



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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

Start Time: 12:30pm

November 9, 2022

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

### Members in Attendance;

Mark Shea	Sam Stein	Tim Canterbury	Tom Verquer
Bob Hamel	Al Tucker	Seth Clayton	Chris Wiseman
Gracy Goodwin	Abby Aahmed	Tom Grasmick	Ariel Hacker
Steve Kastner	Jeff Rodriguez	Dwayne McFall	Gilbert Ramiez
Greg Felt	Matt Heimrich	Kevin Niles	Rena Griggs
Jeris Danielson	Dan Williams	Kent Ricken	Mannie Colon
Sandy White	(excused)	Terry Scanga	Amy Mitchell
Joshua Godwin	Spike Ausmus	Jonathaian Paklaian	

### • Guests and Presenters Present;

James Eccher	Lisa Pace
Jean Van Pelt	Gaye Davis
Chelsea Nutter	

### • 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 welcomed Ariel Hacker representing El Paso County to the Roundtable. Ariel introduced herself she as a county rep and is replacing Mike Fink on the Roundtable.

#### • CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez and Russ Sands

- Mark called on Greg Felt Director CWCB for his report. Greg provided his contact info for individuals to reach out to him regarding the hurdles navigating the new Grant Portal that is in the process of development. ([gfelt@chaffee-county.org](mailto:gfelt@chaffee-county.org)) Greg announced that the new Water Plan Grant Coordinator is coming on board, Lauren Dunkin. She will serve the Ark Basin as her focus. She is planning on joining the Roundtable at our December meeting and will be open for questions. Mark asked Greg to keep us updated on the Colorado River Compacts and the impact regarding the Ark Basin water's need.



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Greg said a new element he brought up was evaporation from the area where Colorado's supply the water and downstream where its finally delivered to the Lower Basins hasn't been accounted for and its becoming more of an issues. He's been assured this is a topic of future discussions which looks promising. Terry asked about the changing leadership positions within CWCB. Greg replied that the governor has appointed new commissioner positions due to the new pressures with water demands. It will be up to the legislature in the coming year to approve these positions and associated costs.

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

- Jeris reported that IBCC met October 24<sup>th</sup> at the meeting Jeris brought up the support for the Ark Basin Conduit. Water related activity funding was discussed with regard to the \$17 million infusion with each Roundtable receiving a million and PEPO getting a million. The Colorado River situation was discussed and still indcisive as to resolve the issue. The Governor has appointed Chris Mountain of the Ute Tribe to sit on the IBCC this is a first for any tribal member to sit on the IBCC or CWCB. Everyone is excited. We're looking for an IBCC and all Roundtable joint meeting coming up. Terry brought up the continuing shared risk with the Colorado River water and the IBCC's central role in bringing this to the forefront.

- **Needs Assessment – Gracy Goodwin**

- Gracy discussed the funds analysis and the four applications for the Water Plan Grant where we'll need to supply a letter of support if they're move ahead. Next will be four presentations for the Water Supply Reserve Funds Grant. Currently the funds are for \$1 million bumped up from the \$750K that will be reverted back in July 2023. Steve Kastner inquired regarding when will the funds for the current level need to be allocated. Gracy felt the we need to apportion the funds by the first part of 2023. Mark again felt we need to have our constituents brought on board for any projects that may qualify for the funds and benefit their communities.

- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich and Kent Ricken**

- Mark called on Matt and Kent to report on whether an Ag meeting has been scheduled yet. Kent reported that to date one hasn't been scheduled, but will be soon.

- **Enviro Rec – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs**

- Bob reported they met on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Two items came forward one on the Griffin Park channel being reactivated. Another was the Minequa Dam below Canon City and allowing access around the dam which could affect some of the fish species. Bob also update on the Water Forum Planning committee coming together to formulate the 2023 Water Forum event scheduled to Colorado Springs in April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. There will also be a VIP Dinner scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> preceding the Forum scheduled events and presentations. Bob also pointed out that they're still looking for someone to fill Amber Shanklin's position on the Enviro/Rec Committee there are some interest expressed they're looking at these individuals which need to be nominated by a conservation organization to qualify.

- **Arkansas River Waterhed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian**

- Jonathan reported on attending the Colorado's Watershed Conference. ARWC is working on some watershed projects and still looking for grant funding. Investigatin funding sources has used up staff funds as it's time consuming and to date ARWC has



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spent around \$17,000 researching these funding opportunities developing these grant requests. They have also lost Carrie Adair from ARWC and need to fill this position.

