

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
Meeting Notes
October 11, 2017**

Welcome and Introductions

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. 31 voting members were present.

Approval of Minutes of September 2017

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

Public Comment - none

PROGRAM: (presentations may be found at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Funding Series: Public Private Partnerships (P3s) Funding for Water Projects – Hunter Hook, VP, CO Bank

- A broad-based cooperative financial services organization serving vital industries across rural America:
 - Agribusiness
 - Communications
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Community Facilities
- Cooperatively owned by approximately 2,400 customers
- Member of the Farm Credit System, a Government Sponsored Enterprise with approximately \$320 billion in assets at December 31, 2016
- CoBank is a cooperative financial institution, which means we are owned by our borrowers; similar to a credit union
- CoBank offers a full range of options, from lines of credit and interim/construction loans to fixed rate long term loans
- CoBank Lines of credit do not create a cost unless you use them; can be used as an emergency reserve fund or to fund soft costs for projects (regardless of the long term lender that's chosen)
- Term loans can have fixed rates for up to 30 years. Draw periods are designed to match the time it takes the project to be completed
- USDA interim program provides a low cost and simple way to fund the construction of your USDA project
 - Interim Loan
 - Term of loan can be up to three years
 - Designed for projects that have met USDA's Letter of Conditions
 - Underwriting is based on USDA's review and approval of the utility's project
 - Benefits
 - Interest only while project is in construction
 - Interest can be rolled into the USDA loan if USDA approves

SWSI Methodology Overview and TAG Panel Discussion: Greg Johnson, CWCB; Jim Broderick, Terry Scanga, Jack Goble, Scott Winter, Alan Ward, SeEtta Moss

- **Introduction & SWSI Update Overview**
 - Scenario Planning Methodology
 - M&SSI Demand Methodology
 - Agricultural Demand Methodology
 - Hydrologic Modeling Methodology
 - **TAG Participant Panel Discussion**

- **Process Overview**

- Phase 1: Methodology Review and Development (where we're at right now)**

- ✓ *Develop methodologies*

- ✓ *Integrate scenarios*

- Phase 2: Technical Evaluations**

- *Population estimates*

- *M&SSI demands*

- *Ag demands*

- *Modeling & Gaps*

- *Environment and Recreation*

- *Finance*

- Phase 3: Reporting**

- *M&SSI and Ag shortages*

- *Env & Rec flow comparisons*

- *Data and analysis tools*

This is the first time that we're updating SWSI within the context of the Colorado Water Plan and the Basin Implementation Plans. Planning out to 2050.

Please do review this presentation at www.arkansasbasin.com. It contains a lot of detailed information as to the process being used for Phase I.

TAG Members:

Jim Broderick (Planning Scenarios) – Baseline supply v. demand gap. This is the biggest change in methodology. He thinks there will be a big learning curve for roundtable members to understand the work of this SWSI update. There was a lot of discussion at this point. Is depleted or contaminated groundwater a fatal flaw of this methodology? Or just not yet addressed?

Jack Goble and Terry Scanga (Ag) – In 2010 SWSI used the amount of water consumed by the crop to satisfy the full irrigation water requirement (measured at the field). This time around they are using the amount of water diverted to supply the full irrigation water requirement (measured at the canal headgate). Questions that arose include: "Should the holders of junior water rights have a reasonable expectation of a full water supply to meet their irrigation water requirement for their crop?"

Municipal excess supply and return flow waters have been historically used by Ag, and that's a big number. Does this methodology take into account that loss to Ag as municipalities grow into their supply?

Scott Winter and Alan Ward (M&SSI) – Some assumptions are uncomfortable, but are addressed by using the differing scenarios. Concerns include that the new approach replaces passive with active conservation. Also, climate change may offset much future conservation potential. Municipalities don't want stressed trees and abandoned (rather than xeriscaped) landscapes to become a baseline.

BREAK

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No new candidates came forward for officer positions on the Roundtable.

A motion was made to continue for another year with the existing officers of the roundtable, including IBCC reps. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Committee – Sandy

Items discussed by the Executive Committee are all covered during other agenda items.

IBCC – John Stulp, Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

The IBCC will meet next on November 30th in Denver.

John Stulp – We've been conducting a round of conversations with IBCC members, talking about what should be on the agenda of the IBCC meeting and the future direction of the group.

- Long term funding mechanisms for water plan implementation will be discussed. IBCC would like to be involved in how future revenues would be dispersed. 111 ideas of how to raise funds have been boiled down to less than a dozen, with four or five rising to the top.
- IBCC members would like to put a little more meat on the bones of the Conceptual Framework (regarding Transmountain Diversions).
- IBCC would like to further build relationships between basins

What is the future of the IBCC? We had traditionally met four times each year, then six times each year during the Colorado Water planning process. We've met less in the last year. Where can the IBCC increase value? It has been a good think-tank.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

The last meeting was held in Walden. The majority of the meeting was reviewing 23 grant applications. Out of the \$9 million set aside for these grants, so far there have been requests totaling 16-17million.

During the last SWSI update, there was much less stakeholder involvement. It has made the process a lot more complicated, but is very important and positive. SWSI schedule: TAG groups will hold a 2nd meeting in early November. Technical analysis will start, expecting to be completed by next May. SWSI should then be complete by the end of July 2018. The overall cost of the SWSI update is expected to be \$2 million.

At the next CWCB meeting, they will review 26 more grant applications. Most of the funding should be allocated by January of next year. New ATM applications will also be heard in November – they welcome new projects. Implementation Fact Sheet available on the Colorado water plan website. Jack wrote a column on ATMs in the latest newsletter.

The Colorado Ag Water Alliance hosts Colorado's Ag Water Summit 2017 on December 5th. Here is a link to registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/colorados-ag-water-summit-2017-tickets-38401283272>

Nonconsumptive Committee Report

There will be a meeting of the committee on October 16th, at 10:00 am, at the BLM offices in Canon City.

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt (see report)

Jean attended a Statewide PEPO meeting in Avon earlier this week.

Several other basins have begun to use GIS mapping to report on projects in their basin. Jean will work with Gary and Carol to explore that possibility for our basin.

One World, One Water received a grant to develop a statewide water education strategy. Jean is the contact for this basin. A Water education GIS asset map will be created.

CFWE has re-branded itself, and is now known as Water Education Colorado (WECO).

Jean has been receiving a lot of information about education events that could be useful to members and interested parties. She'll be forwarding that information through Elise.

Dr. Sam Ebersole submitted a near finished copy of the documentary to Rocky Mtn PBS, which was approved for showing. After a few more edits, she and Chelsey will start getting it out.

There will be a workshop hosted by WECO on November 6th in Colorado Springs: Implementing Regional Water Solutions.

ARWC – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

The bylaws have been finalized. During the next executive committee meeting, ARWC will have the organizing meeting of the board of directors, which will be made up of the officers of the roundtable.

ARWC assisted Custer County in applying for and receiving \$373,000 from CDPHE.

Lisa Patton attended a Soil Health tour that Lisa Patton attended, hosted by WECCO. This tour was geared toward officials, but a spring tour will focus on farmers seeing each other's farms and soil health.

Mark attended the water quality control commission meeting regarding nutrients and water quality regulations.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

Gary has been working on grants for December review.

Phase II Risk Study – Ben Wade

Nothing new to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – November 8th, PCC
- Adjourned at 3:00 pm

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

M&SSI – Municipal and Self-Supplied Industrial

SWSI – Statewide Water Supply Initiative

USDA – US Department of Agriculture