



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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WATER FUTURE

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

February 14, 2018 – Pueblo Community College, Fortino Ballroom B

### Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty four (34) members were present.

### Approval of Minutes of January 2018

*A motion to approve the minutes of January 2018 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

### Public Comment - none

### REPORTS:

#### Executive Committee – Sandy White

- The April meeting will be moved to Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in La Junta, at Otero Junior College.

#### IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

The IBCC next meets February 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack - At the last CWCB meeting, the Bessemer Ditch company was approved for a loan to repair a section of ditch. WSRF grants that had been approved by the Ark Basin RT were approved by the CWCB board.

Because of the expected reduction in Severance Tax funds available, the CWCB board reduced their request in the Projects Bill. The original amount was \$25 mil. That ask has been reduced to \$11 million, to be distributed as follows:

- \$7 mil: Colorado Water Plan grants
- \$2 mil: Watershed Restoration grants
- \$2 mil: Water Supply Reserve Fund

In the current year, \$3 mil remains to be distributed in April. That amount could also be affected.

Ben – The CO Youth Corp has reached out to CWCB to help spread the word about their services. They do projects around the state, partnering to do projects such as tamarisk removal, pre and post-fire mitigation work. They hire youth and train them, providing work and future employment opportunities to them.

In-Stream Flow Annual Conference – The deadline for water rights owners to submit a preliminary offer is April 30<sup>th</sup> for this year. COwatertrust.org is working with CWCB to streamline the process. If you submit a preliminary offer, there is no binding agreement.

SWSI – check the CWCB website for new fact sheets regarding methodologies, etc. The timeframe has been extended. Analysis is expected to be complete in 2018, with a final report in 2019. More information to come on how this will then dovetail with BIP updates.

The next CWCB board meeting will be held March 21 & 22 in Broomfield. Ben will reach out to grant applicants when the schedule has been created.



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The next Water Availability Task Force meeting will be held next Thursday, from 9 – 11 am. The public is welcome to join the web conference. Ben will email the call-in information to Elise, who will distribute to the roundtable.

## Non-Consumptive Committee Report – SeEtta Moss

Nothing to report

## PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt

- Water Fluency Program in Pueblo this summer. Targets policy makers.
- VIP dinner April 10<sup>th</sup>. ARBWF will be held April 11 and 12. [Arbwf.org](http://Arbwf.org) to register.
- The documentary is expected to air on PBS in May. They are scheduling showings of the documentary and will reach out to RT members to set up events.
- Jean showed a trailer of the documentary: The Arkansas River: From Leadville to Lamar

## Needs Assessment Committee – Chelsey Nutter

- Mike Weber will be joining the Needs Assessment Committee as Vice-Chair.
- There is a policy for requesting letters of support. Anyone requesting a letter of support must go through the NAC. Have made a policy to say no to applicants that don't go through the correct process.

## Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea, Lisa Patton

- The ARWC board of directors approved a letter of support for work in an area affected by the Beulah Hills Fire. The project will connect two water districts, increasing their ability to provide water in an emergency.
- Wildfire DSS – critical infrastructure adjacent to federal lands. Will be working on developing GIS data to get this added to the federal system, and will be extending this to the west slope in order to capture water infrastructure used for trans mountain diversions that deliver water to our basin.
- ARWC was approved for two grants from the Watershed Restoration Fund.
  - \$90,000 to the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership to hire a coordinator, establish capacity. Work includes monitoring and a hydrology/hydraulics assessment of work below Trinidad Reservoir to determine status and needs.
  - \$201,500 for Hayden Pass Fire recovery work
  - Funds were not awarded for a Lower Arkansas Valley Selenium Science Plan. A similar app was then submitted under the CO Water Plan Engagement & Innovation grant program.
- Approximately \$500,000 remains in six different grants for post-fire mitigation work. Additional grants in the contracting process total \$544,500.

## Ph II Colorado River Risk Study – Jim, Ben Wade

- Ben – Final findings will be released April 25.
- This will be discussed at a Joint East Slope meeting that is expected to be held in June.

## BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- Arkansas Roundtable Evaluation and Reflection Outreach Strategy
- BIP Coordinator Work Plan for 2018
- Use the documentary, organize feedback opportunities throughout the basin so that we're ready for the BIP to be updated.
- Categories



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- Education and Outreach
- Agriculture
- Non-Consumptive Needs Committee
- Conservation
- Groundwater Depletions
- Implementation
  - Supporting folks in rural areas, helping them get grant projects through
  - Coordinating
  - Mapping that tells stories about our basin

## BREAK

## PROGRAM

This month's presentations were chock-full of information that can't be captured in the meeting notes. Please check out the full presentations at [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### Funding Series: Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Brian Sullivan

Program Overview:

- purpose and goals
- habitat conservation accomplishments
- partnerships
- example projects
- grants and funding opportunities
- how to get involved

### Presentation: Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – Robert Walters, CWP

Mission: To Protect Wildlife, Recreation, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and the Economy by Preventing the Introduction of Zebra & Quagga Mussels, and Other Invasive Species, by Containing Current Infestations and Stopping the Spread into New Waters.

How Are ANS Defined?

- Aquatic Nuisance Species means exotic or nonnative aquatic wildlife or plant species that have been determined by the Commission to pose a significant threat to the aquatic resources or water infrastructure of the state. State A.N.S. Act, SB08-226

What A.N.S. Are We Concerned About?

Animals

- Zebra Mussels
- Quagga Mussels
- New Zealand Mudsnails
- Rusty Crayfish
- Spiny Waterflea
- Fishhook Waterflea

Plants

- African elodea
- Brazilian elodea
- **Eurasian watermilfoil – present in the Arkansas Basin**

General Notes:



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- Native to Europe, Asia and Northern Africa.
- Introduced in the 1940s in eastern USA but possibly as early as the late 1880s.
- A highly invasive aggressive species that colonizes a variety of habitats.
- Forms extremely dense monotypic stands due to its rapid growth rate (1 ft/wk).
- Dense mats crowd out native species, disrupt the food chain and displace wildlife habitat.
- Dense mats disrupt all forms of water-based recreation including boating, swimming and fishing.

## Habitat

- Colonize a variety of systems
  - Rivers, streams, creeks, ditches, canals
  - Lakes, reservoirs, ponds
- Tolerates wide range of water conditions and depths
  - Will grow long in 2 inches of water
  - Will grow tall in 40 feet of water

## Pathway of Spread

- Reproduction
  - Fragmentation
  - Winter Buds
- Giant salvinia
  - Water hyacinth
  - Hydrilla
  - Parrotfeather
  - Yellow floating heart

## January 2017: Pueblo Reservoir was de-listed for Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Also in 2017: Quagga mussels were found in Green Mountain Reservoir

2018 ANS Funding Bill: The Mussel Free Colorado Act HB1008

Decontamination uses hot water. Really infested boats can take more than 100 hours to decontaminate.

## Presentation: Arkansas Basin Water Rights Overview – Bill Tyner

Please see [arkansasbasin.com](http://arkansasbasin.com) for this presentation, as there is abundant data and information captured there.

- Overview of West Region
  - Water District 11, Brian Sutton, Lead Water Commissioner
  - Water District 12, Dan Henrichs, Water Commissioner
  - Water District 13, Jerry Livengood, Water Commissioner
- Overview of North Region
  - Water District 10, Doug Hollister, Lead Water Commissioner
  - Water District 14 & 15, Steve Stratman, Water Commissioner
- Overview of South Region
  - Water District 16 & 18, Doug Brgoch, Lead Water Commissioner
  - Water District 19, Jeff Montoya, Water Commissioner
  - Water District 79, Lenna Rauber, Water Commissioner
- Overview of East Region
  - Water District 17, Lonnie Spady, Lead Water Commissioner
  - Water Districts 66 & 67, Rebecca Nichols, Water Commissioner



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## NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – March 14, 12:30 pm, Pueblo Community College, Ballroom
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPO: [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://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/>