

Arkansas Basin Roundtable
August 10, 2016 – Pueblo Community College
Meeting Notes

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Introductions – Roundtable members and guests introduced themselves. 28 members were present.

Approval of Minutes of July 2016

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

Public Comment - none

REPORTS

Executive Committee – Sandy White

PRWCD's WSRA Ditch Infrastructure Repair Project cannot move forward with PRWCD as fiscal agent due to Tabor issues. The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District is willing to be the fiscal agent, and the Executive Committee (EC) has approved a motion to this effect. The change includes an increase to the budget of \$2,000 to cover administrative costs that will be incurred.

A motion to change the fiscal agent and amend the budget as described above was duly made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Jay and Jeris will both be stepping down from their positions as IBCC reps. The alternate is Jim Broderick. The next meeting will be held August 17th, and Jim will be able to attend. IBCC reps must be voting members of the roundtable. The EC recommends that we maintain the status quo until roundtable elections are held in October.

A motion to wait until October elections to choose new IBCC Representatives was made by Tom Verquer, seconded by Al Tucker, and passed unanimously.

October Elections: All the officers and IBCC reps come up for election this time. Some folks have already come forward for positions, as follows:

Chair – Sandy is willing to continue

Vice-Chair – consumptive – Terry Book will not continue

Vice-Chair – non-consumptive – SeEtta Moss is willing to continue

Recorder – Terry Scanga will not continue

2 IBCC rep positions – Terry Scanga and Brett Gracely will stand.

All of these positions are open to any voting member of the roundtable. If you wish to run for any of these positions, email Sandy to let him know. IBCC positions are normally staggered. Jeris' spot will be a half-term of one year; Jay's spot is a two-year term. The IBCC Alternate position is a two-year term.

IBCC – Jay Winner and Jeris Danielson

There was a meeting of the Criteria and Guidelines committee on August 17th. The RFP issue has been controversial.

Jay thanked Jeris for his service to the roundtable – he has been an IBCC Rep for twelve years.

CWCB – Craig Godbout

Craig described the work of the Criteria and Guidelines Committee. Both CWCB and IBCC have been working on revisions, and it is still a work in progress. Please get your feedback to your IBCC Reps. The next step is for revisions to go back to the IBCC again, then staff will update recommended changes, submit them to the CWCB Board, and make a final revision if necessary.

The Criteria and Guidelines have been re-organized, simplified and stream-lined. Policy statements will be in a different document. The grant application has been revised as well. Changes include:

- 25% match required for basin funds, up from 5%. Must come from applicant or 3rd party. Letter of commitment from 3rd party.
- Waiver to the 25% can be provided. If a project has significant basin and statewide benefit and if the applicant will suffer significant hardship without grant funding. Roundtable Chair must provide letter and justification for the waiver.
- Right now there is a 25% match for any statewide app. Minimum of 5% from basin, 5% minimum from applicant, 15% can come from either. 50% match has been recommended. Minimums will be doubled. A waiver can be submitted here as well, but only to the additional 25%.

There has been discussion regarding the potential unfair application of the new policies, due to difference in need, size and financial capacity of grant applicants.

- Eliminate the supplemental scoring matrix.
- Eliminate Tier 1 – 3 evaluation criteria, replace with the statewide criteria and added criteria from the Colorado Water Plan.
- Applicants must demonstrate how the project fits into the BIP and the Colorado Water Plan.
- Conflict of Interest Policy.

After board approval, a memo will be sent to Board Chairpersons. A Conflict of Interest statement may need to be added to RT bylaws.

- RFP process. General consensus so far is that CWCB board and staff do not want to require that.
- Individual Roundtables may allow stricter guidelines at their own discretion, but may not allow for less strict guidelines.
- Roundtable must institute a selection process for roundtable-initiated efforts. These can be funded by WSRA fund similarly to the BIP plan development. 2 to 1 basin to statewide funds.
- Currently, applicants must submit 6-month progress reports, but CWCB has not been receiving reports from many applicants. CWCB will begin to withhold funds if reports are not submitted.
- Final Deliverable. 10% Retainage rate. Some talk of increasing to 15%. Craig doesn't think it's necessary. If applicant fails to deliver, may lose ability to receive further funding.
- As part of final deliverable, a BVSA. A rationale for the movement of funds. Must provide staff assurance that the hole will be filled by some other source so there will be a completed project.
- Education and Outreach – must be included as a major component of implementation of BIP and State Plan.
- RT initiated funds requests = any BIP request can go in front of the CWCB at any board meeting.
- A cap on administrative costs for grants – 15%. For billing and admin and correspondence with staff.

- If the board approves, effective Jan 1, 2017.

Alan Hamel

Brent Newman has moved back to New Orleans. We'll miss him, and thank him for all of his good work. It is good to have Craig Godbout and Mara MacKillop here today. We have seven grants that will be on the September CWCB agenda. The September meeting will be September 20-22, in Edwards, CO. Grants will be reviewed on the 21st or 22nd.

Mara MacKillop has taken over education and outreach efforts. A CWCB newsletter has been created that will go out a couple of weeks after each CWCB meeting. A great article from the Arkansas Basin PEPO Committee was included in the first newsletter. Email Mara to be added to the email list, or go to the homepage of the Colorado Water Plan website and sign up for email updates. No other emails will come.

