

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, Jan 27, 2020

10:00am – Noon

BLM Office, Canon City

Attendees: Bob Hamel, (Ark Basin RT Recreation Rep, AROA), Rena Brand (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (ARWC / Roundtable), Mike Weber (Needs Assessment Committee, LAWCD), John Smeins (BLM), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Chelsea Nutter (ARWC Exec Director), Amber Shanklin (Ark Basin RT Envi At-Large Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Dwayne McFall (Fremont County Commissioner), Jay Winner (Lower Ark), Tyler Benton (CoSpgsUtil), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Amber Weber (Roundtable – Public Edu, Public Outreach), Dan Omasta (TU), Chris Reichard (Tri-State), Rob White (CPW - AHRA), Bob Hartsman (Canon City), Kyle Horne (Canon City Rec), Mannie Colon (Oil Creek Ditch, Rafting Rep).

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

January Summary:

-Continued discussion on how can we quantify the value of envi/rec projects and how can we set measurable goals & outcomes as a committee.

-Continued discussion on updating the Basin Implementation Plan and updating the IPP list. Many projects on the 2015 list are agency projects (USFS, BLM, CPW). Good first step would be for the agencies to “clean up” or re-evaluate projects. Discussed whether there should be a separate section for multi-stakeholder projects. A contractor will be hired to help with the update effort - that RFQ goes out on March 22.

-TU (Dan Omasta) is drafting grant request to build program to engage stakeholders to elevate smaller restoration projects (i.e. River Watch is one partner).

-It was suggested that Envi/Rec should hire a coordinator to push projects along that need assistance with grant writing.

-Continued discussion on Oil Creek Diversion improvement - acknowledging that it's challenging to push a project forward when one party is unwilling (Oil Creek Ditch Company). Mannie acknowledged that he will work on bringing that party on board.

-Homework for next Envi/Rec meeting is to clean up the old 2015 IPP list as much as possible for the various agencies and share the result.

Mark your Calendar:

Next Ark Basin Roundtable – Feb 12, 2020, 12:30, Pueblo Community College

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Feb 25, 2020, 10am to Noon, BLM Office 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.