



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECEISIONS

Start Time: 12:30pm

October 12, 2022

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

Members in Attendance;

Mark Shea	Joshua Godwin	Spike Ausmus	Abby Ortega
Bob Hamel	Sam Stein	Tim Canterbury	Kent Ricken
Gracy Goodwin	Al Tucker	Seth Clayton	Terry Scanga
Steve Kastner	Avid Aahmed	Jack Goble	Greg Teter
Greg Felt	Jeff Rodriguez	Tom Grasmick	Tom Verquer
Jeris Danielson	Matt Heimrich	Rick Kienitz	Chris Wiseman
Sandy White	Dan Williams	Dwayne McFall	
Ben Wade	Scott King	Kevin Niles	

- **Greetings and Introductions;**

- Establish Quorum
 - Quorum Present

- **Approval of Agenda;**

- Agenda approved by consensus

- **Approval of Minutes/Notes of Previous Meeting;**

- Minutes approved by consensus with no changes

- **Public Comment**

- None

- **Reports;**

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

- Mark reported on the discussions from the Executive Committee Meeting earlier with regard to bringing projects forward to gain Roundtable support. The influx of project dollars that require additional engagement from Roundtable members ensuring and identifying and these activities that benefit our Basin's water needs. Mark also reported on the grant portal that is being refurbished and still has some issues. This undertaking will be presented later today by CWCB. Mark conveyed a conversation from Executive Director IBCC Dan Gibbs of a call to action to identify and bring forward projects beneficial to their basins that they represent. The project we discussed which fits several needs within our basin is the Arkansas Valley Conduit which servers several communities. This 130 mile pipeline will serve 40 communities and 50,000 people is being spearheaded by Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. We discussed reaching out to them in in support of this project.



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- **CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez and Russ Sands**

- Mark called on Jeff Rodriguez and Greg Felt to update us on the latest with CWCB. Jeff introduced Joshua Godwin CWCB Staff finance. At this time Jeff turned over the discussion to Joshua. Joshua discussed his work with grants and funding procedures.
- Jeff gave an update on the WSRF dollars available which now is raising the cap from \$750K to one million dollars. Which is a temporary cap now being instituted as of October 1st. Also funding is being increased to \$1M for PEPO for reaching out and educational programs. There is \$11M being made available for statewide Grant Funds with December 1st 2022 as a deadline for applications. Another program being made CAWA for water saving projects with agriculture. An upcoming meeting in January for Basin Hero Awards. Roundtable members will be sent RSVP's via emails. Another meeting scheduled will be for Recorders and Chairs coming up in November and Recorder reimbursements is being raised from \$5K to \$6.5K annually. Colorado Landscape Summit is scheduled for November 9th at Metro State.
- Greg Felt reported on the Colorado River Compact challenges and headway is being made with the Lower Basin states. They have also meeting some of the irrigation ditch organizations. Other issues being looked into are with the compact's upper basin states have no control once the water leaves their states. One issue is the water measured at Lees Ferry and withdrawals from evaporation and other water losses are not taken into account. Yet we are bound to release set amount of Acre Feet downstream. Greg discussed the severance tax which is close to \$80M this year they've approached the legislature for funding some of our projects. There is now \$20M being allocated for the Arkansas Valley Conduit Project in addition to the other funds already allocated.

- **IBCC – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga**

- Jeris will meet later at IBCC on October 25th. Jeris also mentioned that as with the earlier reporting with Executive Director Gibbs he sees support for the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

