



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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DRAFT Environmental - Recreation Committee

Meeting Summary - Monday, October 28, 2024

10:00 am-11:00am

via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81238782192?pwd=ZVc4VjRacWdST1BwVktTdIAycytXUT09#success>

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

Attendees:

Roundtable Members: Bob Hamel (Recreation Chair); Ricki Garden (Environmental Chair), Mark Shea (Ark Basin RT Chair)

Agency Liaisons: Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region); John Smeins (BLM); Tom Waters (CPW – AHRA State Park), Corrine Servis (CPW – AHRA State Park)

Stakeholders & Guests: Jonathan Paklaian (ARWC), Yates McConnell, Cecilia Timberg (ARWC), Nathan Ward (UAWP), Travis Payne (Canon City Water).

1. Welcome and Introductions – Bob Hamel, Chair
 - a. August 26, 2024 Minutes – Motioned by Jonathan, Seconded by Mark, Minutes approved.
 - b. Public Comments - none.

2. Old/New Business

-ARWC updates (Jonathan):

Minnequa Dam removal update - Minnequa Dam, located near Florence, CO on the Ark River, is the last dam on the upper Ark that does not have fish/recreation passage. It is privately owned (by EVRAZ). Jonathan has met with EVRAZ, and they are in need of maintaining the structure anyway, so are interested in working with partners to rehab the dam. CWCB has

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approved to pursue technical assistance funding – 1st phase would cost \$500-\$600K. A 25% cash match is needed; EVRAZ is willing to cover half of that 25%. Other parties such as AROA, CPW, and surrounding communities might be interested in pitching in.

-Temperature / Turbidity gauge install proposals - there's interest in installing high tech gauges at Parkdale on the Arkansas to help with future turbidity issues in the event of an upstream wildfire and ash / debris flows. A notification alarm on high turbidity would help downstream water operators shut down headgates or protect infrastructure. Update: Funding for this will not happen in 2024, but more likely 2025-26. DWR would not want turbidity on Wellsville gauge, but ok for Parkdale. Travis shared that Canon City would be interested in turbidity down from Chalk Creek as that's a major source of sediment after rain events.

-Interlaken Fire Recovery – a post fire recovery work day was recently attended by 23 folks from USFS, CS-U, GARNA, JW Associates, and others to identify projects for post (or pre) fire work. Mark shared that this is an endeavor combined with the Wildfire Ready Watersheds planning effort – to collect data from the fire to identify locations where treatments are needed and also plan work to prepare for future fires.

River Watch (water quality testing) starting in Lake County – Sam (ARWC) is trained with River Watch now to collect water quality samples and is working with Trout Unlimited in this area. The next place to establish sites is Custer County.

South Arkansas River Restoration from Hwy 107 to confluence with Arkansas – Nathan (UAWP) shared that this project is now going out to bid.

-*New* Proposed “John Griffin Regional Park Reservoir” near Canon City. Travis Payne (Canon City Water Dept) shared a short update. Background: The property is currently owned by the Canon City Rec District and Fremont Sanitation District. The proposed reservoir would be 25 surface acres, 20 ft deep, and 500 AF. The idea is resilience in that Canon city would be able to exchange supplies they currently store in Pueblo Res, and have flexibility to store or make releases for municipal and/or environmental / recreation purposes. This project is in very early stages and grant funds are being sought. They are needing \$150K for the feasibility study. They might seek CWCB funding, due next July. They're looking at Army Corps of Engineers WRDA funding, among other opportunities. They will be meeting soon with Colorado DWR District 12 to discuss the proposal.

-Black Hills property update – A while back, Canon City Council approved a contract to purchase the property. The boating community is interested in this site as a put-in / take-out site for rafting. No updates at this time.



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-CPW updates (Rena)

For this group's awareness...two CWCB grant requests were approved last month for funding: Rena reminded the group about 1) COS Creek North Monument Creek Restoration (\$150K) and 2) Colorado Canal Strategic Water Planning (\$96K). See attached details about these projects which are great examples of Envi/Rec projects receiving funding through CWCB.

Great Plains Reservoirs / John Martin Perm Pool: CPW is looking for how water can be stored in Great Plains Reservoirs to provide habitat/recreation opportunities (near Lamar, owned by Amity Ditch Company) and also looking for source water for the John Martin permanent conservation pool.

Grizzly Dam Rehab (on west slope in Roaring Fork watershed) – water quality update: Rena and Mark provided a quick overview of the Grizzly dam rehab project, in which some sediment was washed downstream earlier this summer causing discolored water to flow to Lincoln Creek (and also impacted Lake Creek in Lake County from flows through the tunnel to the east slope). BMP's have been implemented and the water quality has improved.

-Voluntary Flow Management Program update (Bob & Rena) - Upper Ark Basin reservoirs are full, making for further challenges as we head into winter. BOR plans to move water out of Turquoise Reservoir in winter, making flows higher than usual for that time of year. Brown trout rely on lower winter flows for resting/feeding.

-Ark Basin Roundtable - Master Project List (formerly Individual Projects & Processes List). We briefly discussed this list and how we should be reviewing & checking it regularly. Cecilia (ARWC) is currently reviewing with a goal to have an update in January.

Other Agency Updates - none.

4. Next Meeting Date, January 28, 2025
5. Meeting Adjourned 11:00am.