



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

June 9, 2021

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339826655?pwd=YzY0eWhmb3Bsc1VFNDhjYWWh0T1JHZz09>

More information and presentations may be found at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### **Roundtable Business**

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm. There are 18 active members as of May 2021; a quorum is a simple majority of active members, therefore 10 is a quorum.

#### Voting Members Present:

Tim Canterbury	Seth Clayton	Jeris Danielson
Paul Fanning	Greg Felt	Mike Fink
Bob Hamel	Bob Hartzman	Steve Kastner
Rick Kidd	Scott King	Kevin Niles
Abby Ortega	Terry Scanga	Amber Shanklin
Mark Shea	Greg Teter	Al Tucker
Amber Weber	Mike Weber	Sandy White

Non-Voting Members Present: Rick Kienitz

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Notes**

May meeting notes have been circulated for review. *Meeting notes were approved by consensus.*

### **Public Comment - none**

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

We do have several vacant seats available on the roundtable, including two at-large seats. There's new direction from the governor regarding in person and hybrid meetings, and CWCB is back to processing roundtable event funding requests. Requests can be submitted to Elgin Turner for food or meeting space. Zoom is still encouraged. Mark Shea will get in contact with Pueblo Community College to see if the old venue is available, and hybrid options will be investigated.

There is an opportunity to apply for grant funding through the State Water Plan Grant Program, deadline July 1. Due to this short deadline we will not be able to go through the normal needs assessment process, so the "go ahead" is given to those who can meet that deadline. Do submit the application to the roundtable as well, which will be reviewed for letters of support.

The next deadline for Water Plan and WSRF Grants is December 1. House bill 21-12-60 was passed adding \$5 million to the WSRF grant program. 36% will go to basins, 64% to state. We will receive \$200,000 to the Ark Basin fund, available for future rounds of grant applications. Another \$25 million goes to the state. This is a great opportunity for folks to identify projects and work on applications.



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Demand Management feasibility investigation continues. Survey available through email. The CWCB hosted a Water Plan Riverside Chat, which included an overview of the scoping process of the update to the state water plan- this is open for public comment.

The executive committee revisited the demand management discussion with consensus to develop a formal statement to provide an Ark Basin perspective on demand management.

Kent Rickens has been nominated for a seat as an At-Large Water Right Owner within the basin.

## **CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Greg Felt – [engagecwcb.org](https://engagecwcb.org)**

Greg Felt - Job well done to Water Education Colorado group. They put on a great virtual bus tour of the Lower Basin last week. It was time well spent and we learned a lot from it.

At our May meeting, there was a great presentation by Anna Mauss regarding streamlining and combining grant funding programs. They have been working hard to pull things together to make it all more comprehensible.

Linda Basse retired in late May. She ran the stream and lake program for quite a while. Linda will be replaced by Rob Viehl.

Ben Wade: happy to answer grant-related questions. We did update water plan guidelines and the application is a little bit different, especially for ATM projects. All those are posted on the website.

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/loans-grants/colorado-water-plan-grants>

This new funding does have a deadline. Funds must be awarded by July 1, 2023.

## **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson & Terry Scanga**

The June IBCC meeting has been cancelled, and the next IBCC meeting will now be held in October. Please give your input to Jeris and Terry about what you would like to see the IBCC doing next, including and in addition to the Demand Management conversation.

## **Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega**

### **Letter of Support Request: Cucharas River Storage Collaborative – Sandy White**

We are making a request for Colorado Water Grant funding in order to do a feasibility analysis for the dredging of Maria Stevens Reservoir. The reservoir was funded in the past for enlargement and is at 50% design. There is lots of silt. There might be enough silt to remove to create the needed enlargement. \$15,000 from the water plan grant bucket will be matched by \$5,000 of local funds to look at the feasibility.

*This letter of support was approved by consensus.*

## **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich**

Matt is continuing to put together a committee and will report in July. This group may seek some WSRF funding in order to get this effort off the ground.

## **Enviro/Rec Committee – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, Rena Griggs**

The Enviro/Rec meeting meets next on June 28, 10 am – 12 pm. If you would like to be on the email list, please let them know.



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Met in May, and meeting notes are on the website. Highlights are: We had a report from Envision Chaffee County, and there is momentum to move into other counties. CPW and partners are looking at how to adopt this program. Mark Shea plans to invite Envision Chaffee County to make a presentation at the roundtable.

There has been a little movement with the Black Hills property. Met with reps from Canon City and Black Hills and looked at potential plans to build up recreational projects. Request for proposal hopefully coming, and that work coming next summer.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Water Forum is doing a day of tours at the Nestles facilities, then lunch and a raft trip, and everyone is invited.

