



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 2018 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

Roundtable Business

Sandy White called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-eight (28) 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 September meeting.

Public Comment – none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sandy White

- Nothing to report that won't be covered in other parts of the meeting.
- Meeting Frequency – Mark Shea
 - Quite a few other roundtables do not meet monthly, but every other month.
 - Some have sub-committee meetings between those regular roundtable meetings. Our committees include: PEPO, ARWC, Environment/Recreation, Needs Assessment.
 - Discussion included – opposition due to the education opportunity we have through the monthly scheduled. Opposition due to the interplay of ideas and discussion. Support due to the concentrated work being done by a few on the various committees. Opposition due to not wanting to lose relevance. Opposition due to being able to report to back to the communities that roundtable members represent. This idea died by consensus.
 - Roundtable members are encouraged to attend committee meetings. The work by these committees is important, and more roundtable support of these committees is needed, so that the basin is fully represented, and the work is not just being done by a few.

IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

- The IBCC will meet next on October 18th in Durango.
- Major topic will be funding sources. The IBCC, the Keystone Group, and the Cattlemen's Association have all come out with documents. Categories for funding are as follows:
 1. Healthy Rivers
 2. Water Quality
 3. Conservation and Efficiency
 4. Sustainable Agriculture
 5. Infrastructure – tied to the Conceptual Framework
 6. Colorado Compact Compliance (added by Keystone group)
- Mark Shea put together comments regarding the IBCC document, based on last month's meeting discussion. These comments have been emailed to roundtable members for discussion today.
 - Jeris Danielson proposes to take the last bullet out – located at the top of the second page. He believes that funding would need to be administered by a new agency, similar to GOCO.



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- The Metro and South Platte Roundtables are very interested in supporting this document or borrow from these comments to echo our comments.
- Terry Scanga mentions that WSRA is mentioned in the 21st Century Act that created the roundtable process. If the funding is separated into two separate baskets, he is concerned that there could be problems coordinating between a new allocation entity and the CWCB WSRA funding.
- Mike Fink comment on water quality – is it too far from our mission?
- Per Ben Wade – all of these comments will be discussed at the IBCC meeting next week.
- Greg Felt commented on water quality. CDPHE isn't contributing funds to the Arkansas Valley Conduit. How can we keep water quality in there, while avoiding the regulatory component?
- The IBCC meeting is next week, on the 18th. We should finalize comments so that we can contribute to that meeting.
- Sandy asked that Mark, Mike and Greg form a sub-committee to finalize the comments so that Jeris and Terry can take them to the IBCC meeting.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack Goble

- CWCB met in September in Steamboat Springs. 14 grant applications were approved, including four from our basin.
- Colorado River drought contingency planning (DCP) was a main topic of discussion. All of the CO River Basin states have been working on this, and the Upper and Lower Basin States have each come up with their own DCP. Upper Basin states have their own DCP, which focuses on water levels in Powell and Mead. It includes storage components and potential demand management programs. The Lower Basin DCP includes additional water to Lake Mead storage, and voluntary conservation efforts. Both plans would require federal legislation, because they would change the Colorado River compact. A new storage account in Lake Powell could help, if it were not subject to equalization and would only be used to meet compact obligations. This would be our insurance bucket. Contributions should be proportionate between east and west slope. Board took public comment. CWCB has directed staff to draft a policy statement on the process that a demand management program will follow – to be presented to the board in November. Email comments to Brent Newman. Brent.newman@state.co.us. A webinar was held yesterday, where James Eklund, as Colorado Rep to the Compact, gave an update to interested parties. The webinar was recorded and can be found on the CWCB website.

Ben Wade

- Survey input for website – 90+ responses, with good representation from the Ark Basin. Funding, projects, storage, water conservation, ag. Almost half are willing to attend a technical webinar.

