



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE Executive Committee Zoom Meeting Notes Wednesday November 10, 2021 www.arkansasbasin.com

Executive Committee Present & Guests:

Mark Shea -Chair	Kat Weismiller-CWCB	Abby Ortega
Paul Fanning - PEPO	Al Tucker - Rec	Sarah Mudge
Sandy White- Past Chair	Amber Shanklin	Russ Sands-CWCB
Bob Hamel- VCh- Env. Rec	Chris Wisemen	Sam Stein
Terry Scanga-UAWCD	Tim Canterbury	Jonathan Paklaian-ARWC
Steve Kastner- VCh Cons	Greg Felt-CWCB rep	

Minutes/Notes of the previous meeting:

Mark noted we had a quorum and called the meeting to order @ 10:30AM at which time asked if any concerns or changes with the minutes hearing none approved the Executive Meeting minutes by consensus.

ARWC Matters

- **Executive Director Update;** Mark called on Jonathan Paklaian to report on ARWC. Jonathan opened the discussion regarding ARWC meeting frequency. All agreed on quarterly board meetings with the option to call additional board meetings as needed. Jonathan said he will provide a year-end update on ARWC at the December Roundtable session. Mark agreed and suggested projects such as the California Gulch Grant application due to its complexity are included in any updates. Which Jonathan stated they're working on the funding issues and another funding meeting will be held in March 2022. Mark suggested prior to an update with the full Roundtable the ARWC Board meet for a year-end report. Jonathan also stated the Monarch project is finished with the work on the ground and invoicing is nearly complete.

Reoccurring matters:

- **Chair Comments;**

Vacant Seats- Mark proceeded with Reoccurring Matters announcing a nominee for one of our At Large Water-rights owner seats. Jeffery Herrera a representative from Pueblo West which will be put up for confirmation at today's Roundtable session. Mark emphasized there are still some seats that need to be filled. The seats that are still open are listed on our roster.

All Chairs Meeting- Mark discussed the All Chairs meeting held November 2nd. One topic was the project data base still requires more clarity and the need to have an easier method for project input. Another discussion was for the grant and loan roll-out with the necessity for better access for loan funding. This necessary for project proponent's having better access for funding information related to their projects.



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Reoccurring Matters cont:

WSRF Funding: and PEPO discussed alternative methods for maintaining these programs over the next couple of years due to limited WSRF funding available the next couple of years. According to Russ Sands funding may be more a Roundtable obligation but is still uncertain where the dollars will come from due to lack of severance tax coming in.

The Dan Gibbs' *funding document* will be available for review which focusses on statewide water projects and additional water plant regional coordinators. Abby pointed to the issue that with the need for infrastructure and PEPO we're all competing for fewer dollars. The issue is continuing the WSRF program as a sustainable funding source going forward. Sandy asked what will the water plant grant Regional Coordinators and the Roundtable relationships be and when will we expect the data base to be fixed? First the regional coordinators won't happen unless approved by the legislature, but if approved we'll have more local coordination between the entities than exists today.

Steve Kastner said the BIP document seems to overlook the importance of the Water Districts in developing and maintaining local projects. Mark said we'll look into this more closely with all the work being done by our conservancy districts and the role they do for our constituents.

Mark mentioned the Public Awareness Survey public comment regarding CWCB operations. Russ mentioned additionally there is joint survey out, as well, for comment this can be found on <https://www.coloradowaterloss.org/>. Kat clarified the BIP public input. <https://emgagecwcb.org/bip-public-comment-period>

Mark mentioned the All Chairs also discussed Water 22 the statewide initiative on the value of water the 100 yrs. of the Colorado River Compact this will be an important anniversary. Also discussed was the BNR review and Water Accounting Coordinators.

- **Outstanding Reports** – Executive Committee Members – Abby Ortega mentioned the Needs Assessment grant reviews. The summary of these grants has been sent to the Roundtable members for their review. Today's presentations will be from four of these Grants which requested the WSRF funds.

ABRT BIP Update – none, public comment period ends November 15

BIP Public Comments: Another area is the BIP public comments period which is over on November 15th. These comments can be accessed on the CWCB website or may be facilitated on our website for volumes one and two which will be finalized next year.

Mark reminded everyone of the public comment for our Basin's BIP is closing November 15th.

Roundtable Business:

- **Demand Management Discussion** – Abby discussed that at Demand Management meeting they talked about the value of Colorado River water to the Arkansas Basin. She shared her document of the importance of imports to the Ark River Basin which includes Recreation, Agriculture, and Municipal. It was pointed out the importance of recreation being a secondary impact while the ag and muni are primary impacts but these secondary impacts are very important and shouldn't be downplayed because the social value of the recreation is very important and depends on water from the Colorado. Terry pointed out that this water while be delivered for ag and muni it's being used for recreation and this is very important to point its multiple uses, and



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Roundtable Business continued: Demand Management—

Demand Management needs this understanding. Also, Terry pointed out that water storage may be depleted first following wet years and this is important to know. Another issue is the misunderstanding of the Trans-mountain diversions won't be eliminated by Demand Management.

This will be presented at the general meeting for discussion and will be then delivered to CWCB at a later date.

Greg mentioned in closing on this topic for all to reach out to him regarding decisions on this and to use his email address he furnished; gfelt@chaffeecounty.org

Upcoming Meetings:

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – December 8, 2021

- Executive Committee – 10:30am
- Roundtable – 12:30pm

Statewide PEPO-November 17, 2021

Enviro Rec – November 29, 2021

Ag Muni Meeting – December 2, 2021

IBCC – ?

CWCB Board Meeting-November 17 & 18th

- November Demand Management Workshop?

Adjourn