

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
February 10, 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 nine (29) members were present.

Approval of Minutes of January

A motion to approve the minutes of January 2016 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment - none

Executive Committee Report – Sandy White

Sandy reported that the Executive Committee had decided to table the topic of whether or not to authorize the BIP Coordinator to work on a potential project regarding the Bessemer Ditch.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner and Jeris Danielson

The IBCC will meet February 23rd. The focus will be on financing Colorado's Water Plan.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel

At the January meeting, the focus was on finance. Directors looked at all CWCB programs. WSRA funds will be affected by approximately 30%. In 2016/2017, funds are expected to be cut by 40%. In March, applications for statewide funds will total more than funds available, by approximately \$300,000.

The CWCB also sent recommendations to the legislature on the Projects Bill.

A report on the Catlin Demonstration Project is on CWCB's website if you are interested.

The CWCB meets next in La Junta, on March 16th and 17th. LAVWCD is setting up a tour. You are welcome to attend. The agenda will be out about two weeks prior to the meeting.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (presentation on website)

Overview

- Project Activities
 - La Junta Streamlined Flood Mitigation and Flow Mgmt Project
 - Severance Tax Trust Fund Operational Account Grant Applications
 - Fountain Creek US Geologic Survey Transit Loss Model software update
 - Upper Ark WCD Lake Ranch Pilot Project
 - Water Project Loan Program Application
 - Purgatoire River WCD Ditch Infrastructure Repair project
- Outreach
 - Baca County Commissioners – Two Buttes Reservoir
 - Town of Walsh municipal water supply
 - Next
 - Upper Big Sandy Groundwater Mgmt District
 - Canon City Ditch Diversions meeting (March 4)
 - Lake County Commissioners (March 7)

- Bessemer Landscape Assessment
 - Rocky Mtn Farmers Union & PBWW
- WSRA grant modifications for approval
 - Purgatoire Ditch Repair
 - Revised Scope and Budget
 - Lowered overall price and cash match
 - North La Junta Flood Mitigation
 - 404 Permit
 - Project was phased in order to start work now

Modifications were approved by Roundtable consensus.

Updates will be made to the project database in the Basin Implementation Plan. If you have a project on the list and the status has changed, let Gary know. Let him know if you have new projects to be added to the list.

Sandy asked that Gary meet with new Roundtable members to bring them up to speed on Roundtable activities and the process for bringing projects forward for inclusion in the BIP and WSRA funding.

Non-Consumptive Needs Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

The next meeting will be held February 26th, from 10-12 at BLM offices in Canon City.

SeEtta brought forward a potential multi-purpose project, which comes out of a project that has already been funded on the Cucharas River. It involves road crossings that are at high risk for flooding. Multiple environmental values exist and are affected by how these road crossings are addressed. The project would look at best practices for road crossings, and could be a pilot study or demonstration project, so that environmental values are protected and aquatic habitat is preserved. Parks and Wildlife and CDOT are possible project collaborators.

The roundtable agreed by consensus to support the moving forward of this project.

Watershed Health Collaborative – Mark Shea and Deb Phenecie

The last of the regional ARWC meetings was held at Lathrop State Park. The group will meet in Pueblo as a next step, for a basin-wide follow-up to the regional meetings.

Mark was asked for a letter of support from ARWC regarding the designation of San Isabel NF as an Insect and Disease Area under the Farm Bill. The Pike National Forest has already been included, but San Isabel was left out. It would allow disease and insect infestation areas to be opened up for expedited permitting for watershed health work.

The roundtable agreed by consensus that a letter be written from ARWC to Governor Hickenlooper, recommending the designation of Insect and Disease Area for the San Isabel National Forest.

Mark attended a Weld County meeting regarding water quality and nutrient loading. It was held by CDPHE, with CO Dept of Agriculture; and focused on how state agencies responsible for addressing water quality issues can reach out to rural and ag communities. They're going to move forward with an outreach effort to encourage best management practices, and also to highlight current practices. Mark encouraged Ag producers to be aware and engage appropriately.

