



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

April 10, 2018 – Otero Junior College, La Junta, CO

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty (20) members were present.

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy White

- The May meeting will not be held at Pueblo Community College. Watch for the location change.
- There will be a Front Range Joint Roundtable Meeting on our June 13th meeting date. Stay tuned for more information about how that will affect our regular June meeting.
- April 25th, Grand Junction – Joint West Slope Roundtable Meeting.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

The next IBCC meeting will be held May 2nd in Summit County, at Keystone Conference Center. The letter that is being sent around is a letter by John Stulp, to be sent to statewide political candidates, emphasizing the importance of water and urging their support around water issues.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack – The CWCB met in Broomfield in March. The meeting focused mostly on WSRF and water planning grant requests. All requests moved forward to the May meeting for final approval. The funding shortfall is now affecting higher priority Tier One programs. HB1338 would shore up funding for Tier One programs. It includes a refund of money to the Tier One. Disbursement of the final 3 million in 2017 funds will be delayed at least until July.

SWSI update expected to be completed by July 2019. With the lack of funding, BIP updates may be delayed or changed. Greg Johnson reported that roundtables can expect BIP update guidance from the CWCB by the end of this year.

The next CWCB meeting will be held in Salida on May 24 and 25.

Ben - introduced Brian MacPherson, new CWCB staff member who will be heading up work on the Ark DSS. He also reminded members that the CWCB website has a tab for the SWSI process that includes a lot of information. A joint Water Availability/Flood Task Force webinar meeting will be held next month. RT members can join the call, and an email will be sent with info as to how to join the meeting.

Ben will update us regularly on Drought Task Force and State Drought Plan update efforts. Snow pack is 22% of the norm in several Ark Basin counties this year

A Joint East Slope Roundtable Meeting will be held June 13th. The agenda will include:

- Funding
- CO Risk Study
- SWSI/BIP connection
- SP Storage Study



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- CO River demand management
- IBCC project of statewide significance
- Drought response

Non-Consumptive Subcommittee – SeEtta Moss – see handout

- The committee has been working on a plan for the SE corner of the state, focusing on the most economically distressed counties in the basin, and looking at the intersection of Ag, Environment and Recreation. A project would reach out to stakeholders, align with local and regional efforts, and facilitate a greater impact by bringing roundtable strengths to bear on their efforts.
- The Exec Committee approved Gary going ahead and looking for grant funding for this project.
 - Continue outreach to stakeholders, particularly local and regional efforts focused on economic development issues.
 - Engage state and federal agencies for participation and funding support.
 - Begin drafting a grant application and scope of work for review by the Needs Assessment Committee
 - Establish a regular schedule of Nonconsumptive Needs Committee meetings, encouraging participation by roundtable members from the SE quadrant of the basin.
- Pete Dawson – Walsh is looking for more supply. Water table just keeps going down – 20 inches to 2 feet some years. Drilling deeper won't always work. We've got situations where we're still drilling for new water. Fire mitigation – next year he'll be pushing for more accurate appraisal of expenses of fires. We expend a lot of resources on that. The state is pretty good at sending teams down for big fires, but mid-sized fire expenses are difficult to keep up with. Pushing to have the state sponsor teams for mid-sized fires. Stateline fire started in NM, then moved into Baca County.
- We haven't really looked at big grassland fires. And how to respond.

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt

- The VIP Dinner will be held this evening. Inspiration Field is located at 612 Adams, and bar opens at 5 pm.
- The documentary airs on May 31st, at 8 pm. Would we like to view it at a RT meeting?
- Water fluency class is open for registration at yourwatercolorado.org. Classes will be held in Pueblo and Colorado Springs, May – July.
- CWCB May meeting is in Salida – PEPO will be involved in making that nice for the board.
- PEPO workgroup has an outreach plan for taking the documentary out into the community. There are 12-15 small webisodes as well as the documentary. Dr Ebersole has these available.
- 14 groups have approached them and asked for a viewing. First viewing will be at the Pueblo Library, then at Huerfano Conservancy District.
- PEPO is working with the Fountain Creek Watershed District, improving communications on their website.

