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

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, July 27, 2020**

**10:00am – Noon**

**via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Bob Hamel, (Ark Basin RT Recreation Rep, AROA),Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Mark Shea (ARWC / Roundtable), John Smeins (BLM), Amber Shanklin (Ark Basin RT Envi At-Large Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Tyler Benton (CoSpgsUtil), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Dan Omasta (TU), Lisa Walters (CoSpgsUtil), Buffy Lenth (Central CO Conservancy), Mike Weber (Ark Basin RT – Ag), Wil Koger (Forsgren Engineering), Lisa Walters (CoSpringsUtil), Ryan Bouton (PhD Student), Chris Reichard (Tri-State)

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

**July Meeting Summary:**

1. Chaffee County (Decker burn scar) had some flooding damage the night before this meeting, so we discussed it briefly. Chelsea Nutter and Dwayne McFall were absent from this meeting in order to deal with it.
2. Mike Weber shared that the Ark Basin Story Map (a tool using GIS technology with info and photos) is almost ready to go live on the Ark Basin RT website. This is a project that was started 3 or 4 years ago as an outreach & education effort to show how water grant funds have been used. Mike asked for photos of projects.
3. Further discussion on BIP and IPP project list update info.
	1. There’s now a Google form on the Ark Basin Website in which you can fill in information on a project for it to be added to the list. <https://www.arkansasbasin.com/basin-implementation-plan.html>. If you have many projects, contact Will Koger or Brett Gracely about getting a spreadsheet to more easily enter them.
	2. We discussed clarifications on what constitutes a Tier 1 project vs. Tier 2. Wil and Brett will put further instruction on the website. Discussed programmatic projects (Stream Management Plan) vs. specific or sub-related projects (example: a specific site’s river bank treatment). Both are worthy of being on the list as separate items, but the new info collection method would describe or categorize them differently.
	3. Mark Shea discussed Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) and how there’s an Ark Basin goal to fund 20 water projects. Envi-Rec should propose a portion of those shovel ready, Tier 1 projects. We asked questions about what might fit. Pre/post fire projects, riparian & wetland restorations, South Ark SMP, Purgatoire SMP. Buffy recommended CNHP watershed restoration toolkit should be evaluated. Cindy Williams could give us an update on the latest efforts with Envision Chaffee County projects.
	4. Action item: Let’s task ourselves to get our project & process lists drawn up by our next meeting, Aug 31.
4. ARWC Updates
	1. Chelsea Nutter is resigning as executive director of ARWC. Her last day is Aug 1.
	2. Mark Shea stated that the Ark Basin RT is revisiting ARWC priorities. (River infrastructure improvements vs. Pre-Post fire work; Monarch Pass). How do we maintain the momentum recognizing the change in resources?
5. VFMP 2020 Update: Target flows this summer are 700 cfs at the Wellsville gauge. BOR has the 10,000 acre-foot to release and PBWW also plans releases to meet this goal. Key players have been coordinating weekly and the flow program is doing well. With recent rains, the releases have not been needed the past few days, but so far, the flows are going well.
6. Ryan Bouton’s VFMP study update:
	1. Ryans’s study talks about the history of the VFMP, what it does, the economic benefits, future threats to it, and funding mechanisms.
	2. He’s reviewed other programs such as the Yampa River fund and similar efforts on the Rio Grande in New Mexico as a comparison.
	3. Aims to be finished by the end of July 2020. He is currently having it peer reviewed.
7. Other points discussed...
	1. John (BLM) gave a brief update that the ROD for Browns Canyon is finalized.
	2. Rena (CPW) shared that John Martin is very low, and CPW is finding a few thousand acre feet to add to the permanent pool to give it a boost.
	3. Bob reminded that Abby Burk (west slope envi-rec) would like to meet in person with a small group of us in order to better understand other basin issues & share common problems, common goals. We’ll aim to gather a few folks and set up a meeting with her in August or September in Co Springs.

**Mark your Calendar:**

Next Ark Basin Roundtable – Aug 12, 12:30-noon, GoTo meeting. Meeting will consist of further details of consistency related to updating the BIP and IPP lists.

Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Aug 31, 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 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.