



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES May 10, 2017, Pueblo Community College

Welcome and Introductions

Members and visitors introduced themselves. 35 members were present.

Meeting Notes approved

Public Comment - none

Executive Committee – Sandy White

A Joint East Slope roundtable meeting will be held June 20th in the Denver area. A draft agenda has been distributed, for review and input.

IBCC Report – none

CWCB Report – Alan Hamel, Ben Wade

Alan - The Projects Bill passed late yesterday. The next CWCB meeting will be held May 17-18 in Pagosa Springs. The agenda has been posted.

Ben -

- The Colorado Risk Study technical advisory committee met by webinar on May 2nd. If you want to be included on outreach calls, email Megan Holcomb. Or there is a link to a google form.
- SWSI technical teams have mostly completed their workshops re methodology. SWSI is still on schedule to be completed by November.
- Projects Bill monies will be available as of July 1st. Applications will be heard by the CWCB board in September and approved in November. Next week's CWCB meeting will discuss funding guidelines.
- Fire Recovery grant applications are in the process of getting Purchase Orders released. Two of the three should be released by Friday.

Non-consumptive Committee Report – none

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt/Chelsey Nutter

- In June, Chris Sturm from CWCB will present on the Watershed Restoration Program
- Jean made a presentation at the Pueblo Water Festival yesterday (just under 2,000 5th graders attended)
- Next Tuesday she will present at the new Pikes Peak Water Festival (500 expected)
- Water Forum – 175 folks at VIP Dinner, 190 Forum attendees, raised \$1700 for scholarship, held 4 tours with over 50 attendees.
- Jean thanked everyone who contributed, including sponsors, presenters, and attendees.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

- You have been invited to a Wildfire Decision Support System meeting. The meeting, hosted by ARWC, will be held at the Steam Plant in Salida on May 23rd, at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is the continuation and expansion of a project to develop the GIS database for WFDSS

that includes critical drinking water sources. If you have infrastructure NEAR federal lands, you should also participate in this stakeholder meeting.

- Post-fire mitigation efforts are being implemented for the Junkins and Beulah fires.
- Carol attended a meeting that CWCB held in Keystone on Stream Management Plans. This was explored in the Colorado Water Plan, and is still in evolution. There will be three more meetings as the statewide committee decides what they want to see included in the future.

Phase II: Colorado River Risk Study – Brett Gracely, Seth Clayton, Jim Broderick

- It is the consensus of our technical committee attendees that we ask CWCB to monitor the study for us and report to us at our monthly meetings.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- CWCB Construction Bill Grant Opportunities (in addition to basin and statewide WSRF)
 - Floodplain map modernization (\$500,000) – Colorado 100-year floodplain map updates
 - Alternative Ag Transfers (\$1,000,000) – Expands the program.
 - Watershed Health Restoration (\$5,000,000)
 - Colorado Water Plan Implementation (\$10,000,000)
 - 2mil for multi-beneficial projects in BIPs
 - 1mil long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning
 - 3 mil to facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers and dredging existing reservoirs' full decreed storage capacity.
 - 1mil for water education, outreach, and innovation efforts
 - 1mil for ag projects
 - 1mil for watershed health, environment, and recreation
 - 1 mil to complete the SWSI update
- WSRF – was historically \$10,000,000 per year, but has not been fully funded for a few years. Is back up to 10 mil this year.
- Loan Guarantee Fund (\$30,000,000) for water projects with multiple participants
- Criteria and Guidelines are still in development for Colorado Water Plan Implementation grants

Needs Assessment Committee – Jack Goble/Chelsey Nutter/Brett Gracely

- WSRF Account Balances
 - State Account = \$35,379
 - Basin Account = \$9,436
 - Will be replenished July 1st
- Arkansas Basin Projects
 - 68 projects completed using grant funds totaling \$10,097,790
 - 19 active projects under contract using grant funds totaling \$2,402,908
 - 1 in contracting process
 - 75% has come from statewide fund, 25% from basin funds
- If you have projects in mind, contact the Needs Assessment Committee by June 1st.
- A Needs Assessment meeting will be held in June, tentatively June 26th
- Grant applications must be ready to be presented for approval at the July roundtable meeting
- Information as to how to apply is on our website: www.arkansasbasin.com
- At the next CWCB meeting, decisions will be made regarding how to apply for funds from other pots of WSRF monies. Unsure whether RT support will be required.

- Per Ben Wade, a form will be available on the CWCB website describing the criteria and guidelines for other programs.
- Also, there will be a new application for WSRA basin and statewide applications. We'll email that to the membership as soon as it is received.

