



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

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

May 11, 2022

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)

### **Voting Members In Attendance: 26 (15 in-person, 11 by zoom)**

Spike Ausmus	Seth Clayton	Mannie Colon	Jeris Danielson
Jeffrey DeHerrera	Paul Fanning	Shiloh Freed	Gracy Goodwin
Tom Grasmick	Bob Hamel	Matt Heimerich	Steve Kastner
Rick Kidd	Scott King	Kevin Niles	Abby Ortega
Gil Ramirez	Terry Scanga	Amber Shanklin	Mark Shea
Greg Teter	Al Tucker	Tom Verquer	Sandy White
Chris Wiseman			

### **Non-Voting Members:**

Rick Kienitz

### **Approval of Agenda**

The May agenda has been circulated for review. *Agenda was approved by consensus.*

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

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

### **Public Comment – none**

### **REPORTS:**

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

The Executive Committee discussed program topics and other items that will be covered later in the meeting.

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

The Colorado Water Plan will be available for the 90-day public comment period on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Reporting access for the Municipal Water Use and Conservation Database (The HB1051 Database) will be delayed until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline postponed till September 1<sup>st</sup>.

June 1<sup>st</sup> is the next date for PEPO grant applications. Checklist has gone out to basins and PEPO coordinators to determine the coordinator's scope of work.

June 1<sup>st</sup> is also the due date for WSRF grant applications to be to CWCB (after roundtable approval).

New WSRF criteria and guidelines go into place July 1<sup>st</sup>. \$300,000 will be released to the basins soon after July 1.

As of next July, there will be a cap of \$750,000 in funds allowed to sit in each basin account at any one time.

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the next deadline for Colorado Water Plan grant applications to be submitted to CWCB.

The next CWCB board meeting will be held on May 17 and 18 in Breckenridge.

The July CWCB board meeting will be held in Steamboat. We are really hoping to have roundtable members attend, and will have a celebration the day before the board meeting, as the Colorado Water Plan will have been released.



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Greg: At the upcoming board meeting, we'll be spending much of the day on the draft Water Plan and on the Drought Resiliency discussion. Many of us have had a first look at the draft Water Plan. Board members seem fairly aligned on things that might need to be changed or added.

Mark expressed the importance of what the drought resiliency initiative means in Colorado. Greg invited members to express their input. He brings that to the meetings. The Colorado River isn't the only drainage having shortfalls and challenges. The Colorado River situation and interstate compacts are helping to drive this, but we need to refocus a bit on an internal effort in Colorado. To deal with what we have and don't have right here. Cross-pollinate across basins and help unify Colorado. In the big picture, we need to be unified within the state. This drought resiliency effort is tied to the Water Plan and shares a foundation.

Mark Shea – reiterated the need for appropriate measurement of diversions and consumptive use throughout the state. When the front range is experiencing drought, the importance of the relatively small amount of water that is transported from the Colorado River Basin to the Arkansas Basin cannot be overstated.

Greg welcomes your input, especially prior to this workshop. Regarding measurement, the State Engineer is trying to bring other basins that aren't measuring like we do, up to speed.

Greg discussed the unprecedented reduction in the Colorado River delivery to the lower basin states this year. There may be additional releases out of Flaming Gorge. We're all watching the gages at Powell and Mead. It will be very interesting to watch the modeling that converts snowpack to inflows at Lake Powell. Last year they were 2 million acre-feet off, in the negative. Factors seem to be amplifying each other, like temperature, dust on snow and soil moisture.

Terry: What are your thoughts about what the state can do about reducing unnecessary depletions or losses. How to glean water that can be used more beneficially?

Greg: the panel at the forum that had Pat Wells, Denver, Aurora, one thing they pointed out is that conservation is great for reducing water use, but if you don't have a way of capturing those savings, then you haven't really gotten ahead. We need to look at storage creatively. I wish we were further along with our alluvial storage project. Expanding the ability to store water IN Colorado could be used to satisfy compact demands. There are limits as to what you can achieve with conservation if you are a municipality. That steep curve of savings is beginning to flatten out. Would like to see those savings maximized before further diminishing water available for agriculture.

Greg Felt contact info: Greg Felt [gfelt@chaffeeconomy.org](mailto:gfelt@chaffeeconomy.org) 719-530-1118

## **IBCC- Jeris Danielson**

The IBCC met February 23<sup>rd</sup>. At that meeting a sub-committee was appointed to review the direction IBCC is going in and work on new projects.  
Will meet again on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

A needs assessment meeting was held May 5. Two applications were submitted and recommended by the committee to move forward for roundtable approval today. Those presentations will be after the break.



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A total of \$594,000 is available in Water Supply Reserve Funds.

There is \$427,000 available in the native balance, and \$167,500 available in stimulus funds that must be allocated by May 2023.

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

We have entered the farming season, so won't be meeting as actively for awhile. They are putting together an interim action plan. His hope is to get everyone back together in November. But also will try to get something more fun together in late August, early September.

Will post the interim plan on the website. The timeline is probably by June 15<sup>th</sup>. It started out being a smaller intimate group, but both sides can probably expand. The group includes most ditches in District 12, Pueblo and Colorado Springs. They will try to be ready to bring something forward for the next grant cycle.

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

Bob – VFMP meeting was May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Talked about releases, and the early depletion of the snowpack.

