**Ark Basin Roundtable - Environmental & Recreation Committee**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, Sep 28, 2020**

**10:00am – 11:00am**

**via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Bob Hamel, (Ark Basin RT Recreation Rep, AROA),Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (ARWC / Roundtable), Tyler Benton (CoSpgsUtil), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), John Smeins (BLM), Buffy Lenth (Central CO Conservancy), Wil Koger (Forsgren Engineering), Chris Reichard (Tri-State), Dwayne McFall (Fremont County), Lisa Walters (Co Springs Util).

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

**September Meeting Summary:**

1. Past Ark River Studies from era 2000 – Revisit? - Bob
   1. Bob mentioned two 20 year old Ark River studies that we might wish to revisit and update.
   2. Ark River Water Needs Assessment by Roy Smith (BLM) – Developed by BLM, BOR, Forest Service and Colorado Dept of Natural Resources, July 2000. Does it need updating? Find it here <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea/Documents/Admin/Publications/WaterNeedsAssessment.pdf>
   3. Fisheries Study (around 2000 by CPW Aquatic Biologist Greg Policky). Does it need updating?
2. Continued BIP update discussions & ideas
   1. Re: VFMP, Rena asked if the 7 or 8 items in the new smartsheet should be consolidated to one item. Mark suggested consolidating to be more specific about future VFMP goals & objectives. Then it was remembered the VFMP parties are meeting in Nov to review the past season and update the agreement. This will be a good opportunity to get feedback from these parties and how that’s entered into IPP update list.
   2. Re: Great Plains Reservoirs north of Lamar, discussed how to better describe this item in the smartsheet to be more of a collaborative management effort to support the needs of the stakeholders & community (rather than CPW looking for water rights). Rena will update this to be more meaningful.
3. ARWC update
   1. Mark discussed ARWC’s general mission right now to find new stakeholders to help support ARWC.
4. BLM & Forest Service Updates
   1. John shared that he’s gone into the smartsheet and updated some BLM items. He’s decided not to add new items since they are smaller forestry projects that don’t seem to fit well to this effort.
   2. Misty shared that she’ll get into the smartsheet soon to update USFS projects.
5. South Arkansas SMP effort
   1. Buffy shared that there was a recent talk by Phil Brink (CO Cattleman’s Assoc. Ag Water Network) to an audience of 15 ag producers about SMP efforts. There were some questions about the recent DWR Abandonment list notice as well. Rena advised that DWR is just trying to track water use and if water right owners have a reasonable explanation for their use (or lack of use), please just describe it so DWR can enter it into their files.
   2. Re: River Health Assessment, talks are happening with Mark B. and Mike B. on a specific 1.2 mile reach of the South Ark where they may use this grading tool.
   3. Buffy also asked if folks received a survey from Marjo on South Ark SMP efforts. She clarified that Marjo is a contractor helping with surveying the community.
6. Next E-R Meetings to end of 2020
   1. We often cancel our Nov and Dec meetings due to holidays, but perhaps we’ll keep going this year since we’re virtual. It would be nice to hear about updates from the November VFMP meeting and BIP updates since the input of IPP’s is due by Christmas.

**Mark your Calendar:**

Next Ark Basin Roundtable – Oct 14, 12:30-noon, GoTo meeting.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Oct 26, 2020, 10am, virtual or TBD.

**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 Griggs (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

**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.