



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

October 12, 2016

Members/Guests Present

Members and guests introduced themselves. 33 members were present.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy White

- Sandy attended a Roundtable Chair conference call during the last month.
- The roundtable needs to take action to replace Terry Book on the technical committee for the Colorado Risk Study. The Executive Committee recommends appointing Seth Clayton, Terry's replacement on the Roundtable.

The roundtable agreed by consensus to appoint Seth Clayton to the technical committee for the Colorado Risk Study.

- At our next meeting we will have a bylaws item to consider. There are new CWCB Criteria and Guidelines, including a Conflict of Interest Policy and inclusion in the Bylaws. The proposed amendment will come to you by email and will be voted on at the next roundtable meeting.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson

The IBCC met in September, and won't meet again until November.

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel and Greg Johnson

Alan welcomed Greg Johnson from CWCB staff. There are copies of the new Criteria and Guidelines available. The Confluence Newsletter email is out. If you're not getting notices from the state, let us know and we'll make sure you're added to the list.

The September CWCB meeting was in Edwards. Alan thanked those that attended. Our seven grants were all approved. We had a fiscal agent change from Purgatoire to Huerfano that was also successful. CWCB had a finance workshop as well. Board members worked on recommendations to the annual Projects Bill. Looking forward to the next fiscal year, we're moving forward with the recommendations that have been presented to you before, as follows:

FUNDING PLAN PROPOSALS (5-year plan). This funding plan uses funds from CWCB revolving funds. It will not affect the existing loan program or operational funds.

- Investment - Repayment Guarantee Fund (one-time infusion) Working with Colorado development and power. To guarantee projects with multiple partners with varying credit rates. It homogenizes the risk of multi-partner projects.

- \$10M -Water Supply Reserve Fund (\$10M/year x 3-5 years)
- \$5M - Watershed Restoration Program (\$5M/year x 3-5 years)
- \$10M - Non-reimbursable Program Funding (\$10M/year x 5 years)
 - Will include education and outreach
 - Species protection program

LAVWCD has been working with other entities and GOCO on conservation easements to increase flexibility in how easements are tied to the land. The goal is to allow interruptible or temporary movements of water off lands under conservation easements in order to increase the stability of this type of supply. Flexibility under a GOCO financed conservation easement. Proposed projects would have to meet Colorado water law just like any water rights case.

Hayden Pass and Beulah Hill fires: LAVWCD is considering special funding to go to ARWC for coordination and restoration efforts; a total of \$150,000. We (Alan, with ARWC) are requesting \$250,000 in CWCB funds to assist with these projects. ARWC will work with CWCB staff to secure this funding. Alan considers this a great opportunity to have ARWC jump into another meaningful project. The fires are really different – Hayden Pass fire was predominantly on public land, while the Beulah Hill fire was almost all on private land.

Overview of Criteria and Guidelines – Greg Johnson:

- **Effective Date:** September 22, 2016
- **Basin Account Match:** Basin Account (only) grant requests now require a 25% applicant or 3rd party match (a waiver option has been provided);
- **Statewide Account Match:** Statewide Account grant requests now require a 50% match (a waiver option has been provided);
- **Waivers to basin & Statewide Account Matches:** A waiver option is available to applicants for the required 25% Basin Account Match, and one-half of the 50% Statewide Account Match based upon the applicants demonstrating that meeting the matching requirements imposes a significant financial hardship on the applicant.
- **3rd Party Match:** Any matching contribution not provided directly by the applicant, such as a 3rd party, must be accompanied by a Letter of Commitment, or a Pending Letter of Commitment;
- **Roundtable Conflict of Interest Policy:** A conflict of interest policy must be incorporated into Roundtable By-Laws (a memo from CWCB with guidance information will be distributed in the near future);
- **Evaluation Criteria Changes:** The Evaluation Criteria; Tier 1-3 and the Supplemental Scoring Matrix for Statewide Account requests have been replaced with the criteria established for state support of a project as documented in Colorado's Water Plan;
- **Competitive Selection Process:** Roundtables are directed to establish a competitive selection process for grant contracts of \$100,000 or greater for Roundtable-initiated grant requests;
- **Progress Reports:** Staff are provided the authority to withhold reimbursement payments if 6-month Progress Reports are not submitted to the satisfaction of staff;
- **Final Deliverables:** Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Deliverable and submit it to the CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB;
- **Administrative Expenses:** Reimbursement of the applicant's or grantee's administrative expenses directly related to the grant shall be limited to a maximum of 15% of the total grant request approved by CWCB;
- **Roundtable Criteria & Guidelines:** Roundtables, with staff review and approval, may establish specific Roundtable WSRF Criteria & Guidelines that are more restrictive than CWCB's 2016 WSRF Criteria & Guidelines.

