

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable
June 11, 2014 – Pueblo Convention Center
Meeting Notes**

Roundtable Business

Betty Konarski called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty six (26) members were present. There are 41 active roundtable members at this time – 20 is a quorum.

May minutes

May minutes will be approved at next month's meeting.

Public Comment - none

IBCC/CWCB Report

Alan Hamel – The May meeting was held here in Pueblo. Alan thanked Roundtable members and event sponsors for their participation and attendance. It was an opportunity to educate CWCB members and staff on issues of the Arkansas Basin.

CWCB Meeting highlights include the following:

- Sandy White was there and the HCWCD grant for the Redwing Augmentation facility was approved.
- The balance in the Statewide WSRA account is down to 1.2 million. About \$401,000 is currently available in basin funds. In July, another \$160,000 will be added to our basin funds, for a total of \$561,000. The Statewide Fund should get an additional \$2,560,000, for a total of \$3,760,000.
- The statewide grant application will continue to become more competitive. A Supplemental Scoring Matrix has been drafted for the statewide portion of WSRA. A joint committee from IBCC/CWCB worked on these guidelines, which were approved by the CWCB at their May meeting. The IBCC is expected to approve them this coming month. If you are working on a grant currently, you should try to address these criteria immediately. Additional criteria and a point system for ranking have been added.
- You received by email a communication from CWCB to the Governor's office, regarding next steps. The CWCB wants to make a plan for 2015, because there will be a lot of work to do to get from draft to final.
- The next CWCB meeting will be held July 16 and 17, in Rangely, Colorado. The first day will be devoted to each basin's draft BIP. The meeting will be held at the college in Rangely. You can listen in online as well, and watch presentations as they're being made.

Jay Winner – IBCC

The IBCC has not met, but sub-committees have. Seven of us are working on New Supply for the state water plan. We started to nail down what a trans-mountain diversion might look like. The big concern is how to work around what happens if you only get water for five out of ten years. We came to a good place. It's going to be a lively conversation next week.

Jeris Danielson – IBCC

The conversation intensifies drastically when you start talking about a trans-mountain diversion. We're making progress.

Feedback from recent BIP meetings/final meeting dates (www.arkansasbasin.com)

SeEtta was thrilled by the environmental and recreational response to the Colorado Springs meeting.

June 23rd Canon City

June 24th Buena Vista

July 1st Pueblo

65 Input Forms have been received. Be sure you submit in-kind forms, which can be found on the website.

Kyle Hamilton – Non-Consumptive Webinar

Creating a list of agencies and stakeholders, and we're gathering all known environmental and recreational projects. We are adding to that as we can, and will be adding projects mentioned on Input Forms.

Yesterday we held a webinar. The Nature Conservancy to give us an update on their status, as they work on updated non-consumptive mapping and GIS resources for the state. The July BIP is a snapshot in time. There will be work after July, so work in progress should be included.

Previously, quantification has been based on a HUC (hydrologic unit code) sub-watershed system. The State is moving to a stream reach system, so the Arkansas Basin's quantification will be converted to that as well. Kim Gortz, from Colorado Springs Utilities has been assisting with GIS mapping. TNC has also developed a gap analysis framework. Feedback has been positive, but most basins have indicated that they won't look at that closely until after the BIP deadline.

Reed Dils and SeEtta Moss added that the webinar was very successful.

Jay Winner – Needs Assessment Committee

The Ark RT established the Needs Assessment committee in order to review grants and prevent the RT from losing time in review of rough grant applications that may not be ready for RT approval. Guideline as follows:

1. First, applicant should send an application to Jay's office (jwinner@centurytel.net and cquezada@centurytel.net).
2. Needs Assessment committee will review and advise applicant as to how to strengthen their application before bringing it forward to the RT. Hard questions are asked here, and not all applications move forward to the roundtable.
3. The application is presented for consideration and approval to the Ark Basin Roundtable. The Ark RT uses consensus-based decision making.
4. If approved, the application then goes to the CWCB for approval.

We're going to have a Needs Assessment meeting on the 20th. Six grants are expected to be reviewed, for around \$1,000,000. We normally average approving five grants per year. Please be patient.

Based on this information, Betty recommended that next month's meeting also be extended and begin at 11:30 am.

Colorado Water Plan - Betty

Betty asked for Roundtable comments on elements of the Colorado Water Plan. RT members agreed to focus on the Arkansas BIP for the time being.

PRESENTATION – Helena Diversion Structure/Boat Chute/Fish Ladder Improvement Project
Rob White – Colorado Parks and Wildlife (see arkansasbasin.com for presentation photos)

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area covers 150 miles of the Arkansas River, from Leadville to Pueblo. The RT approved two grants for this project, which includes reconstruction of a boat chute, a diversion structure, and a fish ladder. In addition, CO Parks and Wildlife paid for a portage around the area.

Originally, this part of the river had a nine-foot drop, which was very dangerous, and resulted in a boating fatality in 2007.

The re-design has three drops rather than one. When the headgate side of the river was dewatered, it was discovered that the diversion structure was failing. Concrete had completely deteriorated so that most water was going back to the river.

The new design worked great up to 1500 cfs. After flows got higher, the third drop created a re-circulating wave which created a hole. When flows reached 2,000 cfs, this drop was closed.

