



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

May 9, 2018 – Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo, CO

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Thirty-five (35) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

A motion was duly made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the meeting notes of the March and April meetings.

Public Comment – none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy White

- There will be a Front Range Joint Roundtable Meeting on our June 13th meeting date.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

- The IBCC met in Keystone.
- Discussed future funding and issues that would need to be settled.
 - Who gets to administer the funds?
 - How would the revenue sources be used? Storage? Upgrading infrastructure?
 - Concluded that answers to these questions are needed before going to the public for support.
- Basin Implementation Plan update discussion – Needed to enhance consistency, add value to the BIP, enhance metrics, and to use the BIPs to inform the public about future funding requirements.
- Discussion on west slope caucus. Discussed conceptual framework and whether it is applicable if there aren't any proposed projects.
 - South Platte Storage Project – it was determined that this is the only project of a size for which the framework would be applicable.

September 26, next meeting.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack Goble

- The CWCB has not met since our last meeting
- Thanked Jean Van Pelt and other hosts of the forum
- HB1338
 - HB1338 addresses the Severance Tax shortfall and will be used for Tier 1 programs only. As a Tier 2 program, the WSRF will not see additional funds from this legislation.
 - Remaining 2017 Severance Tax dollars, including \$1.5 million in WSRF funds, are being refunded to be used for Tier 1 programs.
 - \$1.5 million remains to be distributed in July 2018, plus another \$2 million to be distributed between January and April.
 - Phase II Risk Study results have been presented, although there is not yet a final report. There has been discussion about a Phase III.



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May 23 and 24, next CWCB meeting in Salida. Thanks to UARWCD for hosting and reception the evening prior.

Ben Wade

- The Governor has activated the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.
- Compiling a list of state resources available.
- Asked for patience with grant contracting process.
- Projects Bill has passed through the house and senate.

Non-Consumptive Subcommittee – SeEtta Moss

- Next meeting May 21st, 10-12, Canon City
- Priority Projects from the BIP
 - Lake Isabel – Pueblo & Custer Counties (USFS)
 - Issue: Lake levels have been low due to limited water rights.
 - Status: finalizing water lease now
 - Augmentation plan to be filed in fall.
 - High priority for dipping for wildfire fighting.
 - Grape Creek Wilderness Study Area – Custer County (BLM)
 - Issue: Balancing irrigation needs and environmental flow needs. Inadequate flows for fishery at critical times.
 - Conclusion was that more storage would be needed in Deweese Reservoir in order to meet flow needs.
 - Status: Engineering studies were performed. Still in negotiations.
 - Chilibi Ditch – Las Animas County (PRWCD)
 - Issue: Ditch seepage and erosion in some sections
 - Status: 650 feet of new pipe installed in May 2017.
 - Next goal: New diversion dam, perhaps with a fish ladder
 - Ark Basin Wetland Mapping Updates (Colorado Natural Heritage Program)
 - Issue: Ark Basin wetland inventories need updating
 - Example: John Martin Wetland mapping updated in 2013.

PEPO/ARBWF – Chelsey Nutter for Jean

- Documentary outreach plan
 - PBS, May 31, 8 pm
 - Huerfano County, May 15, 5:30 at ambulance barn
 - UARWCD: June 1 Canon City, June 20 Westcliffe, July 18 in Salida
 - List of other interested parties.
- Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District is hosting a reception the evening before the CWCB meeting.

Needs Assessment Committee – Chelsey Nutter

- 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, possibly in the 3rd week of June.
- Basin Fund: \$95,000; Statewide Fund: \$305,000
- WSRF & CWP Projects Breakdown by County & CWP Categories
 - Chelsey presented statistics regarding existing projects, showing –



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- Funding and number of projects by category
- Number of projects by county
- Basin-wide projects by category (Ag, Education BIP, Storage, Watershed Health Env & Rec)
- Different areas funding by category
- Next iteration will have additional committee members look at categories and types

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Carol Ekarius, Lisa Patton

- Homestake Diversion Project – Funding includes \$700k in Colorado Water Plan dollars and \$500k from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This project includes a fish passage and boat chute, and you've seen presentations regarding the project before. Currently preparing to go through the 404 and 1041 permitting processes.
- Updates were given regarding current projects
- Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory
 - Issued by USFS for Southeastern Colorado, because above normal rainfall in 2017 produced an abundance of fine fuel loading, which is now drier than normal.
 - Result can produce fast fire growth and intensity.
- Introduced Brittany Herzberg, intern employed to do basin-wide story mapping.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- Measurable Objectives – updating project database
 - Assumes a six year cycle
 - Update project database
 - Refine status terms if needed
 - Story Map (ARWC)
 - Chronical Success Stories

BREAK

PROGRAM

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

PRESENTATION: DROUGHT – Tony Anderson, National Weather Service

- Current Conditions
- How do conditions compare to other years? 2018 looks more like 2002 than 2012 or 2013 at this time.
- As of May 1, the Upper Arkansas basin is at 73% of normal, while the Lower Arkansas basin is at 0 – 6% of normal snowpack and streamflow.
- Long range outlooks from the NWS Climate Prediction Center

DOCUMENTARY: The Arkansas River – from Leadville to Lamar

Link: <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-arkansas-river-from-leadville-to-lamar-1ntf5a/>

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – July 11, Pueblo Community College



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