



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Roundtable Meeting Notes

August 9, 2017

Welcome and Introductions

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. 32 voting members were present.

Approval of Minutes of July 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of July 2017 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy

At the Executive Committee, the process of providing letters of support for CWP grant applications when requested was discussed. We will be asking these applications to come in front of the Needs Assessment Committee in order to do so in the future.

ARWC has brought a proposed set of bylaws to the executive committee. You'll all get these emailed to you for your review, and we will ask for approval of the bylaws at our next meeting. The expectation is that the first meeting of the new board will take place in November. The Executive Committee of the RT will be the board.

Elections will be held in October at our annual meeting.

Executive Committee members have voted to ask Alan Hamel to remain a member of the Exec Committee. He is still the legislative appointee. This roundtable is greatly indebted to Alan. He was first chair of the roundtable, and started us down this road of before unheard-of collaboration. It's possible that he has not missed a meeting since 2005. On behalf of the roundtable Sandy presented a trophy to Alan in recognition of his service to the roundtable and to the Arkansas Basin.

Jack Goble thanked Alan for serving on the CWCB Board for two terms, including a term as CWCB Board Chair. He realizes he's following a water legend, and will be leaning on Alan's expertise.

Alan thanked Sandy and Jack. It has been a ride. It's the best roundtable in the state - that can be demonstrated in several ways. There was a vision for what roundtables could accomplish in this state. The outcome has been a water plan for the state, the Basin Implementation Plans, and a path forward for the State of Colorado.

Election of Two At-Large Members - Sandy

Nominators introduced nominees, who each gave a brief self-introduction. Nominees are as follows:

Doug Koehn

Kevin Niles

Matt Heimrich

Tom Goodwin

Phillip Chavez

Roundtable members voted, and Matt Heimrich and Tom Goodwin were elected as At-Large Representatives.

IBCC – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga - none

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack thanked CWCB staff and board for their warm welcome. The July meeting was held in Crested Butte. Two loans were approved for storage projects in the Ark Basin. Both projects are along the Huerfano River.

SWSI is a technical report originally created in 2004 and updated in 2010. CWCB is now creating version three of that right. For this SWSI update, CWCB is asking for more input from roundtables through Technical Advisory Groups (TAG). Representatives from each RT will participate in the TAGs, as follows for our basin:

Planning Scenarios TAG: Jim Broderick

Environmental and Recreational TAG: SeEtta Moss

Municipal and Industrial TAG: Scott Winter and Alan Ward

Agricultural TAG: Terry Scanga and Jack Goble

32 grant requests for CWP grants were submitted by the first deadline, totaling over \$8.8 million. 28 others have said they intend to apply. Six grant requests were from the Arkansas Basin RT. The first round will be heard in September. The second round is due October 1st. Approvals will be announced in November.

The Colorado Risk Study will hold a webinar on August 21st, from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Contact Ben if you want to participate. Ben thanked applicants for using the new application forms. Please reach out to Ben with stories of what we're doing down here. Water Congress is coming up. Staff is still looking for a member from each basin for Stream Mgmt Plan presentations. That session will be held August 22, from 10 – 11 am. Emily Brumin is the one to contact if you are interested.

Nonconsumptive Committee Report – Mark Shea, Bob Hamel

The committee met in Canon City last Monday. Gary Barber was there, along with CPW. The group reviewed non-consumptive projects, and discussed which had moved forward.

American Whitewater brought a Colorado Water Plan app regarding boating days in the Upper Arkansas. They have asked for a letter of support from the roundtable. It was a late request to us, but they submitted their request on time to CWCB. We've asked them to bring this request to the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC).

Another project will be bringing a request for support to the NAC – a boat chute through the Homestake reach of the river, downstream from the Granite Diversion. Homestake Partners did provide a notice of intent and will be submitting an app by October 1st.

Both will go in front of Needs Assessment for review, and possibly will be presented to the RT next month.

PEPO – Jean Van Pelt

The \$50,000 WSRF grant has been closed out. PEPO is now working from a WSRF grant for \$26,000, which will take the group through March 2018; as well as the annual CWCB Education Action Plan Funding of \$6,500. The Ark River Basin Water Forum has also applied for a CWCB CWP Engagement and Innovation Grant in the amount of \$29,400. If approved, funds will be available January 2018. Jean described activities that would be covered by that grant, and handed out a written monthly report of activities.

Jean asked for a letter of support for the Engagement and Innovation Grant application, and roundtable members agreed by consensus.

Needs Assessment – Chelsey Nutter, Brett Gracely

Basin Fund = \$67,667 + \$160,000 to come soon. That will cover the requests that were sent in.

If an applicant for CWP funding would like a letter of support, they will have to come through Needs Assessment first for a recommendation, then in front of the roundtable.

See the website for the schedule.

ARWC – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

Mark thanked Alan Hamel for his work bringing watershed health forward statewide and especially in our basin.

Draft bylaws will be circulated to you and voted on in September. Approving those and gaining non-profit status will make ARWC eligible for new funding sources.

Stream Management Planning – Carol Ekarius will be on the agenda for Watershed Assembly.

