

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Website: www.arkansasbsin.com

Email: arkbasinrt@gmail.com

Wednesday May 13, 2020

Start Time: 12:30 pm

Virtual Meeting using the following link:

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

- 12:30-12:40** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Mark Shea [10 min]**
Introductions
Approval of minutes – March 2020
Public Comment
- 12:40 – 3:00** **Reports [50 min]**
Executive Committee – Mark Shea (30 min)
CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Ben Wade, Russ Sands, and Greg Felt (30 min)
 BIP Update
 COVID-19 Impacts
IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga (20 min)
PEPO – Amber Weber (10 min)
Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega (20 min)
 June Applications
 Next Meeting
 WSRF Fund Balance
Environmental and Recreational – Bob Hamel and Rena Brand (10 min)
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Chelsey Nutter (20 min)

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 10, 2020 (possibly virtual)

Subcommittees

- Enviro/Rec Comm. – May 25, 2020, Canon City BLM Office, 10:00 am
- CWCB – May 20 and 21 Virtual Meeting with information to follow

Additional GoToMeeting Information:

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

May 13, 2020

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

More information and presentations may be found at: www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-two (22) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the March 2020 meeting were approved by consensus. The roundtable did not meet in April.

Public Comment

Ann Bunting introduced herself, visiting from Crestone.

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Mark talked about the logistics of the GoToMeeting application. The Executive Committee met this morning, and on April 22. Meeting topics focused on the ARWC Budget and on the BIP Update.

A BIP Update committee will be formed to provide support to and oversight of local coordinators. All Roundtable members need to assist with the update process, however, to ensure that projects in your jurisdictions are included.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Greg Felt, Russell Sands

New website: cwcb.colorado.gov

Greg: The CWCB met on March 11 & 12 in Denver. There was a big agenda, and 32 or so grant requests were reviewed. Due to Covid-19, the financial outlook is of very real concern. New criteria may be assigned in future, and grant funding will be competitive. A strong commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit was expressed, which still must be approved by the Joint Budget Committee. That one is a \$10 million grant and \$90 million loan combination.

The next CWCB meeting is May 20th. It will be a one-day virtual meeting.

Sam Stein: Sam introduced himself as the new CWCB liaison to the roundtable. He echoed the uncertainty regarding the budget. \$120,000 was recently put into the Basin Accounts. That's the only funding we are certain will come in 2020. Sam introduced Kat Weismiller, new CWCB Deputy Section Chair.

BIP UPDATE – COVID IMPACTS – Matt Lindburg, Brown and Caldwell; Russell Sands, CWCB; Brett Gracely and Will Koger, local experts.

Matt Lindburg: Local expert workshops were held between April 29 and May 6. The workshops discussed the technical update. The aim was for a forum where we could talk to local experts around the state and dig into the weeds regarding assumptions and scenarios. Looking at different demands and how the gap is calculated. Got into the different tools that were developed. It was a smaller group format so that there could be good discussions. They also discussed activities that the roundtables will be engaged in.



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Russell Sands: Webinars are on the website, and water plan listening sessions will also be added.

Will Koger: Will gave a Basin Implementation Plan Update. A written update was also emailed to roundtable members and interested parties.

- Follows 2019 Technical Update to Colorado's Water Plan
- Five 2050 planning scenarios driven by changes in population, density, economy, energy, climate, technology, ag market, and social values
- Incorporates better data (e.g. HB 1051 data), available CDSS modeling, new environment and recreation (E&R) evaluation tool
- BIP Update to recharacterize and update future gaps considering IPPs
- Will "meet in the middle" with respect to top-down and bottom-up approach
- Scoped and budgeted with Implementation Work Group input:
 - Streamline the BIPs and provide statewide consistency
 - Update project needs
 - Improve cost estimates with new costing tool unless better info. is available
 - Help identify and direct funding to implement projects
 - Consider cross-basin collaborative efforts, e.g. forest health

Outreach and RFI

- Compile Project Needs
- IPP database for statewide roll-up
 - Continue with larger Arkansas Basin database (Master Needs List)
- Extensive outreach effort needed to identify projects, costs and inputs for costing tool, and potential yields
- Strategies:
 - Basin Roundtable standing committees and membership help to maximize value
 - Outreach subcommittee coordinated with PEPO
 - Regional workshops

Sub-Committee: Bob Hamel or Amber Shanklin, Mark Shea, Mike Weber, Amber Weber, Chelsey Nutter – who can we deputize to flush out projects throughout the basin. This will be a standing item on our monthly meeting agendas.

COVID IMPACTS – Russell Sands

There is now a 3.3 billion deficit in funding expected for the state of Colorado. There will be cuts to CWCB funding, and CWCB is aiming to fund the things that it is committed to. Originally we thought we'd be able to approve new water plan grants, but the governor's office is now asking that new grants be put on hold for the moment. Current basin funding requests should be honored. We're hopeful that we'll be able to move forward with loans.

Future WSRF funding will be low for some time. The oil market was having an impact even before COVID.

Regarding the new sports gambling measure, that number is very low so far, since most sports have been put on hold.