Alan thanked Terry Book for his Roundtable membership and friendship. Terry is retiring from the Pueblo Board of Water Works.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

Gary gave a presentation on the Project Database. Method to compile Master Needs List: Need, Solution, Plan of Action Approach

The Master Needs List was sorted by county. Now the database has been sorted and filtered. There are two new columns, and new columns for remarks and "assigned priority #".

- Category 1: active projects
- Category 2: needs clarification
- Category 3: ARWC and Nonconsumptive committee will coordinate (USFS, CO Parks & Wildlife)
- Category 4: ARWC and Nonconsumptive committee will coordinate (USFS, CO Parks & Wildlife)
- Category 5: Completed projects
- Category 0: We won't see these unless re-filtered: Completed and obsolete projects, as well as value statements

Gary is adding 2016 projects. Please look at the lists and give updates and input to Gary.

Gary also updated members on the current list of projects that are being assisted forward.

PEPO – Al Tucker, Chelsey Nutter

Chelsey demonstrated the new PEPO Workgroup web page: www.pepoarkbasin.com. There is also a link to the website on the front page of the arkansasbasin.com website.

- Water Festival this Saturday from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm in Salida
- Legislative Tour 2nd week of September

ARWC – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

Mark and Carol described recent activities of ARWC, including the following information:

- A Water Quality Workgroup in the Lower Arkansas Valley will have a workshop in February with the EPA, State of Colorado, and LAVWCD. They will hear from Ag producers about water quality issues.
- There will be a nutrient presentation at the September roundtable meeting.
- In October, they will report out on work with small water providers and WFDSS.
- A grant was submitted for mitigation work in the Upper Ark.
- Hayden Pass Fire: 16,000 acres between Coaldale and Cotopaxi. About 75% of the fire burned at high intensity, which is expected to result in significant sediment and debris flows.

- On Cottonwood Creek, there's a dam now full of sediment located next to a bridge. If this floods, the bridge could cork the river and damage Hwy 50. The water commissioner is working on this problem with ditch operators.
- There's not a lot that can be done to mitigate potential floods. As of this week, Bill Banks from USGS is tying in with forest service and county folks, intending to put some early warning gauges up high, in order to give timely warnings to residents.
- There are some homes that are likely not to survive flooding, should it occur.
- If there is a higher incident than a 10-year flood, it is likely to affect the Arkansas River.

The Strategic Plan was presented to roundtable members for final review and approval. After Alan Hamel had shared it with the CWCB, James Eklund asked that Colorado Water Plan goals be referenced, so that has been added. Next steps include governance and an operating plan.

Drew Peternell – Recommended a minor change to page 7, the 5th bullet, regarding providing support to other groups.

A motion to approve the ARWC Strategic Plan with the above-mentioned minor change was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS (available at www.arkansasbasin.com)

USGS – National Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Project Office – John Fulton and Jeff Sloan

Presenters brought and assembled two drones, described drone basics, applied projects, and possible applications, including:

- Snow Depth monitoring – timing and volume of runoff
- Possible project – Snow processes in the Arkansas Headwaters
 - Estimate water volume by co-collecting snow depth measurements and computing SWE
 - UAS equipped with laser altimeter, pulsed radar, data logger
 - Linked to RTK GPS ground station
 - Leverage existing USGS reference watershed
- Possible project – Hayden Pass Burn Scar and Flood Alert Network

Cucharas Pre-Fire Watershed Assessment, Sediment Basin Location and Design – Brad Piehl and Steve Smith

The Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed Assessment was presented; a prioritization of watershed-based risks to water supplies.

- Watershed Assessment Components
 - Wildfire Hazard
 - Flooding/Debris Flow Hazard
 - Soil Erodibility
 - Water Supply
- Rank all the watersheds by these components and come up with a combined ranking
- High hazard and final priority – identifies water supply/infrastructure and risk for fire.
- Small Watershed Targeting
 - To identify small watershed high risk areas and set priorities
 - Sediment deposition analysis
- Identification of Watershed Protection Projects
 - Forest management
 - Sediment basins post-fire

- Road crossing culverts that are under-sized
- Sediment Basins – Identification and Analysis for post-fire basins
 - 31 sediment basin locations were identified
 - Site Assessments
 - Storage potential and sediment yield estimates
 - Design plans
 - Drawings, specs, cost
- Culvert Capacity Analysis vs. post-fire flows
 - 12 culverts analyzed, 5 passed Q50-yr pre-fire, 0 passed Q2-yr post-fire

Discussion:

- Post-fire permitting, which has improved.
- Funding of post-fire mitigation efforts.
- Need for maintenance plans.
- SB212 – stormwater detention and post-fire check dams. If they meet criteria including that they're only in place post-fire, there is a finding of no injury to downstream water rights.
- The state doesn't require approval for non-jurisdictional dams (less than 10 feet).

Liaison List – Al Tucker

Al presented a draft Liaison Policy. Exec Committee members were in consensus that the subject would be best addressed with a Policy rather than an amendment of the Bylaws. Liaisons are brought in for their expertise, and also to represent state and federal agencies that we work with.

A revised Liaison Policy will be presented for approval at the next roundtable meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – September 14th, PCC
- Next CWCB Meeting: September 20 - 22
- Adjourned at 3:27 pm