Additionally, the portage trail is now subject to erosion at high flows. There was a design flaw, and the contractor is being asked to re-design and repair the 3rd drop, as well as repair the portage trail.

The diversion structure and headgate are working flawlessly.

Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan Sections 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, and overview of 5.0

Gary Barber

Gary reviewed the history of the work of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, the BIP chapters, and his approach to writing the plan. He expects to come back with a draft in July, which will be revised in the three weeks between then and the CWCB meeting.

Draft chapters will be distributed to the Roundtable as they are completed. There will be some placeholders for items that are in process. Gary sent a map around and asked folks to not reservoirs that are active.

RT members asked questions and discussed BIP elements.

Section 3 - Constraints and Opportunities – Mark McCluskey

3.2 Water Administration in the Basin addresses the constraints particular to the Arkansas Basin. Please review what you've received and get comments back to Mark McCluskey. Section 3 will also talk about available data and resources in the basin, and is looking at historical water use.

Watershed Health Working Group

- Deliverables outline from April 21, 2014 meeting
- Watershed Arch concept for Community dialogue and action – before, during, after planning.
- Watershed Health tools and processes spreadsheet
 - Based on Arch concept
 - Organized by entity type and phase of initiatives

Mapping products

Two meetings remain

June 17th, 9 – 2, CSUtilities

July 29th, tbd

Participants include:

US Forest Service

USGS

Forest Service Foundation

CUSP

South Platte RT

Rio Grande RT
Northern Water
CO Forest Service
CO State Parks
And lots more

You can identify and prioritize your water infrastructure, notify the US Forest Service, and get your priorities on their map prior to a potentially devastating fire.

Mapping Effort – Kim Gortz

Kim described the work that has gone into the mapping effort thus far. Multiple stakeholder meetings have been held, as well as the culling of public input to add values to the maps. Multiple databases have been pulled together and map layers have been created. Roundtable members discussed and asked questions about the data portrayed by the maps, which were hung on the wall and available for additional information and feedback. Five maps were displayed:

Risk Map (includes fire, flood, insect damage)
Environment
Municipal and Industrial
Agriculture
Recreation

Values will be juxtaposed with risks in order to prioritize.

Section 5: Implementation Strategies for the Projects and Methods

5.1 Intro as per CWCB Guidance Outline

5.2 How the RT chose to tackle the BIP

1. Took an economic viewpoint
2. Initiated a public outreach program to generate broadest possible coverage of the basin's needs.

These two initiatives have historic precedent in RT work and are documented in SWSI 2010.

5.3 Historic perspective on meeting the challenges

1. Project List
2. IPP ranking according to three questions:
 - Is it equitable?
 - Is it viable?
 - Is it bearable?

5.4 Recommended timeline for activities

- August 14 – January 15: Review input forms, organize, invite presentations as appropriate for greater RT understanding of need, project proposal, project proponent and partnerships, timeline and funding.
- Same period, public hearing with Interim Water Review Committee to take public testimony on BIP.
- October 14: Final review of document and completion of works in progress at Draft Deadline 7/31/14. (potentially 2.1, 4.7 Nonconsumptive, 4.2 Watershed Health, 4.8 Interbasin – A – Green River Riparian Restoration Project, B – Extreme Precip Assessment Tool (EPAT).
- Jan 15 – April 15: Sort and prioritize projects and methods using sustainability metrics.
- April 15 – June 15: Discussion of Public comments received on Draft BIP, invitation to hear public input directly if appropriate.

- July 15 – Sep 15: Finalize priorities of projects and methods, presentations on WSRA grant requests to implement high-priority projects.
- Nov 15: Publish timelines for identified projects and key task based on previous year's work.

5.5 Cross Basin recommendations and collaboration opportunities

- New Supply and Section 4.8 follow-through.
- Section 4.2 Watershed Health and expanding the deliverables to include the rest of the state as appropriate.
- EPAT
- Collaboration with Metro/S. Platte BIP on Section 4.3, Conservation

5.6 Meeting the Gap

Do the identified projects and methods meet the gaps of the Arkansas Basin? Muni – maybe; ag – maybe; enviro – needs greater definition; rec – probably, if Voluntary Flow Agreement is sustained; storage – not without significant help. WSRA funding not sufficient to meet all valid project funding requests. Need bigger picture perspective within the Colorado Water Plan to address all Ark basin needs.

Can we meet the challenges of the Arkansas Basin? Too soon to tell, but we certainly have a better chance with dialogue, collaboration and transparency.

Roundtable members discussed the ranking criteria suggested by our historic ranking criteria of Equitable, Viable, and Bearable; v. using the proposed revised WSRA grant ranking criteria.

The State Legislature has also said that they will be holding public input meetings regarding the State Water Plan. How will the information gathered at these meetings be included in the State Water Plan? The Basin Plan is for the Basin. Some, part or none of this information may be included in the State Water Plan. It is a separate process with separate public input. If plan elements conflict greatly, CWCB staff and roundtable representatives will meet to find commonality.

Member also discussed the use and organization of Input Forms, possible future exploration of projects and ideas.

Other business

- CWCB in Rangely
- Next Meeting – July 9th, CSU-Pueblo
- Adjourn

Links:

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/>