## **ARWC – Carol Ekarius**

The Board of Directors met and has finalized the job description and decision to hire an executive director- please share the job posting through networks and to suitable candidates.

## **PEPOW – Alli Schuch, Paul Fanning (meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, at 1:30 pm)**

The Education to Action Plan is due to the state at the end of this month. We think we have our plan ready, and we're excited to begin implementation. We will share the plan with everyone. Feel free to contact Paul with feedback regarding that.

Alli: From Feb-Jun, Alli worked to get PEPO back up and running. She gave a quick summary of that 72 hours. The majority was spent in meetings and other communications within the basin. Website updates took a lot of time. Spent a little time preparing for grants and the development of the Education to Action Plan.

*The roundtable was in consensus that Alli Schuch be kept on as PEPO Coordinator.*

## **DEMAND MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION**

We will be working to draft a statement from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable on Demand Management. Mark gave roundtable members an opportunity to express their comments and perspectives regarding the subject.

Basic tenets: It should be voluntary, temporary, compensated.

Paul Fanning: We want to explore solutions that will work for us, taking a positive approach and working creatively to find solutions.

Bob Hamel: The Fry-Ark project is super important, and the VFMP is critical to fishing and rafting, recreation in general.

Greg Felt: It's important to try to come up with a position for our basin. That we not necessarily allow the conversation that has happened so far around the state to define our own position. Demand management is a concept. Some people have latched onto concepts, and some are holding in a very loose way. It is a pro-active response to the possibility of compact curtailment. Let's not let the past conversation box us in in the way we respond. Worries about the conversation getting too narrow.

Mark: as we approach drafting a statement, the right starting point is to emphasize the importance of the imported Colorado River water to this basin. From Leadville to John Martin and below, we have a lot of shared interests. It's not a lot of water when you consider the Colorado River system. We're talking about hundreds of thousands of acre-feet that are imported, but the value of that water is substantial. That should be the cornerstone of our statement. Mark would like to have it reflect specific substantive questions or encouragement to support certain things. The effectiveness of measurement and importance of that on the western slope. Not just so that it can be considered and potentially some of those uses be part of the program, but as exporters, if we



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can forego some of our water, it must be able to be measured and credited for it. Talk about where water is stored – does it have to be stored in Powell? Or could it be stored in Colorado? Perhaps that should be part of the statement that we develop for this.

Chris Woodka: Upstream 25%, downstream 20% of the Arkansas River is Colorado River return flows.

Reach out to Mark Shea, Greg Felt, Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga, or Al Tucker if you have comments or questions or would like to have a conversation about the demand management statement.

## BREAK

### **BIP UPDATE – Brown and Caldwell, Local Experts**

Update to the project lists. Project tiering.

Projects List update process:

June 2020 – January 2021	data gathering and public outreach
October 2020 – March 2021	compiled and performed QA/QC on project data
March – May 2021	project tiering and summary analysis

Mark Shea, Amber Weber and Chelsey Nutter assisted the local experts in reaching folks at existing meetings of other organizations. You all took advantage of all the different forms of submittal.

Project Tiering:

- Tier 1 planned and ready to launch
- Tier 2 critical; launch within 2 years with funding
- Tier 3 more planning needed, longer timeframe
- Tier 4 identified, need critical planning pieces

Project Lists Categorization

- Project statistics focused on both basin-wide and regional statistics
- Categorization and statistics help future outreach efforts
- Several multi-use projects, will serve multiple needs

There are nearly 750 total projects, and nearly 350 of them are active.

Volume One is ready for internal review, and Volume Two is close to that. They will be ready to move forward for CWCB review by the end of the month. The roundtable will review the BIP Update in August. Public review in the fall.

Mark asked about the project list – when we can access it?

Matt: The CWCB is actively developing an online project database. A contractor has been hired to do it. Taking the existing spreadsheets from each basin, merge all that together. The contractor will work with roundtables regarding the sustainability of project updates in that database. If you want to access the data that's been collected, not a problem.

The Wildly Important Goal of 20 tier one projects has been accomplished with 28 tier one projects.



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Also, for reference. Approximately 211 of the projects are updated from 2015 and 156 new from 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

**Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM**

**MEETINGS/LINKS: (all meetings in 2021 will be virtual)**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting: July 14, 12:30 pm [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPOW: June 16, 1:30 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly) [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Enviro/Rec: June 28, 10:00 am
- CWCB: July 21 & 22 <http://cwc.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: June 22, 1-3 pm
- IBCC: June 23, 8-12
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com)
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>
- In-Stream Flow Rule Revisions: <https://cwc.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>