

## Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

### June Meeting Notes

Monday, June 28, 2021

10:00am – 12 noon

via Zoom

A regular 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 RT Recreation Rep, AROA), Mark Shea (Ark Basin RT Chair, ARWC), Dwayne McFall (Fremont County), Carol Ekarius (ARWC)

**Agency Liaisons:** Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), John Smeins (BLM)

**Non-Roundtable Members:** Natalie Alio (UAWP), Kyle Horne (Canon City Rec), Tyler Benton (Co Spgs Utilities), Julie Knudsen (Purgatoire Watershed Partnership), Ryan Bouton (PhD, Canon City), Lucy Harrington (GEI Consultants), Chloe Lewis (Westervelt Consultants), Mannie Colon (Colon Orchards, Canon City).

#### June Meeting Notes:

1. **New Zealand Mud Snails confirmed at Ark River, Badger Creek Confluence – near Rincon campground (Rena).** The CPW Aquatic Nuisance team recently confirmed NZ Mud Snails at this site. (Don't confuse these with Zebra mussels). NZ mud snails overpopulate an area and outcompete native species for food (...but they don't cluster or destroy infrastructure like zebra mussels). [More info on NZ Mud Snails here.](#) CPW's ANS team plans to put up signage to inform the public on proper cleaning of equipment, boots, etc. (Signage was recommended by locals at the BLM access point on upper Badger Creek at County Rd 2. Julie recommended we all incorporate cleaning BMPs in contracts related to river restoration projects. **Carol shared some example BMP language, attached with these minutes.**
2. **Black Hills Energy site update (Canon City):** Mannie Colon shared some info via email on a draft RFP being developed by Black Hills. Please coordinate with Bob Hamel if you have any comments on that email or attachment.
3. **Letter of support for Purgatoire Watershed Partnership – CWCB water plan grant request for further work on Picket Wire diversion (Julie):** Yes, Bob and Mark will work to get a letter of support from the Ark Basin RT for this grant request.
4. **ARWC update (Carol):** Meeting is happening June 29 to discuss prioritization of projects identified for NRD funding, mostly in Lake County. Regarding the Monarch Pass tree removal project, with Hwy 50 construction, they may not get to the 125 acres on the other side of the highway; delay is likely. [Also, ARWC is looking for an Executive Director \(Carol is revising the announcement to include a pay range\). This announcement will have a July deadline.](#)

5. **ARBWF Program Manager Position will be announced soon:** Bob reported that Ark River Basin Water Forum is looking for a program manager to organize the next in-person conference in April 2022. ARBWF held a June 18 tour of the Nestle Plant (now Blue Triton) and rafting – great learning and networking.
6. **VFMP (Bob)** – meeting planned for June 29 to discuss flow strategy for July 1 – Aug 15. The recent rains have helped native flows.
7. **Upper Ark Watershed Partnership (Natalie):** The team is currently working on a riparian health assessment effort and “fluvial opportunity mapping” ..looking for any existing data out there.
8. **BIP update** – Mark showed the most recent updated goals and actions write-ups. Note that a “Watershed Health” header was added (now separate from Envi-Rec goals). Rena also mentioned that fire scar GIS data links were shared with CWCB for possible adding into future mapping tools. The IPP list (project list) is still working on completing attributes related to prioritization. **It was asked...can we still update the IPP list now? (Stream management plans are always evolving...).**
9. **River Restoration Statement – Ark Basin Roundtable:** Briefly discussed Terry Scanga’s effort on developing a Roundtable statement regarding river restoration projects and consideration of water rights– Mark recommended Envi-Rec committee involvement & engagement in this.
10. Bob asked for further updates, and with none heard, motioned to adjourn the meeting.

**Mark your Calendar:**

**Next Ark Basin Roundtable – July 14, 12:30-3:00pm, Zoom.**

**Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Monday, July 26, 10am – Noon. Zoom.**

## 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.