

# **ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE**

## **ARWC Workshop**

Website: [www.arkansasbsin.com](http://www.arkansasbsin.com)

Email: [arkbasinrt@gmail.com](mailto:arkbasinrt@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**  
**Pueblo Community College**

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Box Lunches** will be available at

12:00 for RSVP'd members

12:20 for others

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<b>12:30-12:40</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Mark Shea [10 min]</b> Introductions
<b>12:40 – 1:30</b>	<b>Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Strategic Plan</b>
<b>1:30 – 1:45</b>	<b>Break [15 min]</b>
<b>1:45 – 3:30</b>	<b>Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Strategic Plan</b>
	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – March 11, 2020**

Subcommittees

- Enviro/Rec Comm. – February 24, 2020, Canon City BLM Office
- Ark Basin Water Forum – April 23-24, Salida, CO (registration is open)



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## ARWC WORKSHOP - MEETING NOTES

February 12, 2020 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO

More information and presentations may be found at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. Members and visitors introduced themselves. Twenty-three (23) members were present.

Mark Shea thanked Jack Goble for his service as CWCB board member. Jack has decided to step down. Greg Felt has been appointed to fill that seat. This will open up the Chaffee County seat.

### Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Strategic Plan – Chelsey Nutter (see annual report)

Our Mission

“To serve Arkansas River Basin Communities by addressing locally identified watershed issues for economic, ecological, and social benefit.”

Our Work

- Forest Health/Wildfire Mitigation
- Post-Fire/Flood Recovery
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Collaborative Development

Chelsey discussed work that was accomplished in 2019, and the growth of ARWC during this time.

ARWC Grants 2018 – 2020

- Total of \$3,402,801 in grant and cash matches procured
- Funds used to-date: \$843,172

2020 & Beyond

- Expand cut-to-length treatments on steep slopes around major reservoirs.
- Increase acres treated by expanding partnerships and leveraging funding on private, state, and federal lands.
- Execute recovery projects on all post-fire landscapes to reduce the risk of catastrophic post-fire flooding.
- Position ourselves as the Basin’s go-to organization for wildfire mitigation, post-fire recovery, and multi-purposed/multi-agency project development & implementation.
- Increase partnerships and explore new funding options to create a sustainable future for ARWC.

Needs:

- Your input as to projects and direction.
- Strategic planning around long-term funding of ARWC.

Mark Shea discussed the concept of an ARWC membership structure (three tiers) that would support ARWC operations so that it may continue to seek grants and develop projects. Roundtable discussion and feedback included the following thoughts:



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- Pre and post-fire and flood mitigation has dominated ARWC resources thus far.
- All of our built water infrastructure is predicated on a healthy forest as a background condition. Whether you're above or below Pueblo Reservoir, you benefit from fire and flood mitigation efforts.
- Chaffee County - In fall 2018 ¼ % sales tax (1mil/year) was voted to healthy future for ag, and forest health and fire mitigation. 25% of that is going to forest health - \$250-650k per year. Watershed health, fire and flood is still an emerging crisis.
- Education and outreach is important. When people can connect the dots, they understand the value.
- LAVWCD supported the founding of ARWC and the beginning projects. Issues are water quality down there.
- A presence in the Lower Valley would be helpful.
- As we get beyond immediate project needs, we'll be able to focus more throughout the watershed.
- If you take on too much, everything could implode. So far, ARWC has been reactionary, out of need, because of fire and flood.
- As you grow sustainably, you'll be able to spread into the entire basin.
- Palmer Land Trust would be happy to support an organization like this.
- This RT is the face for ARWC, so when we're talking about ARWC having a presence, this Roundtable is the presence of ARWC. The Board of Directors are the roundtable.
- It's important not to bite off more than we can chew and grow sustainably.
- Enviro/Rec committee would also welcome projects throughout the basin.
- We need project proponents in order to make projects.
- Here is how ARWC has assisted Huerfano County. They are hired as consultants to a local project proponent. The local proponent identifies the project and goes after funding. ARWC assists with developing the grant funding, but the local org is the instigator. We've found that ARWC is cheap, because they are a non-profit.
- Chelsey will bring a budget for the next year to the forum. Funding right now is only coming from grants.
- Does CWCB have funding for capacity building for ARWC?
- Any grants do not get us to long-term funding for ARWC's long-term future. Funding ARWC is about more than just what ARWC projects are happening right now.

**New website: [arkcollaborative.org](http://arkcollaborative.org)**

## **Strategic Planning – Review of the original strategic plan.**

Discusses the origin of ARWC, the mission statement, the vision statement, values and strategic imperatives and direction.

After discussion of specific sections of the strategic plan, Chelsey was encouraged to come up with a new draft for consideration. Feedback included:

- Some basics, such as the definition of watershed health in the original plan should be updated.
- Stakeholders and Partners could be added as an appendix.
- Clarify the structure of the board and membership of ARWC.
- Roles for ARWC: Add project management. Put funding first. Could add "becoming the go-to organization for these projects."
- ARWC is not a project identifier. ARWC is part of the solution. We have to identify our own projects. Perhaps ARWC can recommend funding sources. Perhaps they can help with the scope of work.
- Consider adding a Long-Term Vision, but focus on the short-term, the next 3-5 years.



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- Avoid putting really specific things into the strategic plan. You may have to shift the plan annually for the first several years.
- Science Plan. Story map will be updated. Will provide data mapping and a hub for resources.

Other Matters:

IBCC March 4-5, Denver West.

