



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES COMBINED ZOOM & Pueblo Community Center Wednesday April 13, 2022

Executive Committee/Guests Present:

Mark Shea – Chair
Al Tucker – Rec - Excused
Paul Fanning – Leg Rep, PEPO
Sandy White – Past Chair
Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec
Steve Kastner – Vch Cons.
Tim Canterbury
Amy Ostdiek - State Engineer
Avid Ahmed - Aurora Water

Gracy Goodwin
Russ Sands - CWCB
Jeris Danielson - IBCC
Terry Scanga - UAWCD
Jonathan Paklaian – ARWC Director
Greg Felt – CWCB
Sam Stein - CWCB
Matt Heimrich

Greetings and necessary introductions:

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

Minutes/Notes of Previous meeting:

Mark called for comments or corrections to the March 9, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes hearing none minutes approved by consensus.

Reoccurring matters:

- **Chair Comments –**
 - Mark asked if Greg Felt or Sam Stein, CWCB reps had any comments regarding a letter to the State of Colorado from the Bureau of Reclamation concerning operations on the Colorado River that may generate some challenges involving interstate water concerns.
- **Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members**
 - Greg briefed the Executive Committee about hearing from Becky Mitchell earlier regarding a letter from the Assistant Secretary of Interior Tanya Trujillo, Water & Science, to the seven Basin states holding the Interstate Compacts and the concerns with Lake Powell water levels resulting from the latest droughts. The letter described a proposed reduction in water to be released from the Reservoir. A reduction of 480K acre ft of water. [Link to Reclamation Letter on Lake Powell - https://www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/house-event/LC67937/text?s=1&r=32](https://www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/house-event/LC67937/text?s=1&r=32)
 - Sam added a resource contact from UCRC directory for those wishing more detailed information.



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- **Outstanding Reports con't**
 - **Letter from Secretary on Lake Powell**
 - Terry Scanga inquired if the letter from the Bureau gave any explanation of why they're changing policy. Greg replied he didn't see any explanation for this proposed change but felt it didn't alter the
 - Compacts all that much. But an interesting point is the .48 acre feet reduction stays within the Demand Management criteria. Terry's concern regarding over allocations with the lower Compact states. This letter didn't address any of these issues.
 - Sam stated this letter appeared to concern dam levels and hydroelectric production as to a safety issue.
 - Mark asked if this may have an effect of our ten year obligations to meeting the demands.
 - Amy Ostdick added the Sec of Interior is focused on the levels of Lake Powell getting below 3490 and resulting damage this could cause to the hydroelectric power apparatus. This is a lower level than the original 3525 elevation that was earlier felt as critical.
 - Jeris asked if this reduction of 6.5% (480,000 acre ft) will affect our agreements with Mexico. Amy responded that our obligation with Mexico comes from surplus water and probably will not impact our agreements with them. Sandy wanted clarification on the Compact's emphasis of consumptive reduction vs delivery demands. The Compact's intention is still being scrutinized as to the effects to the downstate.
 - Jeris inquired if this will reduce water to the Native American tribes as they are the senior water rights holders if this reduction is going to be equal across all users or through the priority system. Amy responded that it will most likely affect the lower basin states in the Tier 2 category which may affect some tribal holders.
 - Amy clarified the difference between Demand Management and the letter from Secretary Trujillo. Where Demand Management is the volunteering of holding back water from the upper basin states to assist in the water levels of Lake Powell vs the Secretary's letter to hold water back in Lake Powell from being released. 110:45

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

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| • Arkansas Basing Roundtable – 5/11/22 | • Committees – |
| ○ Executive Committee – 10:30 AM | ○ PEPOW – |
| ○ Roundtable – 12:30 PM | ○ Enviro/Rec Comm. – |
| • Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – | ○ Ag/Municipal Comm. – |
| • IBCC – October 2022 | • CWCB – May 17, 2022 |
| | • ARWC – |