



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday July 13, 2022 10:30 am

Pueblo Community College

900 W Orman Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/ Guests Present

Mark Shea – Chair

Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Env/Rec

Abby Ortega – NAC

Jeff Rodriguez - CWCB

Amy Ostdiek – CWCB

Sara Mudge – ARWC

Avid Aahmed – Aurora Water

Jeris Danielson - IBCC

Al Tucker - Recorder

Paul Fanning – PEPO

Russ Sands - CWCB

Steve Kastner

Elizabeth Schoder - CWCB

Tim Canterbury - IBCC

Tim Canterbury - IBCC

Sandy White – Past Chair

Gracy Goodwin – Upper Ark

Greg Felt – CWCB

Elise Bergsten - Secretary

Chris Sturm - CWCB

Jonathan Pakliaian - ARWC

Terry Scanga – Upper Ark

Executive Committee Absent

1. Greetings and Introductions;

- Mark called the meeting to order at 10:30 followed by introductions.

2. Minutes/Notes of Previous Meeting;

- Mark called for corrections/comments to the Minutes of June 8, 2022 hearing none approved by consensus.

3. Reoccurring Matters:

- Chair Comments - Mark Shea opened the discussion asking for a report from Greg Felt and Amy Ostdiek for an overview of the ongoing issues related to the Colorado River Water Supplies and the interface with the Colorado River with other Basins and the directive from the Bureau of Reclamation to the states to review the uses of the Colorado River supplies and encourage to reduce consumption.
- Outstanding Reports – Amy Ostdiek reported they have been in contact with other Basins consumptive flows. She also reported the upper basins have reduced consumption from 2020 to current of around one million acre feet. While the lower basin states are still consuming ten million acre feet and not appearing to take further measures to conserve presently. There have been closed door discussions by California and Arizona on ways to lower consumptive use. The following chart shown by Amy demonstrates the consumptive use numbers since 2019 to present;

	Lower Basin	Upper Basin
2019	9,349,000	4,560,000
2020	9,639,000	4,546,000
2021	9,987,000	3,534,000
2022	9,879,000	

Based on these numbers the lower basins will be asked to reduce their consumptive use. Amy shared reductions including a 25% reduction in 2021 with continued reductions based on water supply availability. Amy also reported on ongoing intrastate conservation efforts and better measuring and monitoring efforts. These efforts will continue. Greg Felt reported the Lower

Basins will need to increase their efforts in reducing consumptive uses. Greg also pointed out the upper basin water rights holders have been doing incredible jobs with consumptive reductions. Questions to Amy and Greg started with Al Tucker's question regarding a reported article in the LA Times stating the Colorado River supplies were sufficient and conservation efforts weren't required currently. It appears the Lower Basin States still weren't reducing usage? Amy responded there is a misconception that California as well as Arizona have senior water rights on the Colorado River which requires further discussions. Sandy White asked if this matter goes to the Secretary of Interior, how will she enforce her directions. Amy responded that the Secretary of Interior has very clear authority over the Lower Basins to use the water more efficiently. Sandy clarified the question of enforce decisions vs authority. Is this the role of the US Marshals or who? Amy answered that this then would go the Bureau of Reclamation. At this Amy responded that the Bureau has clear authority to reduce water from Lake Mead, if necessary. Terry Scanga inquired regarding how much water has been delivered in the last ten years and how has our 75 over going in the last several years. Amy responded we are well over the 75 and closer to 88 over. As well as we are well within our Compact requirements. Jeris Danielson inquired about the Upper Basin States and how they're doing on consumptive uses. Amy replied that the upper basin states are working together. We as upper basin states are working together.

- Mark asked for other reports from Executive Members; Terry Scanga responded with the last update from the IBCC meeting on June 30th which discussed the BIP plans. Many basins don't have access to grant writer which we're fortunate to have. HB 1379 will appropriate \$5 million for funding. Bill 215 will extend another 5 million federal dollars without Tabor restrictions. Jeris discussed the need for grant writers to pursue these projects enabling water usage.
- Mark concluded with asking members to familiarize with all our projects listed.

4. Roundtable Business;

- AWRC/PEPO WSRF grant contract amendment Paul Fanning discussed the grant process being made available. The PEPO grant has been turned in and still waiting on confirmation. They're currently waiting to transition from previous contract work to the new ARWC workgroup which may require a supporting letter from the Roundtable. Mark asked for questions or comments. Jonathan Pakliaian inquired about the work going forward with ARWC. They're waiting on the funding to wrap up according to Mark.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – August 10, 2022
 - Executive Committee – 10:30 AM
 - Roundtable – 12:30 PM
- Committees
 - PEPO – TBD
 - Environmental/Recreation August 29, 10:00AM
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD Likely in November
 - ARWC – TBD
 - IBCC – TBD
 - CWCB Board Meeting – July 20-21, Denver

6. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Committee membership: Mark Shea (Ch), Bob Hamel (VCh-NonC), Steve Kastner (VCh-Cons), Al Tucker (Rec), Sandy White (Past-Ch), Greg Felt (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Abby Ortega (Needs Assessment), Paul Fanning (Legislative Rep), Amber Shanklin (ARWC Board Member), Sara Mudge (ARWC Board Member) **Additional distribution:** Sam Stein (CWCB Staff), Elise Bergsten (Secretary), Jonathan Pakliaian (ARWC Director)