



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

October 13, 2021

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

More information and presentations may be found at: www.arkansasbasin.com

Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. There are 19 active members as of August 2021; a quorum is a simple majority of active members, therefore nine is a quorum. A quorum was reached for this meeting.

Members Present

Abby Ortega	Al Tucker	Amber Shanklin	Amber Weber
Bob Hamel	Chris Wiseman	Gracy Goodwin	Greg Felt
Greg Teter	Jack Goble	Jeris Danielson	Kent Ricken
Mark Shea	Sandy White	Mike Fink	Mike Weber
Paul Fanning	Ron Cook	Sarah Mudge	Scott King
Seth Clayton	Steve Kastner	Terry Scanga	Tim Canterbury
Tom Seaba	Tom Verquer	Tracy Pepper	

The roundtable recognized Rego Omerigic, a long-time roundtable member (since 2011) who passed away last month. Greg Teter spoke of his love of water and the Arkansas River. Mark expressed deepest condolences on behalf of the Roundtable to his friends and family.

Approval of Agenda

Mark added the Needs Assessment Committee meeting on November 3rd to the agenda. The PEPOW workgroup will not be meeting on October 20th and PEPOW members will be attending the statewide PEPOW meeting instead. *Agenda was approved by consensus.*

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

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

Public Comment - none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

The Executive Committee talked about the statement on Demand Management. Sandy White has produced a draft of this statement, which was discussed at the meeting. Next steps for developing the statement would be to introduce concerns about demand management with more information about the value of Colorado River supplies. We hope to present this document to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) before their November meeting, so this statement will be brought to the November Roundtable meeting for discussion.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Greg Felt – engagewcwb.org

Sam thanked the Roundtable for their comments on the Basin Implementation Plan and reminded everyone that the public comment period opened on October 13th.



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- The project database also launched on October 13th in its beta testing phase.
- Drafting on the Water Plan update has begun with hopes to finish in June.
- The Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting will be November 17-18, and the PEPO statewide meeting is on October 21.
- Sam thanked everyone who participated in the water equity taskforce workshop. If you didn't have a chance to attend, the recording is on the CWCB YouTube channel. Panels covered a variety of topics, with a focus on history and what water means to certain communities. Indigenous water rights, the urban-rural water divide, and historical subjects were also discussed. This was a great opportunity to get members of the public a chance to engage with these issues.

Greg spoke about the recent meeting. The conversation on demand management and the statewide drought was productive. Robert Sakata spoke on Agricultural issues and concerns, bringing into focus this area of impact. Greg went on a Colorado River trip with Becky Mitchell and Andy Mueller from CWCB, with Michael Bennet and Mitt Romney, and Manuel Heart from the Ute Mountain Tribe. There were productive conversations about drought, climate, and the Colorado River. Mitt Romney expressed support for finding demand management solutions before the issues go to congress, stating "We will find the money." There is a window of opportunity here and it is important to take advantage of it.

The next CWCB meeting will be November 17-18th. It would be great to have the Arkansas Basin's Demand Management Statement by that meeting.

We are working on the annual winter conference and Greg is working with Colorado Counties Inc. to put together a panel with Becky Mitchell, Kevin Ryan, Andy Mueller, and someone from the western slope on the subject of drought and the Colorado River Compact.

Dan Williams echoed support from commissioners. Water is on commissioner's minds. Robert Sakata stated appreciation for Greg's humanizing approach.

IBCC- Jeris Danielson

Jeris reminded Roundtable Members to let him know what issues you would like us to take up. Roundtable members voiced some concerns about the unknown aspects of the Demand Management conversation, including what a compact call would look like and how it would impact the Basin.

Jeris will forward the IBCC agenda to the Roundtable for distribution among members.

Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega

Reminder that grant applications are due on the 20th of October. The Needs Assessment Committee will review applications on November 3rd, and applicants will present at next month's meeting.

