



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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

Start Time: 12:30pm

January 11, 2023

Pueblo Convention Center  
320 Central Main St

### Members/guests present;

Mark Shea – Chair Excused	Sandy White – Past Chair	Jessica Mills
Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec	Jack Goble	Chris Tomky
Jeff Rodriguez – CWCB	Terry Scanga – Upper Ark	Darren Grap
Jeris Danielson - IBCC	Matt Heimerich – Ag @ Large	Robert Sakata
Abba Aahmed – Aurora	Rachel Zancanella	Zach Swearingen
Water	Will Koger	Wayne Vanderschvere
Steve Kastner – Vch Cons	Katherine Kallenbach	Jim Broderick
Al Tucker – Recorder	Rena Griggs – DWR	Seth Clayton
Scott King - HCWCD	Krystal Brown	Lauren Duncan
Gracy Goodwin – NAC	Dan Tucker	Maria Brandt
Greg Felt – CWCB	Chris Woodka	Blake Osborn
Jonathan Pakliaian – ARWC	Alli Schuch	
Tim Canterbury – IBCC	Lucy Harrington	

- **Welcome and Introductions; Steve Kastner/ Chair pro tem**
  - **Establish Quorum** – Steve Kastner called the meeting to order after establishing an quorum present
  - **Approval of Agenda** – The Agenda was approved by Consensus
  - **Approval of Minutes – December 2022** – The minutes were approved by consensus
  - **Public Comment** - None
- **Reports;**
  - **Executive Committee** – Steve Kastner reported the Executive Committee discussed ongoing improvements to our projects list and updating to keep current. PEPO may be involved with keeping updates current. Steve also mentioned an email from Dan Gibbs regarding the Govenor’s funding budget for water projects which comes to \$25M exceeding previous budget years.
  - **CWCB Report** – Jeff Rodriguez, Russ Sands, Greg Felt – Steve called on Jeff and Greg to report. Greg started with reporting on the Water Plan which is being drafted for the January CWCB meeting. This plan addresses the consumptive use issues throughout lower basins with the need to reduce consumptive use. This may include farrow some of the agricultural lands. They’re still working on many of the issues regarding Demand Management and the equity of this program. Jeff added that if anyone is interested in participating in these transmountain diversion programs they’re welcome. Applications for participating are open until the first of February. Jeff shared CWCB January schedule of events;



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

- **Water plan Celebration** – January 24<sup>th</sup> Downtown Denver 4:30-9:00 pm
  - **Reminders** / Regional WPG Managers/ Governor’s Budget Proposal/HB22-1379 Accepting Applications
  - **Basin Hero Awards** / Vote Now/ Recognized at the Water Plan Celebration
  - **Funding Updates** / WSRF Statewide Grants/ Basin Requirements +\_ 10% Project Costs/ FAQ and other tools coming / Other funding resources / Wildfire Ready Watersheds program is being readied now per Chris Sturm Jeff reported.
- Steve introduced Rachel Zancaella our new division engineer for the Arkansas Basin Division Two replacing Bill Tyner
- **IBCC Report** – Steve called on Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga for updates on IBCC. Jeris stated the upcoming IBCC meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> in Denver and nothing more to report until then.
- **Needs Assessment Committee** – Steve called on Gracy Goodwin for updates on the Needs Assessment on upcoming funding applications. Gracy updated the members on funding so far allocated having started with \$1M less \$230K for projects having a remaining balance of \$730K in our WSRF account.