March 12 Demand Mgmt workshop on monitoring in Salida

Feb 24 next enviro/rec meeting

Water Forum April 23-24 in Salida

**Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM**

## **MEETINGS/LINKS:**

- Next Meeting – March 11 , Pueblo Community College
- Env/Rec Committee meets the last Monday of each month, 10 am, Canon City BLM office
- 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/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>

# ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Agenda

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**Start Time: 10:30 am**

**Pueblo Community College**

**320 Central Main St., Pueblo, CO 81003**

Greetings and necessary introductions

Minutes/Notes of the previous meeting

ARWC Board Meeting

- Chelsey Nutter
- Annual Meeting
- Strategic Plan

Reoccurring matters:

- Chair Comments – Mark Shea
- Other Outstanding Reports – Any executive member

New Business

- ABRT BIP Update/Local Expert
  - Follow Up from RFQ

Work Session

- None

Old Business

- None

Needs Assessment Meeting

- None

Roundtable Business:

- Today's Roundtable Agenda - review and revise as necessary

Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – March 11, 2020
- Subcommittees
  - Enviro/Rec Comm. – February 24, 2020, Canon City BLM Office
- Ark Basin Water Forum – April 23-24, Salida, CO (registration is open)

### **Adjourn to lunch**

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Committee membership: Mark Shea (Ch), Bob Hamel (VCh-NonC), Mike Weber (VCh-Cons), Mike Fink (Rec), Sandy White (Past-Ch), Jack Goble (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Amber Shanklin (Environmental), Abby Ortega (Needs Assessment), Amber Weber (PEPO), Paul Fanning (Legislative Rep)

Additional distribution: Ben Wade (CWCB staff), Chelsey Nutter (ARWC Coord.), Elise Bergsten (Secretary).



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## Executive Committee Meeting Notes

February 12, 2020 – Pueblo Community College, Pueblo

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### **Executive Committee Present:**

Mark Shea – Chair; Sandy White – Vice Chair for Executive Committee Member; Bob Hamel – Vice-Chair Enviro/Rec; Mike Fink – Secretary; Ben Wade – CWCB; Chelsey Nutter – ARWC; Abby Ortega – Needs assessment Committee; Paul Fanning – Legislative Appointee; Greg Felt, Brett Gracely, Jeris Danielsen, Rego Omergic, Sarah Mudge – Executive Committee Member.

### **Guests Present:**

Al Tucker, Greg Johnson & Russ Sands – CWCB; Terry Scanga – IBCC.

### **Call to order:**

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Greeting and introductions were performed

### **Minutes:**

Consensus approval of the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes.

### **ARWC Board Meeting – Chelsey Nutter**

- Projects:
  - Lake County
  - Monarch Pass
  - Post-Fire Recovery Projects: Hayden Pass Fire, Decker Fire, Spring Creek Fire.
- CWCB board approved the grant at the September. 2018 Board Meeting. Fiscal agent, ARBWF received a notice to proceed in October is 18.92% complete.
- CWCB Grant program was approved November. 2018. ARBC received a CWCB purchase order on December 27th, 2018 Grant is 53.96% complete.
- Water Quality & Quantity - Data Info Library, housed in the ARWC Web Site.
- Collaborative Development - ARWC can't be all things to all people, but ARWC can develop plans and helping locals form a water advisory council. It's not in the Report, but supporting the BIP Update will be a concentration
- Chelsey indicated that future planning includes a look ahead to 2020 & beyond. The plan was always that the support of CoCo was necessary, with the idea that ARWC will move out on its own sometime.
- Chelsey mentioned that cash flow is a concern and the planning to create a substantial reserve is necessary. This is not needed to pay everything, but to have sufficient continuing funds. She is looking to go to the Utilities, the Conservancy Districts, and the Counties to create this type of reserve and operating funds to leverage the grants and in-kind services.



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## Chair Comments – Mark Shea:

- This is the ARWC Annual Meeting and elections for three seats for 2020, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary Treasurer, is part of the business of the Annual Meeting.
- Mark Shea was re-elected for Chair.
- Mark Shea appointed Sarah Mudge as an Executive Committee Member and therefore as an ARWC Board Member. Sandy White moved to appoint Sarah as the Vice-Chair, Terry Scanga seconded it and she was elected by acclamation.
- Mark Shea will reach out to Mike Weber and confirm if he wants to take the Secretary Treasurer position. (Mike Weber was absent and excused.)

## Other Reports:

- Jeris Danielsen indicated that IBCC will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to go over the topic of Demand Management. There is not an hour-by-hour agenda developed yet, but it will be released by February 21<sup>st</sup> 2020.
- The CWCB Staff was concerned as the old BIP development process and that this new BIP Update was to be different.
- The CWCB heard from the Basin Roundtables that the first BIP was a really big lift for volunteer RoundTable Boards and the CWCB went to a obtain different and enhanced financial support.
- Russ mentions that he feels that CWCB Staff is responding to the Roundtable Feedback. The budget was never planned to get to these down and dirty level. It is meant to be a guide to what the Roundtable wants the BIP to look like. Russ said that the CWCB Staff is looking at how to help by adding value.
- Mark Shea indicated that the RFQ is posted until February 28<sup>th</sup> and Mark was in contact with Matt, from the Lead Contractor about responding to some of the questions that have been posed by prospective responders to the RFQ.

## Work Session:

- None

## Old Business:

- None

## Needs Assessment Meeting:

- None

## Roundtable Business:

- None

## Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Enviro-Rec Committee Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 at BLKM Offices in Canon City at 10:00 AM
- Arkansas Basin Water Forum April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Salida
- IBCC Meeting - March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in Denver

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Board Meeting at 12:15pm