There has been some post-fire flooding. DSHEM funding still has not been released. Around Wetmore, CDPHE funding has come forward to cleanup some burned buildings in the flood-way that may have asbestos. ARWC has met with Fremont County commissioners, urging them to get together with Custer and Pueblo Counties and write to the governor’s office to request that DSHEM funds be released. ARWC may ask the RT to write a letter as well, asking for movement from the governor’s office. Federal agencies are focusing on values of homes at risk, but are not considering many other costs that are incurred, such as sediment affecting water treatment, fisheries, fishing industry, silting in of reservoirs, etc. Among other costs, there is an estimated 8% increase of cost to remove sediment from post-fire flows at treatment plant.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (presentations available at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Gary gave an overview of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, how projects progress from conception to completion, the six year cycle of BIP and SWSI updates and progress towards meeting basin goals and objectives. He reminded us of the priorities we set in our BIP, and ended with:

Conclusions

- Align with Colorado Water Plan Objective
 - Multi-benefit, multi-stakeholder projects
 - Watershed Health & Water Quality
 - Funding Sources

Focus Areas

- New Storage & preservation of existing storage
- Conservation & Land Use
- Groundwater depletion areas

Phase II Risk Study – Brett, Jim, Seth

Following the Roundtable’s guidance, we are now relying on Ben’s reporting on this. CWCB staff is expecting a progress report in September.

PROGRAM:

Funding Series: USDA – James Maras

Provide economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural America

Mission Area

- Rural Housing Service

- Rural Business – Cooperative Service
- Rural Utilities Service

(See presentation at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Industry Trends

- Conservation/efficiency reducing consumption
- Climate/weather creates demand swings
- Water Reuse – are you ready?
- Replacement of Infrastructure
- Mergers / Acquisitions
- Technology
- Rural Utility Rates

John Martin Reservoir Presentations: (available at www.arkansasbasin.com)

JMR Operations Overview – Bill Tyner

Early History

- 1939 Construction began in response to flooding in the early 1900s.
- 1948 Construction completed, designed to hold 603,500 af.
- 1949 Arkansas River Compact signed
- Early compact operations through 1979
- No permanent pool included in original capacity

Compact Operations 1949-1979

- Inflows stored Nov-Mar (except Colorado could bypass up to 100 cfs)
- Apr-Oct Kansas could demand 500 cfs release; Colorado could demand 750 cfs release (storage above 20,000 af)
- Release rates dropped to 400 cfs for Kansas and 600 cfs for Colorado from 20,000 af to 0
- When storage was nearly empty Colorado WD 67 Ditches could “call” upstream under their priorities
- What do you suppose was the result of this type of operation?

Recent History

- 1976 Permanent Fishery Recreational Pool Approved for 15,000 acre-feet, 10,000 acre-feet of which is not subject to spill
- 1980 Operating agreement for John Martin Reservoir Adopted; Section III Accounts added for Amity, Fort Lyon and Las Animas Consolidated; Colorado River Basin water added as a source for Permanent Pool
- 1985 lawsuit
- 1998 Offset Account Approved for Colorado Well Augmentation (up to 20,000 acre-feet)
- 2017 Key Event that Brett Ackerman will discuss

John Martin Reservoir Accounts

- Accounts in JMR – 1980 Operating Agreement:
 - Conservation Storage is undistributed Compact storage destined for Section II Accounts
 - Transit Loss Account (setup to facilitate Kansas deliveries)
 - Section II Accounts (Kansas and Individual Colorado District 67 Ditch accounts)
 - Offset Account (establish to facilitate well augmentation by Colorado)
 - Section III Accounts (Accounts added to allow storage of Amity’s Great Plains water right and storage by three Winter Water participants)
 - Permanent Recreation/Fishery Pool

CPW Storage in JMR – Brett Ackerman

CPW would be using existing storage in JM

Currently Approved Sources

- Muddy/Rule Creek decree
- CO River Water

Problem – Can't Cover Evaporation

- ~ 1900 af per year to augment for that

Lake Level 2000 – 2014

Protection of the Fishery

- Permanent pool is not doing its job to protect the fishery
- CPW has significant Lamar Canal water. Have worked with LAWMA.

Highland Canal demonstration project

- Progress made in 2017 is of historic proportions!
- From June 1 – today, over 700 af into permanent pool.

Economic Impact of Angling at John Martin is significant

Colorado Water Users Account in JMR – Mark McLean

Colorado Water Users storage account

Basics:

- 40,000 ac-ft capacity
- 9 Interested parties
- Store fully consumable water
- Municipal, industrial, augmentation, replacement
- More efficient use
- Benefits
 - Better resource management
 - Improved irrigation and improved water quality
 - Less evaporation against other stored water
 - Other Section II use (KS)
 - Storage charge
- Other Aspects
 - Proposed 5% storage charge
 - Pro-rata of total evaporation
 - Spills after Permanent Pool >10,000 ac-ft and before any other account
 - LAVWCD and DWR administration
 - Notice to KS, USACE operation

Phase 2

- Proposed Resolution to ARCA (Arkansas River Compact Association)
- Final written report
- Develop procedures for operations
- Recommendations for 1980 Operating Plan modifications
- Develop procedures for allowing additional participants and sources
- Meetings with CO and KS ARCA reps and ARCA board

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – September 13th, Pueblo Community College
- Next CWCB Meeting: Sept 19-21 in Walden, CO.
- Adjourned at 3:27 pm

LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com

- PEPO: www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>

ACRONYMS:

ACOE – US Army Corp of Engineers

ARCA – Arkansas River Compact Association

ARWC – Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

BIP – Basin Implementation Plan

CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

CPW – Colorado Parks & Wildlife

CWCB – Colorado Water Conservation Board

CWP – Colorado Water Plan

DARKA

DWR – Division of Water Resources

IBCC – Inter-Basin Compact Committee

JMR – John Martin Reservoir

LAVWCD – Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

RT - Roundtable

SWSI – Statewide Water Supply Initiative

USDA – US Department of Agriculture