

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

February Meeting Notes

Monday, Feb 28, 2022

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), Dwayne McFall (Fremont County)

Agency Liaisons: Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Jamie Krezelok (USFS), Carrie Tucker (CPW – Aquatic Biologist, Pueblo).

Non-Roundtable Members: Tyler Benton (CO Springs Utilities), Nancy Johnston (TU), Ryan Bouton (PhD, Canon City), Randy Case (El Paso County Ground Water Quality Committee), Lisa Walters (CO Springs Utilities), Blake Osborn (CSU Water Center), Chris Reichard (Tri-State), Alli Schuch (Fountain District & PEPO), Travis Payne (City of Canon City), Dan Omasta (GOCO), Sammie George (GOCO), Chris Aaby (GOCO), Natalie Allio (Central CO Conservancy, etc.), Carrie Adair (ARWC).

February 28 Envi-Rec Committee Meeting Notes:

1. **GOCO Program and funding opportunities - Dan Omasta, Sammie George and Chris Aaby:** A great overview presentation by [Great Outdoors Colorado](#), their organization, and their grant programs. GOCO uses Colorado Lottery proceeds to award competitive grants to preserve state parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. Most importantly, GOCO has program managers that can help guide applicants with grant applications. Sammie covers the eastern plains, Chris covers the Southern Front Range, and Dan covers North Central. Map and contact information [here](#). GOCO encourages leveraging funding with other organizations on projects.
2. **Fountain Creek Greenway and Flood Control District updates – Alli Schuch:** Alli is currently the Interim Executive Director of the Fountain Creek District, established 2009. The mission of the District is to protect and enhance Fountain Creek watershed. The District has created a Master Plan identifying 100's of environmental restoration and rehab projects. For example, Frost Ranch Bank Stabilization (willow plantings). Interestingly, the SDS project ended up causing more return flows to Fountain Creek. This has prompted a partnership and funding from Co Springs Utilities to further restore the watershed. The District is always looking for funding sources. The District is most famous for "Creek Week" volunteer cleanup effort, which happens in late September – early October. More info at <https://www.fountain-crk.org/>.

3. **PEPO Update:** Alli Schuch is also the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach coordinator. The goal is to find shared values and improve communication about water. Next workgroup meeting is 3rd Wed of the month, 1:30pm. Contact Alli at allischuch@gmail.com if interested in attending. Alli also manages the [Ark Basin Roundtable](#) website and Ark Basin Roundtable Facebook page. PEPO is emphasizing Water Education Colorado's [Water22](#) initiative, check it out.

4. **Zephyr – Dawson Gold Mine – Fremont County, SW of Canon City in the Wet Mountains – update:** A public comment period with Colorado DRMS is open until March 31, 2022. Mine application can be found [here](#).

5. **Canon City – Fremont Sanitation District – Reynolds St Bridge – Bluff area erosion update:** Kyle Horne shared the Sanitation district is the lead on this project and a fix is still planned, but project progress has been slow.

6. **USGS study on wildfires and mining – Carrie Adair shared some web links to interesting studies involving forest wildfires and mining.** <https://www.usgs.gov/news/wildfires-old-mining-areas-pose-risk-water-quality> and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720341577?via%3Dihub>

7. **DeWeese Reservoir Expansion feasibility study status –** Carrie Tucker asked about the status - the word is the feasibility study is ongoing but we have not heard anything from Upper Ark Water Conservancy District on it yet. A good one to keep an eye on. Check [here](#) for more info.

8. **Future Ark Basin Envi-Rec Meetings for 2022:** After some discussion, in an effort to be more efficient with our time and resources, we decided to have our next meetings April 25, June 27, August 29, and October 31 (last Monday of the month). We may call for a special meeting, if needed, to review a proposed project that's applying for Water Supply Reserve Grant funding through the Roundtable.

Mark your Calendar:

Next Ark Basin Roundtable Meeting – March 9, 2022, 12:30-3:00pm, In person, Pueblo Community College Student Center (This meeting always held 2nd Wed of the month).

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Monday, April 25, 10am – Noon. Zoom.

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.