



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday May 11, 2022 10:30 am

Meeting via hybrid &
Pueblo Community College
900 W Orman Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/Guests Present:

Mark Shea – Chair	Alli Schuch - Outreach	Jonathan Paklaian - ARWC
Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Env/Rec	John Smeins	Avid Aamed – Aurora Water
Paul Fanning – PEPO	Mannie Colon	Steve Kastner – VC Cons
Terry Scanga – UAWCD	Alli Schuch -	Jeris Danielson - IBCC
Scott King – HCWCD	Sam Stein - CWCB	Al Tucker - Recorder
Abby Ortega – Needs Assess.	Greg Felt - CWCB	Tim Canterbury - IBCC
Rick Kienitz	Matt Heimrich – AG @ Large	Sandy White – Past Chair

1. Greetings & Necessary Introductions;

Mark called the meeting to order @ 10:30 noting a quorum present

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes;

Mark called for comments or corrections to the April 13, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes hearing none minutes approved by consensus.

3. Reoccurring Matters:

• Chair Comments;

Mark reported on the All Chairs meeting held May 10, 2022. Paul reported the discussions were largely on the issues surrounding the Colorado River.

• Outstanding Reports;

Sam Stein reported on the CWCB Water Plan now in the Public Comment phase which will wrap up June 30th. Sam also reported on the **Municipal water use** and conservation (**1051**) database reporting access is delayed until June 1, 2022 due to the portal moving to a new platform. The deadline has also been pushed back to September 2022.

Sam reported on the Grant dates regarding PEPO, June 1st also the new grant request has been sent to the PEPO coordinators and also available on the CWCB Website. Roundtable chairs have been sent the expectations for the new PEPO grant and reporting. The Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants WSRF is also set for June 1st. The WSRF new Criteria guidelines are affective July 1st. There will be a \$300K distribution this goes around. The next fiscal year will be a \$750K cap. The Colorado Water Plan grants will be July 1st.

The next CWCB Board mtg will be held May 17 & 18th in Breckenridge. Prior to the meeting will be a C9 summit. Greg Felt reported on the Water Plan's first draft and looking for the end of June to get wrapped up.

- **Outstanding Reports con't;**

Mark question if any new information with the drought resiliency issue. Greg will take this request to the next CWCB meeting. This is an upcoming issue with Colorado's need for supplying sufficient water to the eastern communities. Mark asks regarding the need to identifying the Demand Management gaps as they relate to all areas requiring sufficient supplies of water. <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/pepo-grant-program>

Terry Scanga inquired about drought's effect and what the state can do with the internally to reduce the drought problems. Greg referenced the Water Forum's panel discussing this very issue and conservation without adequate storage appears the best hope in reducing drought and water limitations. An example is the alluvial storage project being developed in Chaffee county. Greg Felt contact info; gfelt@chaffeecounty.org

Abby Ortega reported that there are two projects presented to the Needs Assessment and will be presented at the general session being for consideration.

Matt Heimrich reported on agricultural issues and crop development and is planning on a meeting in November to discuss solutions. Two topics being looked into are storage and stream flow relating to crop production. Matt is looking to have an interim report by the June.

Bob Hamel reported on the Enviro Recs discussion on the voluntary flow plan allowing 10,000 acre ft of flow for the program as will Pueblo allowing more flow. The concern is our limited snow pack this season. Bob discussed the airborne snow observation ASO. It was surprising that the Upper Ark isn't a priority with this work. It was pointed out that the ASO is interested in hearing from us what could be prioritized with their flyovers. Bob discussed the Forum's Salida event and it went well with a good turnout. There will be a post board meeting May 19th and will be have a full report after that.

Jonathan Paklaian reported on ARWC that there are several locations being explored. There will be some work in the Wet Mountains coming up. Due to wind and snowy conditions work has been slow. There are some grants becoming available. Terry inquired about the work being done, Jonathan state it was post mitigation removing dead timber. Mark announced the next scheduled ARWC Board meeting is scheduled for June 2nd. This meeting could approve the Bylaws opening the ARWC board to individuals other than the Roundtable's Executive Committee members.

Paul Fanning reported on PEPO workgroup's previous meeting regarding future strategies which may open new doors for applying for PEPO supported funding. Our next scheduled meeting is June 29th and everyone is invited. Alli Schuch Outreach added that she's looking for new individuals to feature on the Facebook app. Also some are handing out our Live Like You Love It handouts at their events which is good. These are available to any organization holding events coming up and have the Ark Basin Logo on them and available at our website. Dr. Sam Ebersol is still working to provide video describing the work going on with water issues and may later open a video production workshop for others to continue in this work.

4. Roundtable Business:

- **Discussion of the Watershed Health Seat;**
- **Needs Assessment Presentation;** Abby Ortega, Needs Assessment presented two proposals that was presented to Needs Assessment Committee May 5th 2022. These requests for funding were for;
 1. Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District - WSRF Grant Application - Automated Water Control Gates - Water Efficiency Project - Phase II_

- **Needs Assessment con't;**

The Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District ("PRWCD") is a Colorado water conservancy district formed under the statutes of the State of Colorado in 1960 for the principle purpose of being the legal entity able to contract with the federal government for the construction and repayment of the Trinidad Project. The Trinidad Project principally consists of the Trinidad Dam & Reservoir and ten individual irrigating ditch companies or owners. Up to 19,499 acres of land may be irrigated under the project. The City of Trinidad is an additional beneficiary of the project utilizing some of the changed project ditch water rights for storage in Trinidad Reservoir and for ultimate municipal use. The Colorado Parks & Wildlife is also a project beneficiary likewise utilizing a changed project water right for the filling and maintenance of a permanent fishery and recreation pool of water in Trinidad Reservoir.

2. Hale Reservoir Project – We reviewed and approved this last round, but CWCB did not send forward for CWP Grant funds.

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be recommended for approval by a Roundtable(s) AND the approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the WSRF Program 2022 Grant Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable –
 - Executive Committee – June 8, 2022
 - Roundtable – 12:30
- Committees
 - PEPO – May 18, 1:30-3:00
 - Environmental/Recreation – June 27, 10:00 am
 - Agricultural/Municipal Committee – TBD, next likely November 2022
- ARWC – June 2, 2022 1:00 pm
- IBCC – June 30, 2022
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 17-18

6. Adjourn