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel

- The meeting will be held monthly, on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be on October 20, at 10 am, at the BLM office in Canon City.
- We are looking for folks to come and advocate for projects, participation. There are worthy projects that need a sponsor. Gary will talk about this in his presentation.
- Rena Brand reported on last month's meeting:
 - US Forest Service gave an update on issues, the largest being the Lake Isabel augmentation plan that just went out on substitute water supply plan notice. They also updated the group on watershed improvements, restoration projects and slash pile burns.



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- Central Colorado Conservancy District - Discussed planned wetland restoration in Lake and Chaffee Counties, as well as the Badger Creek restoration project.
- Ark Headwaters Rec Area in need of some riverbank protection projects between Parkdale and Granite.
- The committee will now be called the Environment/Recreation Committee.

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt

- Next year's Forum will be here at Pueblo Community College, on April 14 and 15. If you're interested in being on the planning committee, they are looking for people.
- Education to Action Plan Funding
 - Metro and South Platte roundtables are interested in how we've done it.
- Arkansas River: Leadville to Lamar continues to have successful showings, with these being held recently:
 - September 26 at Centennial Hall in Colorado Springs
 - September 27 at the Tabor Opera House in Leadville
 - October 19 at the Trout Unlimited annual fall meeting in Salida
 - FFA in Rocky Ford yesterday – 45
 - Farm Bureau annual meeting.
 - Will also be bringing the documentary into schools. Amber is a former teacher and is developing a curriculum to use the documentary as a learning tool. Grades 6-12.
- Surplus of funding – CO Water Plan grant. When does that plan expire?

Needs Assessment Committee – Mike Weber, Chelsey Nutter

- Four grants were approved at the September CWCB meeting.
- Basin account stands at ~400k. Statewide has ~842k.
- Next round of funding will begin in December. Grant applications are due to the Needs Assessment Committee (Chelsey) by December 1. This includes anyone who wants a letter of support from the roundtable. A Needs Assessment meeting will be held in the first two weeks of December, applications will then come before the roundtable in January. They'll go to the CWCB by February 1 for approval at the March CWCB meeting. Info is on our website, along with lots of guidance.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea

- A statewide forest health advocacy group is being formed, called the Forest Health Alliance. Mark has concern regarding this proposal as it doesn't have a front range seat.
- Spring Creek Fire – ARWC is assisting Huerfano county. Emergency funds from NRCS are coming.
- Carol was approached by Chaffee County folks, who are looking to bring a tax measure to support watershed health issues. They asked whether ARWC could provide support or assistance. The ARWC board of directors agreed that ARWC should not take positions on ballot issues.

Colorado River Risk Study – Phase III – Ben Wade

- Scope of Work has been shared with CWCB. That work is just beginning. This is an independent effort of west slope roundtables.

BIP Coordinator – Gary Barber

- Groundwater Depletions in El Paso County: Project Implementation
 - Uses the new El Paso County Water Master Plan



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- Oil Creek Ditch Diversion Dam
 - One of 4 diversion dams studied by Ark Headwaters Recreation Area in 2007

BREAK

ELECTIONS

- This month is our annual meeting, with election of officers. We have vacancies for most positions. Self-nominations were accepted until October 1st to Elise and/or Sandy.
- CANDIDATES:

○ Chair	Mark Shea
○ Vice-Chair, Consumptive Use	Mike Weber
○ Vice-Chair, Non-Consumptive Use	Bob Hamel
○ Recorder	Al Tucker
○ IBCC	Terry Scanga
○ IBCC Alternate	Tim Canterbury
○ Environmental Rep	Amber Shanklin, Palmer Land Trust Reed Dils, Trout Unlimited

A motion was made to accept the slate of the first six candidates. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Reed Dils and Amber Shanklin each spoke for a few minutes about their qualifications and desire to serve as the Environmental Rep to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. A written ballot was distributed, and Amber Shanklin won the election.

Sandy thanked roundtable members for his last three years of service.

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – November 14, Pueblo Community College
- Arkansas Basin Roundtable: www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPO: 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/>