

Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee

Meeting Summary

Monday, April 29, 2019

10:00am – Noon

BLM Office, 3028 E. Main, Canon City

Attendees: Bob Hamel, (Envi-Rec Chair for Ark Basin Roundtable & Ark River Outfitters Assoc), Chelsea Nutter (Ark River Watershed Collaborative Exec Director), Rena Brand (Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (Ark River Watershed Collaborative & Co Spgs Util), Jay Winner (Lower Ark Valley Water Conservancy Dist), Tim Payne (Fremont County), John Smeins (BLM), Amber Shanklin (Envi At-Large Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student),

Special Guests: Deana Swetlik (Canon City Community Development), Kyle Horne (Canon City Recreation & Park Dist), Will Colon (Whitewater Kayak and Rec Park Committee – “WKRP”), Luke Javernick (River Science), Ashley Smith (Canon City – Mayor Pro Tem, City Council Member), Chris ?

Joined by phone: Rob White (CPW – AHRA), Daniel Omasta (Trout Unlimited)

April Meeting Summary

Oil Creek Diversion Discussion

Goal: This Envi-Rec Committee would like to get this going again; reach out to stakeholders; develop a feasibility plan (30%) possibly funded by a Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant with matching funds by June 1 if possible.

- Good, productive discussion with many ideas, viewpoints & thoughts.
- Discussed scope of project – point A to point B.
- Discussed the various stakeholders – who has interests, who might put forth funds (Oil Creek Ditch Co, AHRA, BLM, Cities, County, Recreation District, Recreation Companies).
- Discussed Black Hills property (ongoing negotiations).
- Discussed what should be prioritized.
- Discussed previous plans, existing plans and previous efforts.
- Discussed what engineering firm is appropriate – must design adequate diversion & adequate rafting safety & environmentally friendly features.
- Discussed deadlines – Arkansas River Basin Roundtable – Colorado Water Conservation Board grant application for a feasibility study (30%design) **deadline is June 1.** (More info at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Pages/main.aspx>)

Next Actions:

- Chelsea Nutter (ARWC) will reach out to Oil Creek Ditch Co in May.
- CPW will have an internal discussion in May.
- Continued coordination and further outreach by all.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting June 24, 10:00am, Canon City, BLM office.

Helpful notes about this Envi-Rec committee's mission from our July 30, 2018 meeting:

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 Ark River Basin Implementation Plan, evaluate goals and priorities.
- Consider sustainability values (economic, social, environmental) as we evaluate environmental & recreation issues, projects, and priorities.
- Work with the 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
- Chelsea Nutter (Ark River Watershed Collaborative Director (ARWC).
- 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
- Carol Ekarius (CoCo) 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.

Future Non-Consumptive Committee 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.