



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting
Summary Minutes And Record of Decisions
February 08, 2023, Start Time 12:30pm
Pueblo Community College, Student Center
900 W Orman Ave
Pueblo, CO 81004**

Members/guests present;

Mark Shea – Chair	Jonathan Pakliaian – ARWC	Sandy White – Past Chair
Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec	Mannie Colon	Jack Goble
Jeff Rodriguez – CWCB	Dwayne McFall	Terry Scanga – Upper Ark
Jeris Danielson - IBCC	Rick Kidd	Matt Heimerich – Ag @ Large
Abba Aahmed – Aurora	Gilbert Ramirez	Rena Griggs – DWR
Water	Dan Richards	Robert Sakata
Steve Kastner – Vch Cons	Greg Teter	Seth Clayton
Al Tucker – Recorder	Ariel Hacker	Jack Goble
Scott King - HCWCD	Tom Verquer	Josue Perez
Gracy Goodwin – NAC	Jeffery DeHerrerra	Blake Osborn
Greg Felt – CWCB	Tim Canterbury – IBCC	Kent Ricken

- **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** – January 8, 2023 approved by consensus
 - **Introductions** – Steve provided introductions of those attending via zoom
 - **Public Comment** - None
- **Reports;**
 - **Executive Committee** – Steve briefly opened the discussions on today’s Executive Committee meeting held earlier. Steve mentioned Mark Shea’s recognition and Water Hero Award presented to him at the launching of the Water Plan event earlier. Steve mentioned the discussion relating to the Projects List and the need for better management of the list.
 - **CWCB Report** –Greg Felt reported on the CWCB meeting held earlier. Greg congratulated Mark for receiving the Hero Award, it was well deserved. Mark has done a lot of work on Watershed health throughout the basin and deserves the recognition. Greg then discussed the Water Plan its importance. There is a twenty-one page Executive Summary encourages everyone try and get copies out to their networks. (<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/Colorado-water-plan>) Greg discussed Becky Mitchel’s address on the Colorado River issues at the last meeting. The question of Compact inequity was asked. Greg responded that there is lack of credit for the evaporation at Lake Powell is one of the inequities involved with the compact. Jeff provided added



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reporting on the CWCB meeting.

Jeff Rodriguez discussed the programs being done by CWCB one is Turf Replacement Program for managing consumptive water use. This can be done through TLC challenge with an Application until March 1st. The other is the Turf Program with the Deadline of March 31st. Another program is the Urban Landscape Conservation landscape which the Governor is requesting. This program has a taskforce to assist with this. There is an upcoming Drought Summit being planned for 2023. Steve asked if local water holders were to participate in the Turf Replacement program, such as, local homeowners who owned their wells are they eligible and does it affect their property values? Jeff responded probably not, but will raise the question at their next meeting.

- **IBCC Report** –Jeris reported that IBCC will be meeting 2/15 in Denver it will be a hybrid meeting so it will be available via zoom to participate. Jeris then pointed out the topics to be discussed, which will be; Colorado River Update, Basin Update, funding, outdoor water conservation efforts and finally an IBCC directions and what needs to be done. Mark asked about the System Conservation Program and who is eligible to participate? Jeff and Greg felt this is still unclear on how this pilot program will look like at this time. Greg will look into this issue and get back with Mark later.
- **Needs Assessment** –Gracy Goodwin reported on NAC. Gracy reported there is still WSRF grant dollars available with upcoming deadlines of 2/15 for submitting projects with a meeting set for 2/27 @ 2pm for reviewing the proposed projects. Currently there are two perhaps three projects for review. Currently we have \$729K in our basin account in July it will be again \$760K. Grant cycles on our Website need revising they should be February for the March deadline and then July for the October deadline. The Water Plan grant deadline is May for a letter of support and a September CWCB deadline.
- **Ag/Muni Committee** – Matt reported on the Ag/Muni Committee a meeting will be 3/9 in Fowler. Dan Tucker has sent an agenda and if anyone wishes to be added to the mailing list email me. Steve asked if Matt has any items he would mention regarding the upcoming agenda. Matt replied one of the topics will be well augmentation and issues related to the drought and its effects Public Trust Doctrine.
- **Enviro/Rec** – Bob Hamel reported on the Enviro/Rec meeting held 1/30. Bob pointed out that some came to the meeting with projects and it was discussed regarding how best to present these projects for funding. Many of these projects are worth pursuing. They had their first *Vfmp (Arkansas River Voluntary Flow Management Program)* meeting discussing water storage and snow pack. Bob mentioned the Forum is coming in April at Colorado Springs and rooms are set aside for those who wish to attend.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative** – Jonathan reported on the ARWC Board meeting where two new directors were added; Abba Aahmed and Lucy Harrington. Jonathan reported on new wildfire grants received. These were mitigation and watershed protection.



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- **PEPO** – Jonathan gave a brief update regarding grants coming forth and slated for. Sandy inquired about funds for a BIP Coordinator position. The understanding was this would come through PEPO funding. Jonathan replied this is still be undecided due to funding being allocated. As it stands there maybe funds for supporting projects individually throughout the Basin.
- **Colorado Springs Utilities' Water Sharing Program – Kelly Roesch and Scott Lorenz**
 - Scott Lorenz presented the Basin Water Sharing Program fundamentals originally set up by Aurora Water. Now working with farmers on how to successfully implement the program.
 - Water Supply has changed with demands and supplies available
 - Future demands out 50 years are being calculated in meeting the water gap
 - Using Water Efficiently e.g. better use of water reducing applications
 - 1041 Regulations be followed.
 - Key Terms = Monetary mitigation upheld
 - Kelly Roesch further reported on the Wertz Project dynamics of the project.
 - The IGA has been approved
 - Questions posed to the presenters; Will the water transfer be inter-county? Will Ag water end in Golf courses? Will revegetation will be indigenous? Prompted several discussions.
- **Adjourn** – Meeting Adjourned
- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – March 8, 2023**
 - **Executive Committee – 10:30am**
 - **General Session – 12:30pm**
 - **Committees**
 - **Needs Assessment – February 27, 2023**
 - **PEPO – February 16, 2023 (10:30am)**
 - **Enviro/Rec Committee – March 27, 2023 (10:00am)**
 - **Agricultural/Municipal Committee – TBD**
 - **IBCC – February 15, 2023**
 - **ARWC –Second Quarter Board Meeting – TBD**
 - **CWCB Board Meeting – March 15-16, Yampa/White/Green Basin**
 - **Arkansas River Forum, April 24-26, Colorado Springs**