



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting  
April 9, 2014  
CSU-Pueblo, Occhiato Center  
Meeting Notes

## **Roundtable Business**

Betty Konarski called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty nine (29) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

Alan Hamel was recognized for receiving the President's award by Colorado Foundation for Water Education.

## **March minutes**

March minutes were approved by consensus.

## **Public Comment**

### **Kevin Lusk, CS Utilities and Twin Lakes Canal and Reservoir Company**

Mr. Lusk expressed the company's concern about the discussion that has been taking place around New Supply. Twin Lakes Canal and Reservoir Company was identified as an example of a concept to reduce existing diversions in exchange for the hope of a new supply project. While they understand that the example was hypothetical, they are concerned that others may seize the opportunity to capitalize on the mention of it in order to further other agendas. The company asks the Roundtable to publish a retraction or clarification that the example was used without the company's knowledge or approval.

The Executive Committee will be talking about this with the other Roundtable Chairs, and will be coming up with a response.

The example was used in a proposal to create a process for basin to basin discussion about potential solutions. In the example of how a process might work, the example included Twin Lakes. The reference was in our BIP draft of Section 4.8.

## **Report of the Executive Committee**

Will be reported as the meeting progresses.

## **Nonconsumptive Subcommittee**

A Non-consumptive meeting was held, mostly to update members on what's been happening with the Colorado Water Plan.

## **Value of Agriculture Subcommittee**

Nothing new to report.

## **IBCC Report**

The IBCC is now putting out a summary before the full minutes. IBCC members have agreed that the meeting summary can be sent out to RT members, for their information.



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PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

Jeris – For the first time in history, we are moving ahead on the issue of new supply, which has now been defined as a trans-mountain diversion. A dialogue has begun, to talk about eight points that came out of the March meeting.

Jay – The 8 Points

1. The East Slope is not looking for firm yield from a transmountain diversion project and would accept West Slope hydrologic risk for that project. Future West Slope needs will need to be accommodated as part of a new transmountain diversion project.
2. A transmountain project would be used conjunctively with ATMs, Denver Basin Aquifer resources, carry-over storage, terminal storage, drought restriction savings, and other non-West Slope water sources in order to firm up the water supply.
3. In order to manage when a transmountain diversion will be able to divert, triggers are needed.
4. An insurance policy is needed for existing uses, “agreed-to” projects, and some reasonable increment of future West Slope development.
5. Clarification is needed for how West Slope needs will be accommodated.
6. Colorado will continue its commitment to improve conservation and reuse.
7. Environmental resiliency and recreational needs must be addressed both before and conjunctively with a new transmountain diversion.
8. A project would have to include all of the above.

Alan – The last several meetings have been very productive when it comes to new supply. Jay and Jeris work hard on our behalf.

## **CWCB Report – Colorado Water Plan Progress**

CWCB met in mid-March. The principal focus of the meeting was the Colorado Water Plan. Public comment period has been extended. The CWCB is also feeling the time crunch. They committed to additional workshops in the months to come. A significant amount of CWCB’s work depends on the Basin Implementation Plans. More public input is being received.

The May meeting will be held in Pueblo at the Convention Center, on May 21-22. We encourage you to attend part of the meeting. We will send you the agenda as soon as it is produced. Any citizen or group can speak to specific agenda items during the meeting.

The Ark RT did get an award of \$59,000 to continue our Basin Implementation Planning process. All requests for Statewide Funding were tabled in March, because of the limitation of funds. Those requests will be considered in May, and include the grant request from Huerfano County WCD. If all statewide requests are approved, the statewide fund will be back down to around \$1,000,000. Going forward, requests for statewide funding will become more competitive, because funds are limited.

Severance Tax fund also benefitted the Ark Basin in March.

## **Outreach Meetings: Feedback from meetings already held**

- **Calendar of Meetings (locational map)**  
Thank you for putting together a great schedule of meetings. Right now, more than 15 meetings have already been scheduled.
- **Tools/Website/Letterhead/PSA & Calendar**



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE

We have created a public website [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com). You'll find lots of information on the website, and more tools to use at your public meetings will be added. Elise can send out invitations for you from the Arkansas Basin RT, or you can do that yourself. Betty encouraged RT members to really push their constituents to fill out and return Input Forms.

Roundtable members shared their experience thus far. A member asked how the information would be included, since the timeframe is so short.

Alan Hamel – We'll be developing Action Plans. The state's portion of the plan may include ways to facilitate permitting issues, for instance. All the state agencies that touch water are involved in this process. The Plan won't change processes, but it may recommend ways to coordinate. One of our jobs, following on, is to look at these and say, which of these issues could we turn into a project? Where do we have a united need that can be met?

## Westwater/CDM Smith – Basin Implementation Plan Update – Gary Barber and Mark McCluskey

Gary and Mark discussed the elements of the BIP, and specific work completed to-date. RT members asked questions and discussed concerns and specifics.

### Timeline:

- SWSI 2004
- HB1177 2005
- Needs Report 2009
- SWSI 2010
- Update 2012 Memorandum
- Basin Implementation Plan 2014
- Colorado Water Plan 2015
- SWSI 2016

### Outline:

- Executive Summary
- Glossary      SWSI 2016 has a glossary already in place. We'll include that.
- Section 1      Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes
- A draft of Section 1 has been sent to Roundtable Members for comment.
- Section 2      Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs
- Will include some prioritization
- Section 3      Evaluate Consumptive & Nonconsumptive Constraints and Opportunities
  - 3.1 Current Basin Water Operations and Hydrology
  - 3.2 Water management and Water Administration
  - 3.3 Hydrologic Modeling
  - 3.4 Shortages Analysis
- Section 4      Projects and Methods
  - 4.1 Education, participation and outreach
  - 4.2 Watershed Health – Risk management for fire, flood and other threats to the watershed.
  - 4.3 Conservation projects and methods.
  - 4.4 New multi-purpose, cooperative, and Regional Projects and Methods – ie: Helena Boat Chute, Hale Reservoir Design and Permitting, PPRWA Regional Infrastructure Study,



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE

4.5. Basin Projects and Methods (ie. Projects, conservation, drought planning, oil and gas).

4.6 Agricultural projects and methods

3-Pronged approach: Pilot projects, economic baseline, as;ldkfj

4.7 Nonconsumptive Projects and methods

Nature Conservancy is now participating with CDM Smith, for SWSI 2016. They quantify using stream miles.

4.8 Interbasin Projects and Methods

Basin to basin dialogue was developed from the Flaming Gorge Taskforce.

Section 5 Implementation Strategies for the Projects and Methods

Section 6 How the plan meets the Roundtables' Goals and Measurable Outcomes

Will likely modify goals after completing Sections 2 – 5.

Appendix Will include placeholders for work that is underway, along with Input Forms and other documents.

Roundtable members discussed the format for the next two meetings. Area meetings will have been conducted by the June meeting. A summary of what they heard would be good for June. Rough draft in June. Approval in July.

## **CWCB May meeting event**

The CWCB meets in Pueblo May 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. All are encouraged to attend at least part of the meeting.

## **Adjourn**

## **Other Business**

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Next meeting May 14, 2014, 11:30 am, at CSU-Pueblo. Lunch will be provided for Roundtable members.

CWCB in Pueblo May 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

## **Links:**

[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com) Input forms are available in printable pdf and online survey formats, along with a Public Meeting Schedule, Roundtable Meeting Agendas and Meeting Notes, and other information regarding the Arkansas Basin.

<http://coloradowaterplan.com/>