Airborne Snow Observation meeting was held a few days ago. Surprised that we were not a priority basin for that work. They do have a schedule to do a flyover in the upper Arkansas Basin at some point when there isn't any snow. They are interested in hearing from us. We would like them to come to a roundtable meeting and give them input.

It's a powerful tool. It would be valuable to this basin. They are looking to us to find ways of funding the effort. Abby – we did fund them a little bit last year. They need snow-free flights first, for the later flyovers. They have already done some flyovers of passes that are Arkansas Basin on one side and Colorado Basin on the other side.

Forum went very well. 180 people were in attendance. Will be doing a recap next week with the board. It was well attended and lots of substance to the panels. Jean Van Pelt was awarded (two years late) a plaque in thanks for her work for the roundtable. Next year it will be held in Colorado Springs.

## **ARWC – Jonathan Paklaian**

ARWC hosted a panel regarding fire mitigation at the Forum and took folks up to Monarch Pass for an afternoon tour.

Our first slash site is going to be starting in the Wet Mountains. He has a flyer. Off Hwy 78. Forest service will be burning the slash in the winter.

Lot of things are happening in Lake County with the SWIFT Dept of Corrections. They are scoping out the site, and there will be 25 weeks of SWIFT crew that will happen in July. That's 150-200 acres in Lake County.

Another COSWAP grant application has been submitted, funding landscape resiliency. That application went in today through commissioner Mudge in Lake County. These funds can be used as a match for other grant projects, including natural resources.

May need to build capacity, add a resource manager. Make sure we have capacity to make that work happen.

The work will be hand-crew work. A variety of thinning strategies will be employed. Could provide more detail through Andy if there are more questions. They will be removing dead timber. Some will be chipped. Some will be offered as fuel wood. There will be a program to get the wood out to the public.

Next board meeting will be virtual, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any roundtable members that would like to attend are welcome.



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Mark thanked Al Tucker for his work reviewing the bylaws regarding ARWC.

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

Had a good meeting last month. Part of our strategy is to provide support to other's educational events around the basin. Developing a white paper regarding the roundtable, with links to more information.

Our grant application for PEPO funding is due June 1<sup>st</sup>, however, Alli will not continue. PEPO needs to have a contractor of record in order to apply for the expanded funding. Paul is expecting there to be a statewide PEPO meeting the day before the next IBCC meeting, which would be June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Cancelling next week's regular PEPO meeting to work behind the scenes. Paul thanked Alli for her help and for assisting with the transition.

The next network meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Link for that meeting is on the website.

Sam Ebersole will have a workshop that shows folks how to do their own videography and edit it.

PEPO Grant Program: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/pepo-grant-program>

## **BREAK**

## **PROGRAM**

### **Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District – Automatic Headgate Project – Phase II**

Steve Kastner

We have a lot of older headgates, and a lot of energy is spent managing them. PRWCD is planning to replace all of them with automatic headgates.

There are 10 ditches, and 7 diversions off the river. Three headgates have already been replaced with automatic headgates. Now planning to replace two headgates in Phase 2, and Phase 3 would replace the last three.

Will be using Rubicon gates. Water flows over the top of this gate. It has the ability to measure water as it goes over. Has the ability to maintain a certain flow given fluctuations on the upstream side, and can transmit flow data to us. Remotely controlled.

Benefits of Automated Gates

- Save time and cost
- Set and maintain diversion rates
- Ability to control remotely
- Capture more water
- Improve allocations

Consistency with Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan

- Infrastructure Modernization
- Reduce conflicts and increase collaboration
- Reduce 2050 municipal water supply gap
- Increased efficiencies

Total cost is approximately \$125,000. The WSRF request is \$35,000, and the remaining cost will be covered by local matches and a pending WaterSmart grant.

Project schedule: Obtain grant funds by Fall 2022. Would purchase gates next spring and install next fall.

*This project moved forward by consensus.*



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## Cross Creek Metropolitan District – Hale Reservoir Project

Elise Bergsten

This project renovates Hale Reservoir, a historic farm pond in 60-acre Cross Creek Park. It serves multiple purposes:

1. Non-potable source of irrigation water that will conserve 11-27 acre-feet of potable City of Fountain water.
2. Environmental – Hale and its environs will include restored and expanded wetlands and riparian habitat – approximately 7 ½ acres will be added to the existing 3 ½ acres.
3. Stormwater management – New design will manage capacity for 72-hour stormwater storage of 10 +/- acre-feet, combined with water quality mitigation.
4. Recreation – The reservoir, by design, will direct and limit human contact; through boardwalks, fishing piers, signage and ADA accessible trails around the perimeter.

This funding request of \$100,000 would specifically fund the non-potable irrigation system – a pump-house, with filtration system, pipeline and electrical connection.

The project cost is estimated at \$5,802,000. Matching funds in-hand total over \$1,000,000. Additional funds in the amount of \$3,500,000 are committed by City of Fountain, and remaining funding is expected will be supplied by additional grantors and/or the neighboring metropolitan district.

This project moved forward by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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

## MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable, June 8, 12:30 pm [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPOW: June 15, 1:30 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly) [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Enviro/Rec: June 27, 10:00 am
- Ag/Muni: TBD
- IBCC: June 30<sup>th</sup>
- CWCB: June 17-18 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: June 29<sup>th</sup>
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: April 2023, Colorado Springs <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://cwcb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>