects forward. Gary recommended ten projects. A projects priority committee of 5 was formed: Jim Broderick, Jay Winner, Alan Hamel, Terry Scanga and SeEtta Moss. They will assist in coming up with projects.

Phreatophyte Control Grants – The deadline for application is this Friday. Although not a roundtable grant, CWCB is requiring a letter of support from the roundtable chair. The executive committee reviewed the applications, and recommend to the roundtable that they approve the writing of a letter. There are three applications at this time.

Roundtable members agreed by consensus that recommendation letters should be written by the Roundtable Chair.

We also discussed the vacancy on the Water Quality Control Commission. Mark Shea is interested in applying for that position. The Executive Committee asks the roundtable to recommend Mark's appointment by consensus. Two executive committee members abstained from voting, voicing concern regarding the Roundtable's role in such matters. SeEtta strongly supported approval, since no other members of that board are from our basin, and regional representation is desired. Brett Gracely and Alan Hamel also voiced support. Alan will be writing a personal recommendation letter.

Roundtable members agreed by consensus that a letter recommending Mark Shea's appointment to the Water Quality Control Commission be submitted.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner

The IBCC has not met since our last Roundtable meeting, and they don't expect to meet again until after the first of next year.

Needs Assessment – Jay Winner

Jay anticipates two or more grants coming forward in December.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

A link was sent to you that is an update on the Colorado Water Plan. The CWCB will meet next Tuesday and Wednesday at the History Colorado Museum. Our PEPO grant application will be considered at that meeting. The Colorado Water Plan will be submitted for final approval, and the plan will then be presented to the Governor. You also received a link for the IBCC Annual Report, and the WSRA Annual Report.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

Basin Implementation Plan Coordinator

- Scope of Work
- First 10 Projects Recommended

Adding new projects

Finding new funding sources

Coordinator Scope of Work

- Four tasks
- Work with Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative and PEPO Team

Projects Recommended for Action

- First cut reviewed by Executive Committee
- Following discussion, will review in a subcommittee

Adding New Projects & Clarifying Others

- Some projects need clarification
- Some projects are global in nature
- Still working a few bugs out of the Project Database

Seeking Funding Sources

- Get the most out of our WSRA grant funds
- Coordinate with other agencies
- Reach out to non-profits
- Your suggestions welcomed

Watershed Health Collaborative – Mark Shea and Deb Phenecie

Mark thanked the Roundtable for their support of his application. ARWC met on the 28th. Follow-up meetings will be held throughout the basin.

Deb – Everyone sitting around the table should be on the email list. If you have not received an email from ARWC, let her know.

Next meetings:

December 3, Salida

December 16, La Junta

Deb would like to see people from across the basin attend both meetings. The group will likely have another meeting in Pueblo in late January, then take the next step towards a strategic planning process.

Deb has been meeting with folks around the basin, learning more about the basin, projects. She has also been meeting with folks doing the work of the three projects that are being covered by the grant; Tennessee, Huerfano County, Purgatoire.

If other local groups would like to meet with Deb, let her know. Deb also put out a project survey, looking to shake loose some projects that would be ready to come to Needs Assessment Committee in December. She has been finding that a lot of things are shovel-ready, but don't have project partners or enough funds.

PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker

PEPO met last week and worked on refining the budget and writing a job description for program coordinator.

Bylaws – Al Tucker

A draft will be ready for review by January's meeting.

DISCUSSION

Roundtable members discussed what will happen after the Colorado Water Plan is approved.

Chapter 10 has measurable objectives and dates. All of the goals and objectives will be contained in an appendix. The CWCB will have regular reviews of the progress towards goals and objectives. There will be some working committees, such as the Finance Committee. Funding is going to be very important. We're going to need to do more to raise funds for future water projects.

The CWCB has talked about how often to update the plan – not too often. The CWCB will update SWSI every five years or so, and update the Colorado Water Plan on a regular basis as well. Our basin's goal is to keep the BIP project list current. For example, the CWCB plans to reactivate the Water Conservation Action Committee, which was a technical committee, to work more specifically on how to attain some of these goals. We will work on some things continually, such as the Conceptual Framework and Transmountain Diversions.

Alan doesn't anticipate that any municipalities will speak against the Colorado Water Plan. Over 30,000 comments were received. A lot of tweaks were made, and there will be a lot of work to do on the technical side as we move forward.

The Colorado Water Plan has been in every one of our current governor's state addresses. CWCB has to take leadership, because it will cross over from governor to governor. We need to work together to see that it happens, that we don't just sit and wait and see. It will take collaborative solutions. We have a finite amount of water, and we have a finite amount of dollars as well.

We're all invested in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. How we proceed as a basin will affect the future of the Colorado Water Plan.

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – **January 13**, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Interested in PEPO? Email Elise, who will email Al Tucker
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- CWCB: <http://cwc.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>