- **Needs Assessment – Abby Ortega**

- Mark turned meeting over to Abby Ortega and Gracy Goodwin to update the members on the upcoming Needs Assessment Committee meeting. Abby reported she has nine individuals reach out to her for project applications and wished to confirm the October 15th deadline for these applications. The NAC meeting will be October 26th @ 1:30pm and will be virtual.
- Abby requested that with nine applications she is looking for additional volunteers for reviewing these project applications. At the November Roundtable they'll have the WSRF applications give reports at the meeting and others may be summarized for going forward.
- Mark asked how these applications may be reviewed? Abby stated this is still of concern due to the Portal not making them available until they've been finalized and that may be difficult because at that time no more modifications can be done with the Application. One of the issues Gracy reported is accessing the Portal and having a PDF application. She may email these out to Executive Committee prior to the next scheduled meeting in November allowing them be reviewed. Gracy will be meeting with Ben Wade soon to discuss this issue and getting the applications to us. The current method is to download these forms from the Portal since this is the only way they can be obtained.



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- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich and Kent Ricken**
 - Matt reported that he has reached out to Dan Tucker the Engineer for Agra, and the upcoming AG/jMuni meeting will be this November perhaps maybe on the 8th though 10th or later on the 15th. This is possibly maybe the next round of funding for Ag.
- **Enviro Rec – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs**
 - Bob opened the discussion for the next scheduled Water Forum being scheduled for April 2023 and is looking for a possible grant request.
 - The Environmental Rec didn't meet this past month. There is an opening for an Environmental Rec person.
 - Mark pointed out since Amber has left the Palmer Land Trust we currently have several seats open. Perhaps letters sent out for applicants for these positions will be our next step.
- **Arkansas River Waterhed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian**
 - Mark said Jonathan is currently attending the watershed conference in Avon and is unavailable for today's session. So Mark is reporting on his behalf mentioning there will be a presentation on the National Forest Foundation project while Jonathan is attending the conference. ARWC is currently working on several watershed grants important to our Basin. ARWC's Operations Director has left and Jonathan will be reviewing that job description and posting it. ARWC will be stepping up with postings on our website.
- **PEPO – Jonathan Paklaian**
 - Mark reported the PEPO grant has been approved.
- **Election of Officers;**
 - Mark opened the Annual election of Executive Committee Officers. There hasn't been any new volunteers for these positions so those currently filling these positions will be voted for today. Mark explained that the seats for Chair, Vice Chair Environmental/Rec, Vice Chair Consumptive, Recorder are elected annually and are open for nominations. The seats for IBCC and IBCC Alternate are biannual. Currently all these seats are open.
 - Mark read the nominees for these seats;
 - Mark Shea, Chair
 - Bob Hamel, Vice Chair Environmental/Recreation
 - Steve Kastner, Vice Chair Consumptive
 - Al Tucker, Recorder
 - Terry Scanga, IBCC
 - Tim Canterbury, IBCC Alternate
 - Sandy White moved to re-elect those currently serving in these positions it was 2nd and approved .
 - Jeris Danielson opened to the floor for any additional nominations. Hearing none Mark closed the nominations with all re-elected to their current positons.
 - Mark then opened the conversation regarding the Needs Assessment Committee chair with Abby Ortega stepping down apointed Gracy Goodwin as new NAC Chair per our Bylaws.



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- **Program: CWCB New Grant & Loan Portal Video Instructions and Review, Steve Kastner & Ben Wade CWCB**
 - Mark turned the floor over to Steve Kastner to introduce our CWCB Staff presenter Ben Wade.
 - Ben presented to the Roundtable a Video on Grant Opportunities and Water Supply Reserve Funds Grants featuring the CWCB Portal being developed. This Portal is working but issues are still being ironed out. It should be up and fully functional by December 1st this year.
- **Adjourn**
 - Mark called for the meeting to adjourn at 3:00pm
- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - **Arkansas Basin Roundtable November 9, 2022**
 - **Executive Committee – 10:30am**
 - **General Session – 12:30pm**
 - **PEPO – TBD**
 - **Environmental Rec – October 31, 2022**
 - **Agriculture Muni – November 2022**
 - **ARWC – Q4 December XX TBD**
 - **Interbasin Compact IBCC October XX TBD**
 - **CWCB Board Meeting**