PROGRAM

Presentation: Upper Arkansas Voluntary Flow Program – Greg Felt & Chris Woodka (see website for presentation)

- **For rafting:** Minimum flow of 700 cfs at Wellsville between July 1 and Aug. 15 each year. Releases of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water in excess of 10,000 acre-feet require review.
- **For fishing:** Optimal flows for fish spawning, incubation and insect hatching. Target flows between 250-400 cfs are suggested, but there are several seasonal variances.
- **Water management:** The parties request the Bureau of Reclamation avoid dramatic fluctuations on the Arkansas River throughout the year. Ramping flows up or down should be limited to 10-15% change. Releases are dependent on storage levels. Does not preclude other releases from other users, mainly municipal.

VFMP: Protection in legal decrees

- **While it's called "voluntary," the program is protected in several ways in court cases:**
 - 04CW129 – The Salida RICD case sets out five-year agreements that spell out terms of the program.
 - Southeastern District standard language. The District now has standard language for ongoing and future court cases that has been employed in previous court cases as well.
 - Reclamation contract conditions include VFMP support.
- No exchanges are allowed against U.S. releases of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project water that is meant to satisfy target flows for the VFMP.
- Any releases made to augment depletions in Pueblo Reservoir will not injure the VFMP.

The presentation described the VFMP, legalities, the history of the agreement, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, and the effects of the agreement over time on the fishery, and rafting industry. RT members talked about the history of and their positive experiences with the program.

"Don't wait until you need friends to make friends." Greg Felt

Funding Series: US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Grant Program – Avra Morgan

WaterSMART Program

- Basin Study Program-Collaborative Planning
- Title XVI Program-Water Reclamation and Reuse
- WaterSMART Grants-Water Conservation and Efficiency
- Water Conservation Field Services Program-Water Conservation Planning and Design
- Drought Response Program-Planning and Building Resiliency
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program-Watershed Management and Restoration

This presentation focuses on three of these that have some similarities:

- WaterSMART Grants
- Drought Response Program
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program

These three have some similarities:

- Eligible applicants

- Cost share
- Time frame for completion
- Funding amounts
- Prioritization criteria – all are competitive

Website Links

- (see this presentation, with helpful links, at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Re: new administration, there is not a hold, but there is an additional review of Bureau of Reclamation projects. Not anticipating that there will be a significant slow-down.

Presentation: Colorado Springs Stormwater Program Development – Richard Mulledy

Now known as Water Resources Engineering Division

Prior to 2016, Stormwater was part of Public Works-Engineering Division

As of 2016, Stormwater was established as a stand alone division within the Public Works Department

Colorado Springs/Pueblo County IGA

- \$460 million, 71 capital projects, 20 year commitment
- \$16.5 million/year minimum encumbrance/spend
- Four-five year minimum encumbrance/spend commitments: \$100 million, \$110 million, \$120 million, \$130 million
- Average of approximately \$23 million/year over 20 year period
- Includes Stormwater Permit Program, O&M, and capital projects
- Effective date – May 2, 2016

Org Chart

- Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects Program
- Water Quality Program
- Development and Erosion Control/Development Review Program
- Stormwater Projects Delivery Program
- Drainage Operations and Maintenance Program

How to choose which projects?

IGA Capital List

- Bi-annual coordination meeting with Wright Water Engineering
- IGA Project #1: Emergency Projects (weekly meetings and adjustments)

Stormwater Infrastructure Master Plan

Drainage Basin Planning Studies, Restoration Master Plans

2016 Capital Projects

- 62 projects completed, under construction, or within the design phase
- Projects range from \$10k - \$5.2 Million
- Regional detention facilities, channel stabilization, underground conveyance, planning studies, etc.

2017 Capital Projects

- \$10-\$12 Million in 2017
- Stormwater Infrastructure Master Plan (SIMP)
- 7 regional and subregional drainage basins within the Cottonwood Basin
- 30-40 Community and Local Projects
- Regional WQ Basin off Colorado Ave.
- Engineering planning studies, drainage basin studies, etc.
- Maintenance Projects

Other matters from the membership – Sandy

At-Large Recreation Rep – we asked for nominations between meetings. Bob Hamel was nominated by Drew Peterzell. No additional nominations were made.

A motion to appoint Bob Hamel as At-Large Recreation Rep was made by Mannie Colon, seconded by Nick Koch, and approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT at 3:09 pm.

Next Meeting: June 14, Pueblo Community College

Joint RT Meeting: June 20th, Denver area