Other CWCB/IBCC items:

- The next IBCC meeting next is a joint Ag/Water Summit with CAWA, and will be held November 29th. All are welcome. This meeting will take the place of the Statewide Roundtable Summit meeting that has been held the last several years. The meeting will be held at the JeffCo Fairgrounds, and will be focused on Ag and ATMS.
- Colorado Water Plan implementation process is moving forward. We’re busy with how we communicate about that; working on a new newsletter and website technology. Be prepared to see more of that.
- You have already, or will receive another survey from a graduate student at CU. She is doing her PhD on Collaboration around water issues. This survey has been vetted by CU and CWCB. It’s very different and not connected to the previous survey. She wants to glean lessons learned from this process. CWCB encourages RT members to respond.
- SWSI is getting kicked off, and CWCB staff will be updating you regularly as to progress.
- Funding has been set aside for Stream Management Planning process. This is a new program.
- In January, three members of the CWCB board will be leaving the board – Alan, Travis Smith and April Montgomery. Anyone that is interested in the position should inquire. Mark Pipher has expressed his interest. The application is available on the governor’s website.

PEPO Report- Al Tucker, Jean Van Pelt

- Water Education Festival will be held in El Paso County next year
 - Partners include CS Utilities, City of Colorado Springs, Catamount Institute, PP Library District and PP Community College
- 2017 Education Action Plan has been submitted
- Attended the Statewide PEPO Workshop in Avon this week
- WSRA grant application has been submitted for 2017, with a similar scope of work as 2016.

Non-Consumptive Use Committee – SeEtta Moss

A meeting of the non-consumptive use committee will be held October 14th, from 9 – 12, at the Canon City BLM office. The purpose of the meeting is to finish working through the BIP list with stakeholders.

Needs Assessment Committee - Sandy

There are no new grant applications, except a request by western slope roundtables to all east slope roundtables to help fund the next phase of the Colorado River Risk Study at the level of \$10,000 each.

Brett Gracely – The nine reps have been meeting regularly, and there has been a lot of discussion on whether we should continue to participate. Brett’s recommendation is to make any support of continuation contingent on receiving a written deliverable from the first phase, as well as having input as to the Phase 2 Scope of work. The Scope of Work did specify a report of some kind as the deliverable. Brett believes there is merit to a phase two study. Members discussed the issue.

A motion was made by Jim Broderick to condition Arkansas Basin roundtable financial support on receiving a copy of the Phase 1 final report and on having input as to the Phase 2 Scope of Work. The motion was seconded by John Verquer and passed.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

This is the annual election meeting. Roundtable members have received a potential slate of nominated candidates. Sandy opened nominations by asking for any nominations from the floor. None came forward.

Officers (one year term)	Candidates
Chair	Sandy White
Vice-Chair (non-cu)	SeEtta Moss
Vice-Chair (cu)	Mark Shea

Recorder Al Tucker
IBCC Representatives (two year terms)
IBCC Rep "One" Terry Scanga
IBCC Alternate Brett Gracely

A motion to close nominations and elect the proposed slate by acclamation was made by Pete Dawson, seconded, and passed unanimously.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (see website for presentation)

Sandy announced the Executive Committee decision to have Gary continue as BIP Coordinator in Year 2.

The Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and other documents are available on our website:

www.arkansasbasin.com. Gary showed the location of the most updated database on the website. Click on the "all-input" list.

