

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

Meeting Notes

March 9, 2015 – CSU, Pueblo; Occhiato Center

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty two (32) members were present.

Approval of Minutes of February

A motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment - none

Executive Committee Report – Sandy White

Minor changes to the agenda were made. Sandy asked members to think about future programs that they would like to see.

You probably have received an email from Dr. David Martin requesting you to take a short survey. Please do fill it out. We'll get a report on the results.

IBCC Report – Jay Winner

The IBCC met in February. Each basin explained what they're doing regarding their Basin Implementation Plans. Seems like we're still way out front. The IBCC/CWCB will be working on revising Criteria and Guidelines. They'll form a committee with two to three folks from each RT.

The IBCC also talked about funding possibilities, such as a container fee or a tap fee per 1,000 gallons or a Lottery scratch ticket specifically for water projects.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel, Brent Newman

Alan began by honoring Diane Hoppe, who passed away within the last month. Diane was a water leader in Colorado and a valued member and past Chair of the CWCB Board. She will be greatly missed.

The next CWCB board meeting is next Wednesday and Thursday in La Junta at Otero Junior College. Wednesday morning will be devoted to review and approval of Severance Tax Operational Grants, including five from the Arkansas Basin. In the afternoon WSRA grant applications will be reviewed, including six grant requests from our basin, all of which have full recommendation by CWCB staff. If all grants are approved, the state fund will have \$100,000 remaining, the lowest fund balance since the program began in 2006/2007. The Basin fund balance will stand at \$60,000.

Brent reviewed the SWSI update schedule. BIPS will be incorporated into this version of SWSI.

Needs Assessment Committee – Jay Winner

He expects to have grants moving forward in July. Going forward, folks need to look at all funding sources to get projects funded.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (presentation on website)

Project Activity

- ❖ Town of Aguilar meeting with DOLA
- ❖ Two Buttes Reservoir
 - Conversation with Division 2 dam safety personnel
 - Meeting with Colorado Parks and Wildlife personnel
- ❖ North La Junta Flood Mitigation
 - Permitting with Otero County

Outreach

- ❖ Lake County Commissioners meeting
- ❖ Granite (Homestake) Diversion
- ❖ Fremont County recreation discussion
- ❖ PPRWA showing of The Great Divide movie

Non-Consumptive Needs Sub-Committee – SeEtta Moss

The committee met on February 26th.

Arkansas River Watershed Coalition (ARWC) – Mark Shea and Carol Ekarius

Deb Phenicie has resigned. Mark and Carol will work together to find a replacement as soon as possible. They will accept applications through March 18th.

A meeting has been scheduled for March 29th, to report on information gathered at the regional meetings and work on next steps towards a Strategic Plan. COCO will apply for a grant from the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities – it is a 5-year grant that will develop capacity. ARWC would like a letter for support for this application.

Roundtable members agreed by consensus to provide a letter of support for this grant application.

PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker & Jean Van Pelt

Al introduced Blake Osborn. The PEPO committee is working on several forums, events and programs. Jean Van Pelt and Chelsey Nutter will share the PEPO Coordinator position.

Colorado River Study – Brett Gracely

Four west slope roundtables (Colorado, Gunnison, Southwest and Yampa/White) have applied for a grant titled: Colorado River Development and Curtailment Risk Study. The study will address two major questions (from the CWCB Water Activity Summary Sheet):

1. What is the likelihood that Lake Powell will drop below elevation 3525' under a range of selected water supply and water demand scenarios?
2. Evaluate how often and by how much water users of Colorado River water in Colorado would have to reduce demands/cut consumptive uses to maintain Lake Powell elevation levels above 3525'. Provide an indication and evaluation of the 'risk' to existing uses at different levels of future demand levels.

A technical advisory group is being formed, and will include front range roundtable members. Members discussed and agreed that we should participate. Brett Gracely, Terry Book and Jim Broderick will serve on the TAC.

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – April 13th, 12:30 pm, CSU-Pueblo
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwc.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>