

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

Meeting Summary

Monday, Sep 30, 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).

Sep 30, 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), Travis Black (Deputy Region Manager, CO Parks & Wildlife) Amber Shanklin (Ark Basin Envi At-Large Rep & Palmer Land Trust), Lisa Walters (Co Springs Utilities Watershed Planning), John Smeins (BLM), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Tim Payne (Fremont County Commissioner), Dan Omasta (TU), Will Colon (WKRK), Deana Swetlik (Canon City). By Phone: Rob White (Ark Headwaters Rec Area, Co Parks & Wildlife), Chris Reichard (Tri-State Generation).

September Topics:

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

Key points :

- Bob & Chelsea met with the Canon City – City Council on Aug 20, for a work session. The purpose of the meeting was for Chelsea and Bob to introduce the Arkansas Basin Roundtable purpose, goals, and grant opportunities to council members, to educate them. There was some discussion about the Black Hills site, and how they are not near an end point with that site.
- Further discussion led to ways Canon City can promote safety for kids, families, playing in the river.

Some ideas shared:

- Promote PFD use; offer a PFD loan station like in Salida; Partner with CO Parks & Wildlife.
- Put on safety education programs in schools, daycares, or local festivals.
- Better signage on or along the river to promote awareness.
- Utilize existing videos on river recreation safety.
- Explore other opportunities for take-in, take-out sites for commercial & private.
- Continue to discuss options & opportunities with ditch & diversion dam owners.
- Rob White: Parcel below Pink House may be purchased?
- Deana S: River segment from 1st Street to 9th Street is a good segment to focus on.

BLM Updates:

- Over 100 substantive comments were received so far on the BLM Eastern Plains Resource Management Plan EIS (comment period ended Sep 20). It may be Feb 1 or later before BLM processes the comments and produces a plan.

USFS Updates:

- Lake Isabel Augmentation Plan – working through comments and refinements.

Colorado 9 Basin Summit discussion and Basin Implementation Plan List Update Effort:

- Discussed what was learned during the C9 summit in Winter Park the week before.
- We'll designate October as our meeting to focus on understanding the project list update effort.
- We'll use USFS projects as an example, and apply the new criteria on it as a group exercise to learn how it works. Then, we'll go back to our respective agencies and work on our individual lists.

Many thanks to everyone's input and feedback!

Mark your calendar:

Next Ark Basin Roundtable Meeting – Wed, Oct 9, 12:30 – 3:30, Pueblo Community College.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting - Mon, Oct 28, 10:00 to Noon, BLM, Canon City

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.