Deb has been meeting with existing groups that already have projects lined up, talking about what their needs are, and how ARWC can support local watershed groups in doing the work that they are poised and ready to do.

Deb described a grant opportunity through the Healthy Watersheds Consortium that could help. It's a capacity grant for staff, and could fund up to \$150-\$200,000 per year for five years. It would allow Deb to develop the foundation under the collaborative, and support the formation of sub-basin groups. The grant is funded by the US Forest Endowment, and the application is due March 14th.

PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker & Jean Van Pelt

The Grant Contract has been signed. The group is meeting Friday in Salida. The PEPO Coordinator job description is ready.

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held in April at the Salida Steamplant. A VIP dinner will be held the evening prior to the Forum, on April 26th. The Forum is April 27 and 28. Jean thanked Roundtable members who have agreed to sponsor the Forum.

Needs Assessment Committee – Jay

Jay suggested adding a voting member slot to the roundtable for the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District. The roundtable can add voting or non-voting slots at its own discretion.

After discussion, the roundtable agreed by consensus to add a voting member slot to the roundtable membership for the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District.

APPROVAL OF REVISED BYLAWS – Al Tucker (see presentation)

Al presented an overview of the revised bylaws, which had been emailed to Roundtable members and interested parties for their review.

Change: A quorum is based on a simple majority of active members. All voting members when first appointed are considered "active." If a voting member misses two consecutive meetings, unexcused, they are considered "inactive" and are no longer included in the quorum.

A motion to approve the revised bylaws was duly made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ELECTION/DESIGNATION OF AT-LARGE MEMBERS – Sandy White

Sandy recommended that Blake Osborn be appointed as a non-voting liaison member to the Roundtable.

The roundtable agreed to Blake's membership by consensus.

Sandy described the At-Large vacancies available. Under statute, the roundtable will have ten At-Large members. Five must have water rights. Candidates introduced themselves and made remarks as to their interest in becoming roundtable members.

At-Large Recreational Representative

- Drew Peternell

At-Large Industrial Representative

- Bob Hartzman

At-Large Representative (Three openings)

- Tim Canterbury

- Will Colon
- Nick Koch
- Kip Petersen
- Karen Salapich

BREAK – for vote count

New At-Large Members

- Drew Peternell
- Bob Hartzman
- Tim Canterbury
- Nick Koch
- Karen Salapich

LEASE FOLLOWING TOOL – Terry Scanga (see full presentation on website)

Development, Technical Basis, Operation and Implementation of the Lease Following Tool

Alternative Agricultural Water Transfer Methods

- Projects that provide usable and transferable information that will increase our understanding of how to successfully design transfer programs that provide a long-term, reliable water supply while sustaining meaningful agricultural production

Basin Implementation Plan

- If water is going to be transferred from ag, how can it be done right
- Funding for Rotational Fallowing
 - Approved alternative ag transfer method
- Three tracks are being pursued
 - Technical studies
 - Policy studies
 - Pilot projects

Purpose of the Project

- Development of an accepted basin-wide preferred methodology – common platform that can be a statewide template for temporary water transfers under lease following
 - Create a general accepted, common technical platform for determination of consumptive use and return flow impacts
 - Reduction of transactional costs of temporary transfers

Scope of the Project

- Phase 1: Define Basic Data Requirements for Accounting Tool
- Phase 2: Develop and Evaluate Accounting Tool – farm headgate diversion, crop evapo-transpiration, surface runoff & recharge to aquifer
- Phase 3: Develop and Evaluate Accounting Tool – alluvial aquifer response
- Phase 4: Document Accounting Tool and Prepare Guidelines for Use

Link to Lease Fallow Tool:

<http://water.state.co.us/DataMaps/ModelingCDSS/Pages/LeaseFallowTool.aspx>

OTHER MATTERS

CFWE Water Tour – February 26th – Water for Commodity Production Tour

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – March 9th, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://arbwf.org/>

- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Lease Fallow Tool: <http://water.state.co.us/DataMaps/ModelingCDSS/Pages/LeaseFallowTool.aspx>