



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Roundtable Meeting Notes

November 8, 2017

Pueblo Community College, Pueblo CO

(Presentations and reports may be found at www.arkansasbasin.com)

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes of October 2017

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

Public Comment – none

REPORTS

Non-consumptive Committee Report – SeEtta Moss

- Met October 16th. Discussed the Environmental and Recreational TAG meeting for SWSI.
- SWSI will be emphasizing stream reaches, using flows to establish needs
- We can still choose to use a watershed approach for our basin
- SWSI will also be remodeling and using the watershed flow evaluation tool. This doesn't work well for us since we still don't have a DSS.
- Will be using attributes such as boating, recreation, wetlands/plant communities, riparian, in-stream flow protections, and different types of fisheries.

Executive Committee – Sandy White

- The roundtable will not meet in December.
- An ARWC board meeting was held during the Executive Committee meeting. Mark Shea will add more about that.
- Conditions for the Huerfano County project have enabled that project to move forward.

IBCC – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

Jeris - The IBCC meets on November 30th in Golden. The agenda will be sorting out what members think the IBCC should be doing going forward. If you have issues, ideas or suggestions to take to the IBCC, please let Jeris and Terry know.

Terry - An annual IBCC report has been released. Over the last several months, John Stulp spoke with IBCC members to explore the future of the IBCC.

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt

- Today's Funding Series speaker had to cancel. In January a Parks and Wildlife representative will give a Funding Series presentation.
- Attended the Water Education Colorado (WECO) Workshop on Considerations in Implementing Regional Water Solutions sponsored by CS Utilities, Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority and CWCB on November 6th. The workshop featured the best approaches for regional water solutions, including a close examination of tradeoffs, hurdles and opportunities for success
- Jean met with Lisa Patton and Blake Osborn, assisting to develop a Lower Ark Watershed Plan.
- Jean will participate on the WECO Water Educators Network focus group in November. The purpose is to determine who education audiences are, where the gaps are and what educators need.
- WECO will host its 2018 Water Fluency program in the Pueblo area beginning in May. Jean will work with them on developing a local curriculum that will focus on policy & decision makers new to water. The



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program will include the language & concepts of water and ways to equip attendees with the knowledge to analyze water's influence on the issues that matter in the community. For more information:

www.Yourwatercolorado.org

- Dr. Sam Ebersole presented a nearly-finished version to Rocky Mountain PBS and the documentary was accepted for viewing. Chelsey Nutter and Jean have reviewed the documentary with Dr. Ebersole & provided comments. We'll let you know when it will air on PBS. The next step is to develop an outreach plan for viewing the documentary throughout the basin.
- Have identified Education to Action Projects to be implemented from July 2017 to May 2018.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble

- CWCB meets in Broomfield next week on November 15 and 16.
- Water plan grant requests will be the bulk of the meeting.
- CWCB board members will review and approve the Projects Bill.
- Regarding SWSI – all four of the TAGS have a final meeting this week. Information is available on the CWCB website. Final report is scheduled to come out end of July next year.

Needs Assessment – Chelsey Nutter, Brett Gracely

- The website has been updated as to schedule and process. Please check it out.
- The next Needs Assessment meeting will be held on December 13th (contact Chelsey if you know you will have an application pending). Location is likely to be in Canon City at 10 am.
- Applications need to be submitted to Needs Assessment by December 1st, and they will then be considered by the RT in January.
- New – Applicants will need to submit final applications to CWCB themselves, rather than being sent in by the Needs Assessments committee. Ark RT approval letters will be sent under separate cover.
- \$117 remains in the Basin account. On January 1st, basins will receive another \$120,000. The third installment will be released in April. CWCB is still deciding whether current applications can pre-access those April funds.
- Reminder: If you are applying for Colorado Water Plan funding and would like a letter of support from the Arkansas Basin RT, your schedule is the same as that for other applicants.