1-Gracy presented NAC’s UAWCD project;

- **Project # One / UAWCD Data Collection**
  - Task 1- Construct Data Collection Platforms
    - Matching Funds (cash & in-Kind = \$24,768
    - WSRF Funds = \$53,860
    - Total = \$78,628
  - Task 2 - Update aging infrastructure
    - Matching Funds (cash & in-kind) = \$35,631,
    - WSRF Funds = \$77,071
    - Total = \$112,702
  - Task 3 – Project and Grant Management
    - Matching Funds (cash & in-kind) = \$9,105
    - Total = \$0,105
  - Sandy White moved to approve with a letter of support, motion carried

2-Chris Tomky VP Highline Canal;

- **Project # Two / Rocky Ford Diversion Structure Feasibility Study Project**
  - Rocky Ford Highline Canal Overview
    - Senior Water Rights dating to 1862
    - Approx. 89 miles long
    - Varies from 56cfs to 500cfs
    - Irrigates approx. 22,500 acres of farmland in Pueblo & Otero counties
    - Aging infrastructure
  - Task 1 – Data Collection



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

- Task 2 – Diversion Alternatives
- Task 3 – Permitting Process
- Task 4 – Loan Feasibility Study
- Task 5 – Project Funding Support / Meetings
- Budget Totals = Matching Funds = \$13,875/WSRF = \$78,625/Total = \$92,500
- Matt Heimerich moved to approve with a letter of support, motion carried
- **AG/Muni Committee** – Steve called Matt Heimerich to report Matt stated there will be an upcoming Ag meeting scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> and any interested parties are welcome to attend. This will be available via conference call as well.
- **Enviro/Rec** – Steve called Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs to report. Bob introduced Blake Osborn as the new Environmental Rep. Bob reported that the Enviro/Rec committee will be meeting approximately every other month starting in January. The meetings will be on the last Monday from 10am to noon and the meetings will continue to be Zoom. Rena added that there is Federal Grant funds available for the Removal Dam project and they're in the process of submitting their proposal. If accepted they'll be awarded \$1M which covers half the project costs.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative** – Steve called on Jonathan to report on ARWC. Jonathan reported that ARWC closed out the year with a \$600K budget which covered to various projects throughout 2022 and expects 2023 to do even better. They just met with the BLM discussing some Lake County projects that have been approved funding for fuel reduction programs. Jonathan reported they also have several projects in the works in other counties.
- **PEPO** – Jonathan Pakliaian – Jonathan reported that they have met and discussed reaching out to other parts of the Basin to see if they have interest in pursuing projects and doing follow through. Prior to doing this they'll have to modify the scope of PEPO grants so they've reached out to Elizabeth with CWCB to check into this. Bob Hamel inquired about PEPO reaching out to some of the counties that are underrepresented with the Roundtable and perhaps filling some of these vacancies. Jonathan replied that this may be done while reaching out to some of these counties regarding projects and asking for their participation on the Roundtable.
- **Arkansas Valley Conduit Update – Chris Woodka, SECWCD**
  - Chris Woodka gave a presentation on the Arkansas Valley Conduit and a brief history of the project since its inception in 1962. Chris discussed the project's overall scope starting at the Pueblo Reservoir continuing on to Lamar. The project is with Bureau of Reclamation and the Southeastern Water Conservancy District. Several trunk distribution lines will be built as the conduit is being done. Abba asked regarding the water along the conduit may be used for augmentation are/not. Jim Broderick responded this is being looked into. Chris discussed the counties involved with the project construction beginning with Pueblo County and water treatment process. Next is Crowley County and working with their commissioners. The next county is Otero County



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR  
WATER FUTURE

with several water issues regarding their deep water contaminants. Next county to be served is Bent County. The last county to be served is Prowers County ending at Lamar. An additional spur will serve Kiowa County serving Eads.

Chris went over the Participant's shared costs of the AVC which showed all the participating water systems will be responsible of repayment of delivery line construction debt on a pro-rata basis, as well as OM&R of the AVC including some other costs.

- **Adjourn** – Meeting Adjourned
- **Upcoming Meetings**
  - **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – February 8, 2023**
    - **Executive Committee – 10:30am**
    - **General Session – 12:30pm**
  - **Committees**
    - **Needs Assessment**
    - **Enviro/Rec Committee – January 30<sup>th</sup>**
    - **Agricultural/Municipal Committee**
  - **ARWC – First Quarter Board Meeting – TBD**
  - **IBCC – February 15<sup>th</sup>, October 2023**
  - **CWCB Board Meeting – January 23-24<sup>th</sup>, Aurora (With Water Congress)**