Priority #s have been changed to Category #s

- 1: Active projects. Active projects could include both Planned and Implementation On-going
- 2: Projects with some form of priority designation.
- 3: Master Needs List projects
- 4: Monitored projects, no Roundtable action anticipated

Next:

Complete nonconsumptive committee review and priority setting

Review removed list for items that should be in the database

Bring new projects forward

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Mark Shea

- Focused on putting together a work plan for 2017
- Participating in the non-consumptive meeting this week
- Active pursuit of other funding for projects and the collaborative
- ARWC will be active on post-fire conditions at the Beulah Hill fire and the Hayden Pass Fire.
- Wrapping up projects that were part of the initial grant. One of those was the inclusion of water system infrastructure in the WFDSS.

PROGRAM

WFDSS Project Update – Kim Gortz (see website for presentation)

- Overview of CWCB, WSRA and ABRT Grant – to assist in development of collaborative and projects.
- Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS) Project
 - A GIS based tool used during fire suppression planning

TASK 2: Data Review, Mapping and Data Sharing

- Identify data gaps
- Maps for strategic plan
- Process for integrating into decision support systems (DSS)
- GPS and add one small water provider data to DSS

Water data has been incomplete.

For instance, at the Royal Gorge fire, they didn't know about an intake

Local firefighters often do not have GIS information or all the input they need.

We have critical water infrastructure intermingled with federal lands and high-risk areas.

Project Progression

- Convene WFDSS Managers and Stakeholders
- Explore data
- Develop a template with the City of Victor
- Gather feedback from stakeholders

Critical Tier Rating – based on % of supply, % reliance, outage risk

- Tier 1: Represent “catastrophic impacts” to a community and no alternatives for sources are available.
- Tier 2: Represent “significant hardship” to a community to find alternative sources but the challenges are not insurmountable.
- Tier 3: Represent “harm and challenges” would occur for the community but through redundancy, water restrictions and/or operational changes there are alternative sources.

Project Progression

- Worked through Victor’s system with operations and city staff
- Found data gaps and went into the field to find what was missing

Integration of Data into WFDSS

- Scott Bovey, USFS San Isabel National Forest
- This is unique – the first time we have worked directly with a collaborator and adopted their data into WFDSS
- WFDSS has moved from a tabular to a geo-spatial format, which helps planning efforts
- Now used for pre-planning, not just for fire response
- We’re incorporating degree of risk
- Gives us a better idea of what suppression action or management action we should take
- It’s groundbreaking and helps immensely
- USFS and Department of Interior do work together, but the datasets don’t always overlay exactly. USFS geospatial information is visible to BLM and other federal agencies.

Next Steps

- There are seven additional water providers in the Arkansas Basin that touch or are in close proximity to Forest Service or BLM land, and two additional that are outside the basin but touch the Pike San Isabel NF.
- Funding - have spoken to CDPHE as a possible avenue forward. ARWC too. Small grants for water providers to proceed.

Members asked questions and discussed the presentation.

Lake County Wildfire Mitigation Program 2016 – Caroline Schaefer

Home Assessment Locations

- Twin Lakes Reservoir & Dam
- Mt Elbert Forebay Dam & Reservoir
- Turquoise Lake Reservoir and Sugar Loaf Dam

Home Wildfire Risk Assessment Process

- Outreach to HOA, community group/leader
- Assess homes as per CSFS Wildfire Risk Rating Key
- Outreach to homeowners
- One-on-one consultation with homeowners as per CSFS Wildfire Risk Assessment Sheet
- Create Wildfire Risk Rating Map for homeowners and emergency services
- Continued work with homeowners (Reassessment, updating map, and advice)

Wildfire Risk Rating Key

- House
- 100 feet out from house

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Sheet

Outreach and Education

- Events with LLCFR, OEM and CSFS
- Press Release
- Outreach Letters
- Home Risk Rating Map

Community Chipping Event

- Fuels mitigation project
- High level of participation
- Lake County has provided assistance, as well as Colorado State Forest Service

Moving Forward

- On the ground fuels reduction projects
- Increasing outreach within subdivisions identified in Lake County CWPP
- Increasing community wildfire awareness, preparedness and responsibility

Mark Shea – this project has proven to be a sustainable model for promoting and accomplishing wildfire pre-mitigation efforts.

Other Business

- Next meeting – November 9th, 12:30 pm, Pueblo Community College
- Adjourned at 3:05 pm

Links:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- Arkansas Watershed Collaborative: www.arkcollaborative.org
- PEPO Committee: <http://www.pepoarkbasin.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>