

# ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

## MEETING NOTES

September 14, 2016

Pueblo Community College, Student Center, Fortino Ballroom A  
900 W. Orman Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

### **Members/Guests Present**

Members and guests introduced themselves. 31 members were present.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

*A motion to approve the minutes of August 2016 was made by Mannie Colon, seconded by Al Tucker and approved unanimously.*

### **Public Comment - none**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Sandy White**

The Executive Committee recommends to roundtable members that we create a new voting member position – the Chair of the Watershed Health Committee. That person also chairs the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, and the position is currently held by Mark Shea.

*A motion to make the Chair of the Watershed Health Committee a voting member of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable was made by SeEtta Moss, seconded by Al Tucker and passed.*

The October meeting is our annual meeting. We'll get annual reports from BIP and ARWC, and elections will be held. Every position but one is open, including: Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, Recorder, and one IBCC slot. If you are interested in being on the ballot, let Sandy know.

#### **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson**

The IBCC met on August 17<sup>th</sup> in Denver. They had an update by Becky Mitchell on the implementation of the Colorado Water Plan, and reviewed the monetary status of CWCB. CWCB proposes moving some existing funds into the project area, including a possibility of \$10million into the WSRA. They discussed proposed new Criteria and Guidelines. These can be found online. The IBCC approved the proposed guidelines. Eric Kuhn reported on the Risk Study regarding the Colorado River. It looks like a compact curtailment is highly unlikely. The next IBCC meeting is scheduled for November 29th.

#### **CWCB Report – Becky Mitchell**

The next IBCC meeting will focus on ATMs, and will be joint meeting with Colorado Ag Water Alliance. All are welcome to attend.

As Jeris mentioned, at our last meeting we focused on the implementation of the Colorado Water Plan, and assigning work going forward. There is a plan to add funds to WSRA, but not until next year (after July 1, 2017).

There had been a slow-down on SWSI work, but we are now fully kicking that off and moving forward. We'll be having SWSI updates at all roundtable meetings. With the Colorado Water Plan, we've created a new way forward. SWSI will be the technical side, BIPs will be updated, and the Water Plan will be updated. Each will have a two-year cycle, so a six-year cycle in total

Brent Newman is missed! His position is being posted, and we hope to fill it in the next month or so. Keep an eye on the state website.

### **Nonconsumptive Committee Report – SeEtta Moss**

The committee met and went over the non-consumptive projects list. They updated the list; working with Gary Barber and Mark Shea. They will meet once more and complete that work by the October meeting.

### **PEPO/ARBWF – Al Tucker, Jean Van Pelt, Chelsey Nutter**

The Water Festival in Salida was a great success, with around 200 attendees. The Upper District will take on leadership of the Salida Water Festival in future years. Next year the Festival will be in El Paso County. The intent is to get festivals started and self-sustaining.

The SOW for the Ark RT Education Action Plan has also been completed and will be sent to the PEPO Coordinator this week. That is for the \$6,500 in annual PEPO funding that we have received in the past.

The planning process has begun for the 2017 Water Forum. All are welcome to assist with planning. The first planning meeting will be held September 22, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, in Colorado Springs. Feel free to send representatives from your organizations to help with planning.

### **Liaison Policy – Al Tucker**

Al has created a draft policy for selecting liaisons to the roundtable. Liaisons will be added by majority approval.

*A motion to approve the draft Liaison Policy was made by Pete Dawson, seconded by Mannie Colon, and passed unanimously.*

### **Needs Assessment Committee – Jay Winner**

Jay passed around photos of a successful project, the Evans Reservoir Bypass Flume Replacement, by Parkville Water District.

### **Grant App: 2017 PEPO Funding**

We asked PEPO to delay asking for 2017 funding that had already been approved (3-year grant). This funding request is now being brought forward for roundtable approval.

Jean Van Pelt described the Scope of Work, which is very similar to the 2016 SOW. It is a \$50,000 grant: \$37,500 Statewide and \$12,500 Basin funds.

*This application moved forward by consensus.*

This will be Jay's last meeting as Chair of the Needs Assessment Committee, a position he held for eleven years. Sandy thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Arkansas Basin.

### **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Mark Shea**

ARWC is now developing a 2017 Annual Operating Plan. The collaborative would like to identify three to five projects for 2017 that will be supported by ARWC. They've also been involved in water quality discussions, including today's presentation, and the Water Quality Forum that will be held in La Junta on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber**

Gary showed a video: Bud O'Hara: The Most Interesting Man in the Basin

Regarding the BIP Database:

If you go to the website: arkansasbasin.com, then go to the Arkansas BIP tab, the original database is dated April 2015. The DATABASE Working Folder contains the most current version of the database. You can filter or sort the database. Two columns have been added; a remarks column and a category column, to show measurable outcomes. Projects that have been completed and obsolete categories have been hidden. You will see active, planned and in-progress.

