



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE MEETING NOTES

January 9, 2019 – Otero Junior College, La Junta, CO

www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-five (25) members were present.

Approval of minutes of prior meeting

The meeting notes of the November meeting were approved by consensus.

Public Comment – none

REPORTS:

IBCC Report –Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

- The next meeting will be held on February 28th in Denver.
- The Arkansas Basin Roundtable submitted comments, and the final version of the funding documents appeared much better than prior versions.

CWCB Report – Jack Goble, Ben Wade

Jack Goble

- The CWCB met last in mid-November in Golden. One of the main topics was a Policy Statement supporting the Drought Contingency Plan for the upper basin states.
- The Upper Basin states have approved their Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). We are still waiting on the DCP for the Lower Basin states.
- The Department of the Interior states that they will take action after the end of January if the lower states don't finalize their plan. The BOR has the ability to deny water to the lower basin states as leverage.
- The next round of grant applications are due to CWCB by February 1st, for approval at the April CWCB meeting.

WSRF Fund Summary

- Total funds received since inception (2006) = \$92,194,631.
 - State Account: \$61,060,080 66%
 - Basin Accounts: \$31,134,555 34% (\$3,459,395 to each basin roundtable)
- Presentation showed graphics demonstrating the use of funds over time.

Ben Wade

- CWCB Board Meeting: January 28 – 29, Westminster, The Westin
- Colorado Water Congress: January 30 – February 1, Westminster, The Westin
- IBCC Meeting: February 28, TBD
- 2019 Projects Bill is coming up:
 - Proposed FY19/20
 - \$2.5M WSRF Supplemental Funding
 - \$4M CO Watershed Restoration Program
 - \$1M Ag Transfer Methods grants
 - \$1M Ag Projects WP Grants



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- \$1M Conservation & Land Use Planning WPGGrants
- 1.5M Environment/Recreation WPGGrants
- .5M Innovation/Outreach WPGGrants
- 3M Storage & Supply Gap WPGGrants
- 5.5M Water Plan Updating Efforts
- Total of \$20 mil
- Water Supply Reserve Fund Balance prior to Jan 1: \$104,221
 - \$40,000 transferred into basin accounts on January 1st
 - \$640,000 transferred into the state account on January 1st
- SWSI implementation workgroup – volunteers.
 - Kickoff call was December 18th
 - First call January 30
 - List of volunteers and all materials under “Implementation” tab on Colorado.gov/cowaterplan

Environment/Recreation Committee – Bob Hamel

- The meeting will be held monthly, on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be on January 28, at 10 am, at the BLM office in Canon City, unless the federal government shut-down affects the meeting place.
- Didn't meet in December.
- 2019 priorities – high level and objectives of the committee over the course of the year.
 - Monarch steep mitigation
 - Oil Creek Ditch/Canon City
 - Hayden post-fire
- Mark Shea – Pueblo Reservoir funding by stakeholders for boat inspections

PEPO/ARBWF – Jean Van Pelt, Amber Weber

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum

- Next year's Forum will be held at the Pueblo Convention Center, on April 23-25. The planning committee is seeking volunteers for planning and for financial sponsors.
- VIP dinner is April 23rd.
- Don Ament will be a keynote speaker. Percolation/runoff event will be held at the Union Depot. Agenda is being developed.

PEPO – Amber Weber

- Jean and Amber will attend the Statewide PEPO Workshop in Westminster on January 30th.
- State Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) – We will participate in this coalition, which is made up of approximately 30 water education experts.
- Have been working on website revisions.
- Documentary webisodes have been chosen and posted to the PEPO website

Needs Assessment Committee – Mike Weber, Chelsey Nutter

- Today we will hear five grants – 2 for approval, 3 for letters of support.
- A Needs Assessment committee meeting was held on December 6th.

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Mark Shea, Carol Ekarius

Mark Shea



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- ARWC Coordinator Position has been empty for quite some time. Established a committee in November.

Mike Weber

- Committee meeting notes and feedback – December 21
- What is the path of ARWC?
- Mike drafted a memo to the Board of Directors of ARWC
- Jan 7 ARWC conference call
 - Result: a recommendation of a path forward for the committee. Use 2015 document to start.
 - Need a sustainable supply of funding.
- ARWC Current projects
 - Tennessee Creek Forest Health & Fuel Mitigation
 - Cucharas Watershed Protection Projects
 - Purgatoire Watershed Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration
 - Junkins, Beulah, and Hayden post-fire
- ARWC limitations
 - Inability to dedicate a full time staff to the job from Coalitions and Collaboratives
 - Inability to be in all reaches of the basin
 - Long term sustainability
- Path Forward/Next Steps
 - ARWC will operate as a watershed health collaborative with the direction of the ARWC board of directors
 - Update the 2015 ARWC Coordinator job description
 - Find a path forward for sustainability of the new coordinator
- Terry: suggests the RT seek annual funding from each of the county/muni/conservancy districts in the amount of \$2,000 - \$5,000 each per year. This would fund a dedicated person to write grants and manage projects. Base funding under a long-term commitment. Find the right person who can coordinate all these projects. There are entities out there that have no capacity to put together and manage projects themselves. Let's put out a feeler letter, go talk to these folks, explore interest.
- Carol would have oversight of the position, under the direction of the BOD.
- Job description by February's meeting. Will post the position after approval. Then work on sustainable funding towards the end of the year for 2020 and forward.
- To supplement grant funding with operations funding.
- 2019 Executive Committee
 - Mark Shea – Chair
 - Vice-Chairs: Chelsey Nutter and Mike Weber
 - Co-Secretaries: Chelsey Nutter and Mike Weber
 - Treasurer: Al Tucker

PROGRAM - Please check out full presentations at www.arkansasbasin.com.

WSRF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Catlin Canal – Water Delivery & Accounting Feasibility Study – Amber Weber

Basin Request	\$ 3,000
Statewide Request	\$30,000
Matching Funds	<u>\$16,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$49,000



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Roundtable feedback included changing the spread of matching funds, and sharing information gathered with other canal companies in the region.

This application moved forward by consensus.

Huerfano – Cucharas Collaborative Storage Geotech Phase II – Al Tucker

Basin Request	\$ 3,500
Statewide Request	\$35,000
Matching Funds	<u>\$18,200</u>
Total Project Cost	\$56,700

This application moved forward by consensus.

CWP LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUESTS

Huerfano – Bruce Canyon and Maria Stevens Reservoir Design

\$32,000 50/50 Match (+ 5% for grant management)

30% Design of Bruce Canyon and Maria Stevens Reservoir Enlargement

This letter of support moved forward by consensus.

ARWC – Hydraulic Ditch and Arkansas River Restoration Plan

ARWC is postponing this project until the next round of funding.

Envision Chaffee County – Recreation in Balance Sediment Control – Central Colorado Conservancy – Greg Felt

CWP Grant	\$49,853
In-Kind	\$15,000
Total Project Cost	\$64,853

Roundtable feedback included direction to study effects of sediment on ditches and water rights holders.

This letter of support moved forward by consensus contingent on potentially adding another element of looking at impacts of sediment on water delivery systems in place.

OTHER MATTERS:

A new DNR executive director has been named: Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner. Colorado Water Congress is later this month. See you there.

NEXT STEPS/LINKS

- Next Meeting – February 13th, 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/>