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IBCC Report – Russell Sands

There will be a virtual IBCC meeting on June 17th at 9:00 am. It will track what the workgroups are doing and what's next on the agenda for the IBCC.

PEPO – Amber Weber

By next meeting, will have a detailed budget for existing funding and an idea of where we're headed. The webisodes are mostly finished and will be published on the website soon. Working with Chelsey to update the story map. There was a loss of data, and a focus on replacing that. The Water Festival has been changed and working on how to get virtual activities that are alternatives.

Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega

Normally, the next round of grant apps would be due June 1st. Abby is asking folks to hold off submitting something new, unless it's a small basin grant only. June 18 was to be the next needs assessment meeting, but it may not be needed. Do let Abby know if you have something in mind. There are four WSRF grant applications going forward at next month's CWCB meeting.

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs

On June 1st, we will participate in a virtual meeting with other enviro/rec committees around the state. We're meeting in order to help each other get through the BIP update together. The May committee meeting will not be held.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Chelsey Nutter

Chelsey submitted a draft 2020 budget to the Executive Committee and received feedback earlier today. Will finalize the budget in the next couple of days and send to the whole roundtable. Will be working on a membership package in conjunction with that, and will also be working on the 2021 budget before long. Chelsey described projects that are underway, including field work with Chaffee County, additional funding for the Decker Fire, and Huerfano County projects. For mitigation work, we are still scheduled to begin the Monarch Pass Steep Slope Treatment on August 1st. We won't be able to capture that project in action as originally planned, but will be documenting the project. The project will take more than one season to complete. We put in a proposal for funding to support the BIP project, but unsure as to the result of that funding now. In Salida, they are working on the South Arkansas Stream Management Plan.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: June 10th Virtual Meeting www.arkansasbasin.com
- Env/Rec Committee – No May meeting. Plan to meet the last Monday in June.
- CWCB Virtual Meeting: May 20th
- IBCC Virtual Meeting: June 17th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 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/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: www.coloradofloodthreat.com
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Start Time: 10:00 am

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

Greetings and necessary introductions

Minutes/Notes of the previous meeting

ARWC Board Meeting

- Update on 2020 Budget
- Projects Update
- Any other Matters

Reoccurring matters

- Chair Comments – Mark Shea
- Other Outstanding Reports – Any executive member

New Business

- ABRT BIP Update/Local Expert
- COVID-19 Financial Implications for the RT

Work Session

- None

Old Business

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting

- None

Roundtable Business

- None

Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 10, 2020
- Subcommittees
 - Enviro/Rec Comm. – May 25, 2020, Canon City BLM Office, 10:00 am
 -
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 20 and 21 Virtual Meeting with information to follow

Adjourn

Committee membership: Mark Shea (Ch), Bob Hamel (VCh-NonC), Mike Weber (VCh-Cons), Mike Fink (Rec), Sandy White (Past-Ch), Greg Felt (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Abby Ortega (Needs Assessment), Amber Weber (PEPO), Paul Fanning (Legislative Rep)

Additional distribution: Ben Wade (CWCB staff), Sam Stein (CWCB Staff), Chelsey Nutter (ARWC Coord.), Elise Bergsten (Secretary), Amber Shanklin (Environmental), Sara Mudge (ARWC Board Member)

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes

May 13th 2020 – GoToMeeting

www.arkansasbasin.com

Executive Committee Present: Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Weber - Vice Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Abby Ortega – Needs Assessment Committee; Al Tucker, Jake Goble, Brett Gracely, Amber Weber – PEPO; Amber Shanklin – Secretary of ARWC; Chelsey Nutter – ARWC; Paul Fanning, Sandy White – Past Chair; Greg Felt - CWCB Representative; Bob Hamel; Tim Canterbury; Wil Koger; Matt Leimbeck; Scott Lorenz

Call to order:

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:30 PM Greeting and introductions were performed.

Minutes:

Consensus approval of the April 22nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

ARWC Board Meeting:

- **Update on the 2020 Meeting:** Chelsey received some suggestions and input from the Executive Committee members at the April 22th meeting and incorporated them into the 2020 Budget, she will finalize the document and get it out to the Roundtable.
- **Project Updates:** Decker Fire is moving forward, ARWC is working alongside with Greg Felt and Chaffee County while supporting them with the EWP project.
- CDPHE Scope of work for \$150,000.00 is going towards recovery efforts for Decker Fire and was submitted for funding through Water and Power Authority.
- ARWC received a green light on the Spring Fire Project (phase 3) and is working alongside with Water Conservancy District.
- The Spring Fire Project is looking at additional remodeling and hazard mapping with the help of Luke Javernik- with River Science; and Kevin Pilgrim-with COCO.
- ARWC staff is working on some implementation projects that do not require any engineering or design work, the project being performed right now is cleaning out an old swimming pool; the sediment being removed will be saved and used to help repair County Roads.
- Fire and Flood (no new update)
- Spring Fire 2020 (no new update).
- Addition to recovery projects ARWC is trying to move forward with the Story Map that was put together several years ago, they have moved the GIS out of COCO and into ARWC GIS but ran into some issues while performing this task and lost a lot of the photos and links, they are working on repairing that information.
- ARWC has been working with folks in Salida on a Stream Management Plan on the South Arkansas River, ARWC is a Stakeholder on that project, with the main project lead being the Conservation District.
- **Any other Matters:** No other Matters.



