

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

Meeting Summary

Monday, Nov 25, 2019**

(**always the last Monday of the month unless otherwise noted)

10:00am – Noon, BLM Office, 3028 E. Main, Canon City

Environmental & Recreation Committee Purpose and Goals: (see end of document).

Nov 25, 2019 Attendees: Bob Hamel, (Envi-Rec Chair for Ark Basin RT & Ark River Outfitters Assoc), Chelsea Nutter (Ark River Watershed Collaborative Exec Director), Rena Brand (CO Parks & Wildlife – Water Specialist – SE Region), Amber Shanklin (Ark Basin Envi At-Large Rep & Palmer Land Trust), Lisa Walters (Co Springs Utilities Watershed Planning), Tyler Benton (Co Springs Utilities), John Smeins (BLM), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Buffy Lenth (Central CO Conservancy), Julie Knudsen (Purgatoire Water Partnership), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Kyle Horne (Canon City Recreation), Mannie Colon (Mannie).
By Phone: Rob White (Ark Headwaters Rec Area, Co Parks & Wildlife), Dan Omasta (TU), Mike Weber (LAVWCD, Vice Chair Ark Basin RT), Amber Weber (PEPO), Nicole Seltzer (River Network)

November Topics & Summary:

Canon City Arkansas River Corridor (Oil Creek Diversion, Other diversions, etc.)

Key points :

- Bob had a site visit of the “South Side” property on Nov 18. Site is “big enough” for a rafting take-out point (but parking might be tricky). Question to find out...would this site be economical compared to Pink House?
- Canon City – City Council Meeting (Vision Committee) on Dec 11 at 6pm to report on cleanup of Black Hills site.

Basin Implementation Plan – Individual Proposed Project test run of new ranking method for updated Colorado Water Plan / Technical Update.

- Amber S. put the new draft excel form on the big screen and together, we put an example project that we all know well (Grape Creek & DeWeese Dye Reservoir enhancements) through the draft ranking criteria.
- First, discussed background & history of why we’re doing this.
- Had thoughtful discussion about each of the criteria factors. Admittedly, we made assumptions, but felt they were reasonable.
- Grape Creek & DeWeese Dye project came out as a “Tier 1” (high priority) ranking, which was expected and thought to be reasonable. We noticed how various criteria were weighted.
- We discussed “phased projects” and how they might apply to these criteria.
- We wondered how “Fire & Prevention Activities” might work with these criteria factors.
- We wondered how “Wetland Restorations” might work with these criteria factors.
- We acknowledged that some projects are “slow” (big cost, many years, many phases) or “fast” (small projects, low cost, fewer stakeholders) and wondered whether a basin would be wise to request grant funding for a good mix of “slow” & “fast” projects in a given funding cycle.

Decker Fire (Salida 2019) and WQ effects to Ark River at Bear Creek confluence above Wellsville

-Lisa Walters asked about any WQ studies being performed and whether agencies can partner up to monitor. Chelsea will put Lisa in touch with Luke Javernick of River Science and also River Watch.

Many thanks to everyone's input and feedback!

Mark your calendar:

Next Ark Basin Roundtable Meeting – No meeting in December.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting -

About us:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – Environmental & Recreation Committee Purpose and Goals

The Environmental - Recreation Committee's purpose

- Ark Basin RT legislative directive...to propose projects or methods, structural and non-structural, to meet environmental and recreational needs.
- Constantly review Basin Implementation Plan, evaluate goals and priorities.
- Consider sustainability values (economic, social, environmental) as we evaluate environmental & recreation issues, projects, and priorities.
- Work with Needs Assessment Committee to advise on environmental and recreation priorities (but do not infringe on Needs Assessment Committee).
- Encourage environmental & recreation groups to come to this committee before approaching Needs Assessment Committee or Roundtable. This committee can aid by providing letters of support of certain projects.
- Outreach and education. Continually strive to bring awareness of past, present, and future envi & rec projects.

Environmental - Recreation Committee structure

- Bob Hamel (AROA), Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Recreation Rep, Chair
- Rena Brand (CPW) vice-chair
- Amber Shanklin (Palmer Land Trust) Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Environmental Rep
- Mark Shea (CSU)(ARWC) Ark Basin Roundtable Chair
- Mike Weber (LAVWCD) Needs Committee Rep and Ark Basin Roundtable Vice Chair
- Chelsea Nutter Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC)

Difference between Non-Consumptive Committee and the Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC)?

- Discussion: ARWC is like the "operating body" or "fiscal agent" of the NC committee...
- ...whereas the NC committee itself is the group of experts offering advisement on projects and priorities.

Meeting Goals

- strive for a purpose for every meeting; provide an agenda prior to each meeting.
- set a regular schedule - last Monday of every month in Canon City (and occasional other locations).
- send out a meaningful agenda, ahead of meeting.
- emphasize all folks are welcome; grow the invite list; invite special guests for specific planned topics.
- for each month's agenda, expect agency updates from USFS, BLM, CPW, and ARWC.
- offer folks to join the meeting by telephone or web-meeting options, if needed.