

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

October Meeting Notes

Monday, Oct 25, 2021

10:00am – 12 noon

Zoom

A regular monthly meeting of the Environmental – Recreation Committee of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable convened virtually. The meeting was called to order by Bob Hamel, Ark Basin Envi-Rec Chair.

Attendees:

Roundtable Members: Bob Hamel, (Ark Basin Envi-Rec Chair, AROA), Mark Shea (Ark Basin RT Chair, ARWC) Dwayne McFall (Fremont County)

Agency Liaisons: Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Tom Waters (CPW – Ark Headwaters Rec Area State Park), Misty DeSalvo (USFS)

Non-Roundtable Members: Tyler Benton (CO Springs Utilities), Mannie Colon (Canon City Farmer, Ditch Board Member), Jonathan Paklaian (ARWC), Julie Knudsen (Purgatoire Watershed Partnership), Nancy Johnston (TU), Lucy Harrington (GEI Consultants).

October Meeting Notes:

1. **A warm welcome to Nancy Johnston-Bramlett, Conservation Projects Coordinator for Colorado Trout Unlimited.**
2. **A fond farewell to Misty DeSalvo, our US Forest Service representative for many years.** Misty is moving on to the USFS Lakewood office and we wish her well. Thank you, Misty!
3. **Canon City – Holy Cross Abbey property sold to developers for housing.** Mannie reported this very recent news. It is uncertain if the water rights went with the property. This property is in a floodplain and has had flooding issues in the past. We're likely to learn more as the information develops.
4. **Black Hills Energy proposal to clean up Canon City property to include rafting take-in / take-out site.** The RFP is reported to be out for public review, but I have not been able to find it – if anyone knows, please contact me.
5. **Ark Basin Roundtable updates (Mark):** Draft Ark Basin BIP Volumes 1 and 2 are available [here](#) for review – comments due Nov 15 (make comments through their website). Ark Basin RT Elections: Steve Kastner is the new Consumptive Needs Rep; Al Tucker is the new Recorder. Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Gibbs was recently appointed as Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Director (replacing Russ George). Grant funding – changes are happening to the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) and Colorado Water Plan Grant funding sources. Also, more funds being allocated to the Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO) efforts. Regarding Colorado River Demand Management – Ark Basin is evaluating...what is value of the CO River to the Ark Basin? What about secondary impacts? (for example, less storage and less flows leads to less tourist spending, etc.)

6. **AHRA State Park and Salida update (Tom).** The City of Salida plans to rebuild the whitewater park and is seeking input. Minnequa dam (near Florence, CO) is also getting momentum in terms of infrastructure improvement. AHRA is having winter meetings with rafting outfitters and citizen task force meetings. The Salida East Elephant Rock work will start in November 2021.
7. **ARWC update (Jonathan):** ARWC is looking for a Fuels Mitigation Specialist for the middle Ark Basin Counties (Fremont, Huerfano County area). More info [here](#). The Monarch tree thinning project tour is this Friday, Oct 29, 11:00am (meet at old Monarch Pass).
8. **Upper Ark Watershed Partnership (UAWP) (Buffy):** UAWP is gearing up to meet with Agriculture representatives in the upper basin to discuss water needs, operations, infrastructure improvement needs. The next meeting in October will focus on water source and supply. UAWP is refining a scope of work on stream health assessments which includes Chalk Creek, Cottonwood Creek and the South Arkansas River, and learning more about Fluvial Hazard Zone Mapping. [UAWP is also looking into establishing vegetation standards along riparian areas, and has partnered with groups who are developing vegetation guidelines for homeowners along river banks](#). UAWP is also looking into pre-fire mitigation ideas – where would sediment go?...let's pre-treat and be prepared.
9. **Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Update (Rena):** The Humpback Chub, a Colorado River species was downlisted from endangered to threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service this month. More info [here](#).

Mark your Calendar:

Next Ark Basin Roundtable – Nov 10, 12:30-3:00pm, In person or virtual, please stay tuned for email announcement. (This meeting always held 2nd Wed of the month).

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Monday, Nov 29, 10am – Noon. Zoom. (Always held the last Monday of the month).

See below for more info on the Ark Basin Roundtable Environmental – Recreation Committee.

About us:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – Environmental & Recreation Committee Purpose and Goals

The Environmental - Recreation Committee's purpose

- Ark Basin RT legislative directive...to propose projects or methods, structural and non-structural, to meet environmental and recreational needs.
- Constantly review Basin Implementation Plan, evaluate goals and priorities.
- Consider sustainability values (economic, social, environmental) as we evaluate environmental & recreation issues, projects, and priorities.
- Work with Needs Assessment Committee to advise on environmental and recreation priorities (but do not infringe on Needs Assessment Committee).
- Encourage environmental & recreation groups to come to this committee before approaching Needs Assessment Committee or Roundtable. This committee can aid by providing letters of support of certain projects.
- Outreach and education. Continually strive to bring awareness of past, present, and future envi & rec projects.

Environmental - Recreation Committee structure

- Bob Hamel (AROA), Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Recreation Rep, Chair
- Rena Griggs (CPW) Vice or Co-chair (non-voting RT member).
- Amber Shanklin (Palmer Land Trust) Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Environmental Rep
- Mark Shea (CSU)(ARWC) Ark Basin Roundtable Chair
- Matt Heimrich (Palmer Land Trust / Otero Farmer) and Ark Basin Roundtable Vice Chair

Difference between (Non-Consumptive) Envi-Rec Committee and the Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC)?

- Discussion: ARWC is like the "operating body" or "fiscal agent" of the NC committee...
...whereas the NC committee itself is the group of experts offering advisement on projects and priorities.

Envi-Rec Committee Meeting Goals

- Strive for a purpose for every meeting; provide an agenda prior to each meeting.
- Set a regular schedule - last Monday of every month in Canon City (and occasional other locations).
- Send out a meaningful agenda, ahead of meeting.
- Emphasize all folks are welcome; grow the invite list; invite special guests for specific planned topics.
- For each month's agenda, expect agency updates from USFS, BLM, CPW, and ARWC.