223:00

- **PEPO – Jonathan Paklaian**
  - Jonathan asked Maria Brandt the ARWC PEPO Representative to report. She reported that CWCB has been very helpful with all the new responsibilities coming up with ARWC and funding issues. One of the issues has been access to funding which only now has become available to ARWC. Until now outreach and education has been limited but with access to funding it will now become more effective. With this new access for funding they're looking for more active participation with these other statewide programs along with networking. Sandy asked about a BIP Coordinator being funded through PEPO available funds. At this time not a definitive answer has arisen.
- **Needs Assessment Committee: Presentation of Water Plan and WSRF Grant Applications**
  - Gracy opened the WSRF grants for moving forward.  
These following applications were approved to move forward with a letter of support unanimously.

## Water Plan Grant Applications (ABRT Letters of Support Only)

Item	Description	Organization	Presenter
1	Next Generation Water Leaders	River Science Center	Chelsea Nutter Approved to move forward.
2	Southmoor Drive Channel & Floodplain Restoration	Fountain Creek Watershed District	Alli Schuch Approved to move forward.
3	2023 Education & Outreach Event	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum	Jean Van Pelt Approved to move forward
4	NRCS Planning Assistance Support	HCWCD	Carol Dunn Sandy presented in place of Carol. Approved to move forward

- **Water Supply & Reserve Fund Grant Applications (ABRT Funding & Letters of Support)**
  - **First Grant Application:** Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project  
Presented by Jonathan Paklaian, ARWC  
The presentation reviewed four components of this project.  
Task 1: Upland watershed protection - ARWC  
Task 2: Crossings, Habitat, Infrastructure – Team Lake County  
Task 3: Overarching – Team ARWC  
Task 4: Mines and Habitat – Team Trout Unlimited  
Basin Benefits: Arkansas River Watershed, Fish and Wildlife, Fire risk, Flooding, Watershed resiliency, Water Supply & Infrastructure, 100 mile of Gold Medal Fishery, Most rafted in the world  
Gracy asked if there were any concerns or issues none were expressed, and approval for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.



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- **Second Grant Application:** Upper Canal Automated Diversion Headgate Replacement Beaver Park Water Inc.

The presentation reviewed by Steve Kastner

The project presented was the Replacement of the Beaver Park Headgate. The objective is to replace the aged and failing headgate which requires manual operation with a new automated headgate.

Basin Benefits: New headgate features increase efficiency and maximizes water supplies. Reduces staff and cost to operate and increases staff safety accessing diversion site sometimes due to inclement weather. Mannie Colon asked a few questions due to the operation of the new gate and was informed of its operation requirements.

Gracy asked if there were any more questions or concerns there were none and was approved for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.

- **Third Grant Application:** Coler Ditch Diversion Project for the City of Walsenburg

The presentation reviewed by Gaye Davis

Project Needs; The City of Walsenburg owns and operates Walsenburg Reservoir (City Lake) that supplies their treatment plant. The reservoir is filled with raw water diverted near the town of La Veta through eleven miles of pipelines. The reservoir is able to store 410AF but currently is storing 150AF a 45% loss due to pipeline degradation due to multiple breaks resulting in continuing shut downs for repairs. This has resulted in suspended solids in the treatment plant and turbidity violations due to algae growth and stage 2 water restrictions for Walsenburg residents.

The solution is to utilize the seasonal water right available through the Coler Ditch decree and divert water into Walsenburg Reservoir. This provides a new water source for Walsenburg while introducing redundancy to maintain storage.

Gracy asked if there were any questions it was approved for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.

- **Fourth Grant Application:** Lake Beckwith Dam Rehab Colorado City Metropolitan District  
James Eccher waived today's presentation.

- **Fifth Grant Application:** Landscape Transformation      Colorado Springs Utilities

Presentation reviewed by Lisa Pace

Project overview is to transform new landscapes by incentivizing home builders to install drought resilient plant material, low –water lawn alternatives, and efficient irrigation equipment ensuring landscape resiliency through water scarcity and climate change.

Benefits is reducing watering use in new subdivisions.

Gracy asked if there were questions consensus to move forward.

- **Adjourn**

- Mark called for the meeting to adjourn at 3:00pm



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- **Upcoming Meetings**
  - **Arkansas Basin Roundtable**
    - **Executive Committee – 10:30am**
    - **General Session – 12:30pm**
  - **Committees**
    - **Needs Assessment – December 2022**
    - **Environmental/Recreation Committee – None in December back 2023**
    - **Agriculture/Municipal Committee – November 8,9,10 or 15 2022?**
    - **IBCC - TBD**
  - **ARWC – Q4 December XX TBD**
  - **IBCC – February 15, 2023, Oct 2023**
  - **CWCB Board Meeting – November 16-17 – Denver Water**