ARWC – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

- The executive committee convened the organizing meeting of the ARWC board.
- Officers are: Mark Shea, President; Al Tucker, VP, Secretary and Treasurer
- Pursuant to bylaws, the ARWC board membership is the same as that of the Roundtable Executive Committee, excepting Jack Goble (to avoid any conflict of interest due to his CWCB role).
- At today's meeting, the board reviewed, amended and approved the Articles of Organization. Carol will file those with the State of Colorado, and proceed with next steps in seeking 501(c)(3) status.
- HB16-1255, forest health advisory council: Report has been released. Forest Management to Protect Colorado's Water Resources
- Gary, Carol and Chris Sturm met with the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership regarding their watershed health grant request. They are taking a re-look, in order to develop a more comprehensive plan and strategic approach to future projects.

Phase II Risk Study – Jim Broderick

The next meeting will be held November 29th, discussing the scope of work.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- Presentation: Non-Consumptive Methodology (see website)
- PPRWA is presenting on Area 3 Study.



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- Working on a grant that accesses match funds from El Paso County Planning Department, which is developing a first ever Water Master Plan, to do a site-specific project.

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

Area 3 Preliminary Engineering, Regional Infrastructure Study – Kip Petersen & Will Koger

Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA)

- Colorado's Water Plan
 - Population double by 2050?
 - S. Platte, Arkansas Rivers over-appropriated
 - Projected 500,000 AF gap
 - Effects of Climate Change
 - Yesterday, the State Demographer predicted that by 2050 Colorado Springs will be the largest city in Colorado.
- Water Rights based on volume below property
 - $\frac{\text{Volume (State Model)}}{100 \text{ years}} = \text{Annual Pumping Limit}$
- "Paper Water"
- Not Guaranteed
- El Paso County uses a 300 year rule.
- Denver Basin Aquifers
 - Dawson: Domestic, Residential Wells
 - Denver: Domestic, Municipal Wells
 - Arapahoe:
 - Municipal Wells, high production
 - Iron & Manganese
 - Radionuclides
 - Laramie-Fox Hills:
 - Municipal, low production
 - Interbedded Coal =
 - Taste & odor
 - Radionuclides
- Issue: Cascading reduction in well yield
 - More wells needed to access deeper water

Regional Infrastructure Study

- 8 participants
 - M&I Gap (22,600 AF projected in 2008 report)
 - Transition from Denver Basin Groundwater
- Economy of Scale (saves 30% each)
 - Water rights not included
 - Opens the door for more cooperation

Denver Basin Assumptions

- Supply diminishing, not sustainable
- By 2035, 35% of supply economical
- By 2050, 0% no economical use

Cost & Time Implementation - \$280 M, 15-20 years



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Area 3 Goals

- Use current supplies efficiently
- Network for renewable water delivery
 - Renewable water needs
 - Costs and timeline
 - Next steps

Solutions

- ASR – Aquifer storage and recovery
- Reuse water
- Reservoir storage
- Alluvial storage
- Existing piping
- Proposed alignments
- Renewable water

Note: In El Paso County, Issue 2A passed yesterday – Stormwater Fee.

Upper Arkansas Watershed Wildfire & Watershed Protection – Brad Piehl

This presentation had a lot of maps and photos. Please see the website to understand the presentation.

Projected changes in average area burned with a 1.8 degree rise in average temperature is predicted to increase wildfire risk by 650% in high country forested areas.

Resilience and Stability of Ecological Systems, Holling: 1973

- The resilience of an ecosystem = the measure of its ability to absorb changes and still exist.

What does Watershed Protection Look Like?

- Focus on small-scale hazards and values
- Non-traditional forest treatments
- Identify other hazards - i.e. road crossings, pipelines
- Identify riparian/floodplain enhancement
- Use collaborative groups to agree on actions

New Report from CWCB: Forest Management to Protect Colorado's Water Resources – A Synthesis Report to Support House Bill 16-1255.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Meeting – January 10th, Location to be determined.
- Adjourned at 3:00 pm