

## Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

### MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, January 28, 2019

10:00am – Noon

City Hall, Canon City

**Attendees:** Rena Brand (CPW), Mark Shea (ARWC / Roundtable), Carol Ekarias (ARWC), Kate Spinelli, Mike Weber (Needs Assessment Committee), Chris Reichard (Tri-State), Carrie Tucker (CPW), John Smeins (BLM), Amber Shanklin (Envi At-Large Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Tim Payne (Fremont County Commissioner), Mannie Colon (Ark Basin RT), Jay Winner (Lower Ark), Justin Zeisler (CoSpgsUtil), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Bob Hartzman (Canon City Water), Cindy Williams (Central Colorado Conservancy).

- Envision Recreation in Balance – sediment control grant application - looking for letters of support - update – Cindy Williams
  - Roundtable suggested to also study sediment impacts to Ag infrastructure. Roundtable approved grant request and is recommending to CWCB for approval.
- Oil Creek Diversion improvements - draft grant request - update – Carol Ekarius
  - Still many questions to answer regarding scope and scale, and coordination with many stakeholders (Ditch Company, County, City, etc). Note that a Water Supply Reserve Fund application would be due to the Needs Assessment committee by June, if ready by then.
- Hayden Fire Restoration & Recovery – quick update for January - Kate Spinelli
  - Will give a more robust presentation to Envi-Rec group at next Feb 25 meeting. Meanwhile, an informational public meeting: “Hayden Pass Watershed Recovery” will be held Sat, Feb 9, 1pm, at the Coaldale Community Bldg in Coaldale.
- SWSI updates - Amber Shanklin
  - Statewide Water Supply Initiative update – CWCB hosting a meeting this Wed, Jan 30. The interest in updating for 2019 is to understand if Basin Implementation Plan goals are being met across the state. Note that the Ark basin is unique in that we requested to base our plans on “HUC” or watershed areas instead of river segments. This emphasizes forest health, which ties to river health.
- ARWC updates on Monarch Pass, Spring Creek Fire - Carol Ekarius
  - Monarch Pass tree clearing for fire mitigation and forest health – just waiting for finalization of agreement between CWCB and Forest Service/BLM.
  - Spring Creek Fire – Huerfano county working on a 25% match with EWP funding. Total needed is \$14 Mil, but ask is \$3 Mil – tackling a piece at a time.
- Funding ARWC - update - Mike Weber

- \$50K from various roundtable entities was sourced to fund this position. Goal is to hire in Feb. Discussed what types of Envi-Rec economy stats exist to get participation/funding from these groups.
- Lower Ark Soil Health project update - Mike Weber
  - Lower Ark working on a website to capture what's being done. 3 to 4 years out.
- New Topic: Possible future curtailment on transmountain diversions & effects to Envi/Rec - generalized discussion and background.
  - Will continue to brainstorm approaches on how the Envi-Rec Community can consider future drought and ways to ensure water will be in the river. (Make water deals with upper Ark Ag?)
- Agency / Organization updates (ARWC, CPW, etc.)
  - Lower Ark TMDL – Mark Shea
    - Public Meeting to be hosted by WQCD on Feb 12, La Junta, Otero Jr College, 10-noon.
  - Pueblo Tailwater (segment below Pueblo Dam) Fish Structure Maintenance – Mannie Colon
    - If ready, a more robust discussion will happen at Envi-Rec Feb 25 meeting. For now, Trout Unlimited needs to meet with CPW to determine what structures, if any, needs to be fixed, and put together a plan before doing any work in the river.
  - CPW is working with the Arkansas River Compact Administration to approve a long term agreement between Colorado and Kansas for the John Martin Reservoir permanent recreation pool. It is almost signed.

-Next Arkansas Basin Roundtable – Wed, Feb 13, 12:30-3:30, Pueblo Community College  
<http://www.arkansasbasin.com/>

-Next Envi-Rec Committee meeting : Monday, Feb 25 (BLM Canon City?)