Needs Assessment Committee – Chelsey Nutter

- All five of our WSRF grant applications were approved last month at CWCB.
- Basin account stands at 95,000. State at ~ 300,000.
- Please have grant apps in to Chelsey or Mike by June 1st. Call one of them if you have a project and questions. If you want a letter of support, you need to send it through the Needs Assessment process.
- There will be a NAC meeting in June.
- 93 projects have been approved in the Arkansas Basin. 72 are complete.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Carol Ekarius, Lisa Patton

- During the Exec Comm meeting, they discussed the master policies for the watershed collaborative. Finalized language regarding the potential need for policy changes between meetings.
- As of last week, forested areas in the south end of the state are as dry or drier than the same period of time in 2002. Trees are at 6-11% moisture, compared to kiln-dried lumber, which is 6-8% moisture.
- Grants update spreadsheet was presented.
- Letter of support request. The Friends of Twin Lakes, a 502(c)(3), is working to obtain grants to fund the building of a fire station in southern Lake County. Leadville Lake County Fire & Rescue currently has only one station and one engine, and response time from the current station to the southern extent of the county can be 45 minutes or more. 76% of the county is federal/state forest. The group is seeking funds from DOLA for an energy impact grant, as well as other smaller grants.

This request for a letter of support was approved by the Roundtable by consensus.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber (Al Tucker) - see handout

- In addition to the five WSRF grants that were approved, two Colorado Water Plan grants were approved:
 - Ag: Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Arkansas Basin Project Implementation Guide to Watershed Health.
 - Supply/Demand Gap: Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority – El Paso County Groundwater Depletions: Project Implementation Strategies to Meet the Supply & Demand Gap.
- Al went over project status report.

BREAK

PROGRAM

Meeting notes contain only a summary of presentations. Please check out full presentations at www.arkansasbasin.com

PRESENTATION: Colorado River Issues/Conceptual Framework – Brent Newman & Lain Leoniak

- Colorado River Representation
 - Governor
 - Upper Colorado River Commissioner – James Eklund
 - Governor’s Office – John Stulp
 - Attorney General’s Office (Federal and Interstate Water)
 - Division of Water Resources (interstate compact administration) State Engineer’s Office
 - Role of Water Users
- 2007 Interim Guidelines (helps us avoid a call)
 - Sets criteria for shortages in the Lower Basin. In Lake Mead:
 - Below elevation 1075 feet – 333,000 AF
 - Below elevation 1050 feet – 417,000 AF
 - Below elevation 1025 – 500,000 AF
 - Assumes Mexico will provide additional shortage savings
 - Creates mechanism for Lower Basin to bank water = Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS).
 - Extraordinary conservation



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- System efficiency improvements
- Tributary conservation
- Importation of non-system water
- Total allowable ICS account in Mead – 2.1 MAF
- Specifies coordinated operating criteria for Lake Powell and Lake Mead
 - To avoid UB curtailment and reduce impact of LB shortages under low water supplies.
- Interstate Contingency Planning
 - Context for Drought Contingency Planning (DCP)
 - Current Issue: Drought
 - 6 of last 17 years of inflows into Lake Powell were less than 5 million acre-feet.
 - Above-average inflows into Lake Powell have occurred only 5 years since 2000.
 - Drought Contingency Relationships
 - Status of DCPs
 - Upper Basin Contingency Planning
 - Minimum Power Pool
 - Upper Basin DCP-Plan Elements
 - CRSP Reservoir Operations (Navajo, Flaming Gorge, Blue Mes Reservoirs)
 - Demand Management
- Intra-State Planning
 - Current Forums
 - State Outreach Approach
 - Preserve options and opportunities while we seek engagement and input to consider positions going forward.
- Next Steps

Questions/Answers

- Do we have an ICS that isn't subject to equalization? No.
- Compact call vs. overdraft of allocations. If you have a lower state that is overusing, and they continue to overuse, what good does it do for us to have an ICS if they keep over-drafting? This is what we're wrestling with right now.
- 8.8 million acre feet average has been released to lower states since the 2007 interim guidelines.
- We would not be operating from a position of strength if we entered litigation with the Lower Basin. California and Arizona have more money to litigate.
- CO has chosen compromise rather than litigate. We have protection during extreme drought, but during mid-years, it costs us.
- Politically, California could take the issue to congress, and obviously, has more representatives and more clout.
- We want to avoid the federalization of the upper basin. If there was a curtailment, the Secretary of the Interior could come in and administer the Colorado River at the federal level.

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – May 9th, location to be determined
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPO: www.pepoarkbasin.com



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- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- CWCB: <http://cwc.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>