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

**Monthly MEETING SUMMARY**

**Monday, Mar 29, 2021**

**10:00am – 12 noon**

**via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Bob Hamel, (Ark Basin RT Recreation Rep, AROA),Rena Griggs (CPW – Water Specialist – SE Region), Amber Shanklin (Ark Basin Envi Rep, Palmer Land Trust), Carol Ekarius, (ARWC), Tyler Benton (CoSpgsUtil), Misty DeSalvo (USFS), Chris Reichard (Tri-State), Lisa Walters (Co Springs Util), Dan Omasta (Trout Unlimited), Natalie Allio (Upper Ark Watershed Partnership), Ryan Bouton (PhD Graduate), Buffy Lenth (Central Colorado Conservancy), Julie Knudsen (Purgatoire Watershed Partnership), Chloe Lewis (Westervelt), Tom Waters (CPW – AHRA State Park), Jojo La (CWCB).

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

**March Meeting Summary:**

1. [CWCB is hosting an Envi-Recreation Workshop Wed, April 7, 8-12:30 to discuss the update of the Colorado Water Plan and the chapter related to E-R in the Ark Basin. You must register at this link to attend.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/colorado-water-plan-environmental-recreational-workshop-tickets-146511133745?aff=eemailordconf&utm_campaign=order_confirm&ref=eemailordconf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=viewevent)
2. [CWCB is also hosting a Forest Health Workshop on Thursday, April 8, 10-12:30 to discuss the update of the Colorado Water plan and the chapter related to Forest Health in the Ark Basin. You must register at this link to attend.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/colorado-water-plan-forest-health-workshop-tickets-146507496867)
3. CWCB now has a [Focus Area Map](https://cwcb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=880753ceb13d43e3bc89e2259247aafa) online for public viewing. Check it out.
4. Ark River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) updates (Carol) – Board approved bylaws to change ability for board to nominate other members for ARWC Board and full Roundtable can approve nominees. The ARWC board can have non-Roundtable members. Spring Creek Fire (Huerfano County) received 319 non point source money to help rebuild trails & treat fire scars in area. Monarch Pass (Chaffee County) project added another 125 acres of dead tree removal. Lake County Forest Health work is starting.
5. Upper Ark Watershed Partnership update (Dan) – The CWCB grant request for South Ark River Stream Management Planning was officially approved.
6. Purgatoire Watershed Partnership update (Julie) – Fire mitigation work ongoing on Federal Forest lands. Julie spoke with UAWP on tips for stakeholder outreach on Stream Management Planning (challenging in times of covid and tough to find a good time to talk with Ag communities). Natalie suggested organizing volunteer ditch cleaning activity as a way to build relationships.
7. Black Hills Energy Site at Canon City (Bob) – Rafting community hopes to make this an take in/put out site someday. Some discussions happened recently (Eric with Legacy Lands?), but meetings were cancelled and discussions seem to be stalled.
8. Use of Tennessee Rail Line through Browns Canyon (Bob) – latest news is an environmental review will eventually be required afterall, which is good.
9. CPW updates (Rena): Mt. Shavano Hatchery / Salida Low Head dam is in early planning to remove or modify the dam for rafting safety. Rena will touch base with leads to ensure early stakeholder outreach. CPW Aquatic Biologists are busy with Walleye Spawn is currently ongoing at Lake Pueblo. CPW is busy with developing augmentation plans for small ponds on CPW properties all over the Southeast. Skaguay reservoir (Teller County) is currently making releases which is the earliest in the season we’ve ever had to make releases due to a very senior Ark River call.
10. CWCB Envi-Rec Workshop preview (Jojo La): Jojo gave us an overview of the issues surrounding development of updating chapters for the Colorado Water Plan. Specifically, we discussed [Focus Area Map](https://cwcb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=880753ceb13d43e3bc89e2259247aafa) progress, the challenge of defining “watershed protection plans”. [All are welcome to attend the CWCB Envi –Rec Workshop on April 7, 8-12:30 to learn more. Click this link to register in advance.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/colorado-water-plan-environmental-recreational-workshop-tickets-146511133745?aff=eemailordconf&utm_campaign=order_confirm&ref=eemailordconf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=viewevent)

**Mark your Calendar:**

**Next Ark Basin Roundtable – April 14, 12:30-3:00pm, (note they’ve switched to using zoom…link will be provided in email from the Ark Basin Roundtable).**

**Next Envi-Rec Committee Meeting, Monday, April 26, 10am – Noon. (zoom link will be provided in an email from Rena).**

**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) Vic or Co-chair

-Amber Shanklin (Palmer Land Trust) Ark Basin Roundtable At Large Environmental Rep

-Mark Shea (CSU)(ARWC) Ark Basin Roundtable Chair

-Matt Heimrich (Palmer Land Trust / Otero Farmer) and Ark Basin Roundtable Vice Chair

**Difference between (Non-Consumptive) Envi-Rec 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.

**Envi-Rec 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.