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Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments:** Mark Shea took part in the local expert kick-off workshop, which was an hour each morning Monday May 4th, Tuesday May 5th, and Wednesday May 6th. He had the opportunity to engage with CWCB and the local experts. He was asked to share and provide input on three topics; Monday's topic was the Roundtables' vision of the BIP update process. He states the importance was maximizing the value of the BIP update to the Roundtable members and Stakeholders and also the importance of highlighting and capturing the needs of smaller Stakeholders with fewer resources within each Basin, recognizing that there are large entities in each Basin who will be involved in the process. Tuesday's topic was Cross Boundary Studies; one of the main topics discussed there was Forest Health and Wildfire Risk to water resources. This was followed by a discussion of Demand Management, Conservation, Water Quality, and what we can share with the other Roundtables across the Basins. Wednesday's topic was BIP strategies, many Roundtables are standing up subcommittees for the BIP Update process and Mark states that's something the Roundtable should consider.
- **Other outstanding reports:** No other outstanding reports from the Executive Committee members.

New Business:

- **ABRT BIP Update/Local Experts:** Matt Leimbeck (from Brown & Caldwell, the CWCB consultant for the Basin Implementation Plan Update statewide) stated that the local expert workshop was a series of sections spread out over 6 days. The workshop started on Wednesday April 29th 2020 and ended on Wednesday May 6th 2020. The schedule included 3 hours each morning and 2 hours each afternoon. The idea was to dig into the details of the studies and analyze what was done in the technical update, to understand the details of the different tools that was developed during the technical update to really equip the local experts to use the data sets and information and tools to explain the assumptions and communicate the work that was done to the Roundtable.
- CWCB and the local experts discussed the big picture topics, such as what the overall schedule looks like for the BIP update, how it relates to the Water Plan, and what are more administrative type things regarding the local expert working with the general contractor. They went through some core duties of the local experts and dug into the details of the near-term priorities. They focused on Population Projections that were part of the Technical Update and how that was related to Municipal water demands, and Agricultural water demands in those calculations and how they went about calculating the Gap. They went over Environmental Recreation database and some upgrades that were done to that. Flow tools were discussed along with the Project Costing tool, and even side boards for the BIP's and why some side boards are in place. The idea was to have a smaller group setting where CWCB and the local experts could dig into the details and allow the freedom to ask questions.
- Brett Gracely (Leonard Rice, chosen local expert) explains the take away information from the workshop background and vision. (**Reference document ABRT BIP Memo01**)
 - Follows 2019 Technical Update to Colorado's Water Plan
 - Five 2050 planning scenarios driven by changes in population, density, economy, energy, climate, technology, ag market, and social values
 - Incorporates better data (e.g. HB 1051 data), available CDSS modeling, new environment and recreation (E&R) evaluation tool
 - BIP Update to recharacterize and update future gaps considering IPPs



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- Will “meet in the middle” with respect to top-down and bottom-up approach; the strategy is to right size that in the middle where top-down approach provides a consistent frame work across the state so that CWCB staff and consultants can roll-up information into the Water Plan update and provide a long-term consistent frame work for state wide planning and funding opportunities. Each Roundtable will have the opportunity to customize their information on the areas that are most important.
- Scoped and budgeted with Implementation Work Group input:
 - Streamline the BIPs and provide statewide consistency
 - Update project needs
 - Improve cost estimates with new costing tool unless better info. is available
 - Help identify and direct funding to implement projects
 - Consider cross-basin collaborative efforts, e.g. forest health
 - Task Order includes: TO-01 Participate in Local Experts (LEs) workshops conducted by CWCB and General Contractor (GC). Conduct initial consultation with Roundtable Leadership.
 - TO-02 Using existing Project List (Master Needs List or IP&Ps), initiate requests for project needs data and coordinate with Basin Roundtables to develop BIP Update Work Plan
 - TO-03 Conduct basin analysis and prepare BIP Update. Coordinate with other Roundtables to incorporate potential collaborative opportunities
- **COVID-19 Financial Implications for the Roundtable:** Mark Shea called on Russell Sands for the financial impacts from the pandemic and how this affects the Roundtables and future funding. The State’s most recent estimate for 2020-2021 is now a \$3.3 Billion deficit. CWCB is committed to following through with the grants that have been completed, but we will need to see in July as to future WSRF Funding; it was expected to be lower, with severance tax revenue down. The April WSRF funding of \$120,000 may be the largest we see for a while. The goal is to keep moving forward. Greg asked about an update on the Sports Gambling Projection. Russ hasn’t seen any hard numbers, but he will follow up with an answer; it will probably not produce much revenue for this year and it will probably be relatively low after that.

Work Session:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting:

- None

Roundtable Business:

- None

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 10, 2020
- Subcommittees – Environmental Recreation Committee – June 29, 2020 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM via GoToMeeting. (A link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.)
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 20 and 21 Virtual Meeting with information to follow.

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Board Meeting at 12:15 PM.