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

Bob and Rena discussed the following projects:

- The committee met with Elise Bergsten and Gary Barber about a multi-purpose project in Fountain - the Hale Reservoir Renovation Project at Cross Creek Park.
- There was a proposal for hazardous material mitigation for the Black Hills Project, and we will learn who the contractor will be in December.
- Rena announced that after some discussion, CPW decided to wait on the project to remove the low head dam until the next grant cycle.



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- They have just completed a project on forest thinning at Spanish Peaks, and there is a great video on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website.
- During the Hidden Creek Fire, Colorado Parks and Wildlife rescued trout, and they have been restocked in a stream south of Pikes Peak.
- Bob also said that there is a need to create more transparency when landowners want to do improvements, so that there is good communication between landowners, Arkansas Headwater Recreation Area, and fishery experts. There have been a couple projects that have impacted the Arkansas River.
- Water Forum Update- There was a good visit in Pueblo at the Hydro Plant and Goodnight Barn, which was well attended. They visited Valco Ponds area. They are still planning on an in-person forum in April. They are trying to fill forum board seats and are looking for folks that would serve on the planning committee for the forum.

ARWC – Carol Ekarius

Carol welcomed Jonathan Paklaian as the new Executive Director of ARWC.

- The harvesting of the logs is completed on the Monarch project.
- We are continuing to work on a demonstration project on the road that leads into Turquoise Lake, which will be implemented next Spring.
- The NRCS proposal for 2.5 million in wildfire damages has been submitted. The Board will decide in December.
- We are continuing to work on the Spring Fire. We are short a staff member as Theresa Springer has stepped down for medical reasons.
- Miller Timber will be doing a demonstration on how the steep ground working equipment can be used for fire mitigation.

Jonathan Paklaian introduced himself and will be making specific introductions throughout the Basin this season.

PEPOW – Alli Schuch, Paul Fanning (meets on the 3rd Wednesday each month, at 1:30 pm)

- Alli attended the Pueblo Reservoir tour.
- She presented at the Colorado Native Plant Society and spoke on behalf of Fountain Creek and the Basin on Watershed 101.
- We are working on a detailed budget for the Colorado Water Conservation Board BIP outreach grant.
- We are looking at utilizing the Colorado Waterwise “live like you love it” toolkit which includes material to help educate the public. We may develop some factsheets specific to this Basin as well.
- Alli is putting together a collection of media contacts to help get the word out on what they are doing, with the intent to put out a variety of media pieces. Alli is looking for short stories and good news for these media pieces.
- Alli is also working on developing a Ark Basin PEPOW network, which will include businesses, producers, education institutions, nonprofits, etc., to share resources and collaborate better.
- Work has continued on social media and website management.

BREAK

Election-Mark Shea

Mark is willing to continue as chair.

Bob Hamel is willing to continue as Vice-Chair for Non-Consumptive use.



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Jeris Danielson is willing to continue as IBCC chair.

Steve Kastner has been nominated for Vice-Chair for Consumptive Use.

Al Tucker has been nominated for the Recorder seat.

No other nominations were made at the meeting, so there were no opposed candidates.

Consensus was called by acclamation for the above-listed Executive Committee members.

BIP UPDATE – Brown and Caldwell, Local Experts

Matt Lindberg announced that the public review period kicks off on October 13th and will be available through November 15th. All BIP's for basins statewide are available for review during this period. The plan is to release the final BIP in January 2022. Comments from the basin review period have been incorporated into the new draft.

Sam showed the Basin Project website. He modeled how to navigate the site, how to propose a project for addition to the website and took a close look at the Arkansas Project Page, and how to update projects. Sam also addressed the concern that comments and other edits might not have been getting implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Annual Meeting: November 19, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: No October meeting www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: October 25, 10:00 am
- CWCB: November 17 & 18 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: October 20
- IBCC: October 21
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: www.coloradofloodthreat.com
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>
- In-Stream Flow Rule Revisions: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>