

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
January 13, 2016 – 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 four (24) members were present. There are 39 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of November

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

Public Comment - none

Executive Committee Report – Sandy White

Vacancies: We have vacancies in the municipal, county, and at-large positions. Members will receive a list of vacancies and criteria. Ask for nominations: name, position, contact info, 100 words or so on qualifications.

Bylaws Revision: Revisions have been recommended by the Executive Committee for approval. They will be emailed to you this month, and will be up for approval next month.

Sunshine Law: LAVWCD, UAVWCD, PWW have all agreed to be designated posting places.

A motion to approve LAVWCD, UAVWCD and PWW as designated posting places was duly made, seconded and approved.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner and Jeris Danielson

The IBCC will meet at the end of February.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

At our November meeting, the Colorado Water Plan was presented to the Governor. Alan thanked Sandy White, who represented the Arkansas Basin at the CWCB meeting, along with other Roundtable members that were present.

CWCB took action and directed staff to include specific reference to the Colorado Water Plan in their staff recommendations of grant and loan applications.

Colorado Water Plan Overview - Brent Newman

Brent showed a video overview. Brent went over elements of the plan and the path forward for the Arkansas Basin Roundtable in carrying out the plan. Chapter 10 identifies the Critical Action Plan. A funding committee has been put together to address this key need. 36 critical actions have been identified, which are short-term and high impact.

Measurable Objectives in the plan

- Supply-Demand Gap
 - Reduce the projected 2050 municipal and industrial gap from as much as 560,000 acre-feet to zero by 2030.
- Conservation
 - 400,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water conservation by 2050.

- Land Use
 - By 2025, 75 % of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning.
- Agriculture
 - Agricultural economic productivity will keep pace with growing state, national, and global needs, even if some acres go out of production.
- Storage
 -
- Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation
- Funding
- Education, Outreach and Innovation

IBCC will work on funding, and CWCB staff and board will work with legislators. Funding applicants should reference the CWP and/or the Ark BIP measurable goals and objectives. Basin and statewide funding will take a 25-50% hit in January. Funding comes from a source that isn't really connected to water needs, causing a disconnect in supply and demand.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (presentation on website)

Project Activity

- WSRA Grants for March, 2016 CWCB meeting
 - Reviewed by Needs Assessment Committee
 - Assistance with Scope of Work drafting
- La Junta Streamlined Flood Mitigation and Flow Management project
- Purgatoire Ditch Infrastructure Repair
- McClave Water Line Repair
- Town of Aguilar water storage
- Granite (Homestake) Diversion

Support and Investigate

- Upper Ark Multi-Phase, Lake Ranch Pilot
- Fountain Creek transit Loss USGS model update
- Cucharas Storage Collaborative
- Lake Isabel Water Level
- Upper Big Sandy USGS Water Balance study
- Town of Walsh water supply

Tracking Funding Sources – March CWCB meeting

- Basin Requests: \$138,007
- Statewide Requests: \$280,944
- Loan Request: \$60,000

If all applications are approved today, a minimum of \$60,759 will remain in the Basin Fund (after January funding).

Non-Consumptive Needs Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

The committee met last Friday. They'll be working closely with the Watershed Health Collaborative.

Watershed Health Collaborative – Mark Shea and Deb Phenecie

The Collaborative met on December 16th in La Junta. They are working closely with non-consumptive needs committee. Workshops may be held to present watershed health work that has been done in some parts of the basin (such as Huerfano County) that can be replicated elsewhere in the basin.

At the La Junta meeting, the group began to talk about how to engage folks in the area. Deb will be attending the Ag Symposium. Another public meeting will be held at Lathrop State Park on February 5th. If you haven't been to a meeting, please attend and give your input regarding projects and how the collaborative can help you going forward. There will continue to be opportunities for feedback. Three projects are moving forward as part of the grant.

PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker

Al introduced Jean Van Pelt, from the ARBWF. Jean has recently retired from SECWCD. The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held April 27 and 28, in Salida, at the Steamplant. You will also receive an invitation to a VIP dinner April 26th. This event is designed to educate local officials. Around 200 attendees are expected. The group is working on a strategic plan for the forum, aiming to become one of the premier water events in the state. The ARBWF is looking for sponsors of the event. Please consider assisting with these educational efforts.

GRANT APPLICATIONS – Jay Winner, Gary Barber

Grant applications are now available on the website: www.arkansasbasin.com. Elise will email you to remind you that applications are available there, but applications will no longer be emailed to you.

La Junta Streamlined Flood Mitigation and Flow Management Project

Basin Funds: \$25,000

Cash Match: \$60,000

This project addresses a pinch point that has caused flooding within La Junta.

The application was approved by consensus.

McClave Water Line Repair

Basin Funds: \$23,010

Statewide Fund: \$25,000

Cash Match: \$4,800

In-kind: \$2,000

This project replaces 1.5 miles of water line.

The application was approved by consensus.

Purgatoire Ditch Infrastructure Repair

Basin Funds: \$30,000

Statewide Funds: \$60,000

WSRA Loan: \$60,000

Cash Match: \$121,500

This project makes repairs to six separate ditches on the Trinidad Project. All projects fall under the IPP addressing Aging Infrastructure, and several of the projects are specifically listed on the BIP Needs List.

The application was approved by consensus.

Upper Arkansas Multi Use Project, Phase I, Lake Ranch Pilot – Terry Scanga, Chelsea Nutter

Basin Funds: \$31,197

Statewide Funds: \$162,944

Cash Match: \$30,569

In-kind: \$5,000

This pilot project demonstrates the feasibility of integrating multiple water use components.

- Irrigated Agriculture
- Alluvial aquifer storage
- Hydropower
- Municipal supply
- Environment and Recreation

Other funding sources are being sought, which would reduce basin and statewide funds requested.

The application was approved by consensus.

Flood Control Alternatives for Fountain Creek – Larry Small

Basin Funds: \$8,800

Statewide Funds: \$33,000

Cash Match: \$25,500

In-kind: \$12,000

Phase One of this project is an evaluation of alternatives. By request of the Needs Assessment Committee, this phase has been separated by a Feasibility Study phase, which will follow. Water rights protection will continue to be a task in each phase.

This application was approved by consensus.

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – February 10th, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum:
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>