The “all input” list has been re-categorized since last month’s meeting, and has been cut back to four categories:

- Category 1 – Active projects. An active project includes a proponent engaged in spending time and/or money to move the project toward implementation. With regard to Status, Active projects could include both Planned and Implementation On-going.
- Category 2 – Projects with some form of priority designation. Projects identified as a priority for a committee of the Roundtable. For example, projects identified by the Nonconsumptive Needs Committee for inclusion in the Watershed Plan.
- Category 3 – Master Needs List projects. Projects included in the annual update of the database (see below for detail) that don’t meet the criteria for Categories 1 or 2.
- Category 4 – Monitored projects, no Roundtable action anticipated. Projects or initiatives which may impact the Roundtable, but over which the Roundtable has no influence on outcomes, are included here. Examples: In-stream flow filings and, perhaps, the BLM review of Wild and Scenic River status for the Arkansas.

Next steps:

- Complete the review of the existing database by October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Add new projects as ID #s 2016-00xx
- Ask the Executive Committee for approval
- Ratify or modify and approve the Database at the Annual Meeting

Gary needs input before the next meeting. We will take action at the next roundtable meeting to approve the 2017 database.

## **PROGRAM**

### **Joint West Slope Basin Roundtable Risk Study – Brett Gracely**

Brett reported on the activities of the technical committee created to monitor and give input on the Joint West Slope Basin Roundtable Risk Study, an effort studying the risk of a call on the Colorado River.

Three representatives were designated from each of the front range roundtables. Terry Book, Jim Broderick and Brett are the representative from the Arkansas Basin. They’ve participated in teleconferences and one meeting. Most recently, they heard the same presentation that the IBCC saw at their last meeting.

The modeling tool that is being used is very complicated. It is the model used by BOR to model the Colorado River, which takes a very high-level view and does not monitor tributaries. It focuses mostly on Lakes Powell and Meade. It is fairly sensitive with regards to demands, and they’ve done a stress test run. It is useful because it represents a worst-case drought response scenario. They are now running more realistic scenarios to see a likelier outcome. A call is unlikely.

Brett recommends that a smaller set of interested roundtable folks gather for the wrap-up presentation, rather than a joint roundtable meeting with all three east-slope roundtables. We could invite them here.

### **Regulation #85, Nutrients Management Control – Andrew Neuhart, Monitoring Framework**

Reg. 85 was a compromise over a ten-year battle over what nutrient standards should be all over the state. Right now it’s limited to municipal and industrial, but is meant to spread to a larger audience, including Ag, eventually.

Task forces have been created to inform water users and solicit input. The Colorado Monitoring Framework collects water quality data which will be used to support future rule-making, and prove or disprove nutrient standards.

Meetings will be held in 2018 and 2021, and it’s important to be involved as a decision comes closer as to whether Ag will be regulated for discharge of nutrients.

Members asked questions and discussed Reg. 85. Nutrient regulations on Ag might include incentive programs and Best Management Practices, as well as other measures. What they’re looking at right now is having the top 40 dischargers

implement improvements, and see what the impact on stream health is after that. In the meantime, voluntary measures to manage nutrients will be seen positively.

Andrew can email information regarding the Ag Task Force, so that roundtable members can get involved.

Website for the Colorado Monitoring Framework website: <http://coloradoframework.org/>.

### **SUMMARY/NEXT STEPS**

Sandy recognized Terry Book for his service to the roundtable. Terry is retiring and moving out of state.

- Next Meeting: October 12, Pueblo Community College
- Meeting adjourned 2:32 pm.

### **Links:**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://arbwf.org/>
- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative: [www.arkcollaborative.org](http://www.arkcollaborative.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>
- Colorado Monitoring Framework: <http://coloradoframework.org/>

### **Acronyms:**

ARBWF	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
ARKDSS	Arkansas Decision Support System
ARWC	Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
ATM	Alternative Transfer Method
BIP	Basin Implementation Plan
CWCB	Colorado Water Conservation Board
CWP	Colorado Water Plan
IBCC	Interbasin Compact Committee
PEPO	Public Education/Public Outreach
SWSI	Statewide Water Supply Initiative
WSRA	Water Supply Reserve Account