



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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WATER FUTURE

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting
Minutes and Recorded Decisions
Wednesday April 12, 2023 12:30 pm
Pueblo Convention Center
320 Central Main Ave
Pueblo, CO 81003**

Members/Guests Present;

Mark Shea	Lauren Duncan	Kent Ricken	Maria Brandt
Bob Hamel	Mannie Colon	Terry Scanga	Sarah Mudge
Jeff Rodriguez	Jeffery DeHerrera	Rena Griggs	Dan Williams
Gracy Goodwin	Jack Goble	Jeris Danielson	Al Tucker
Greg Felt	Ariel Hacker	Abba Aahmed	Scott King
Jonathan Pakliaian	Rick Kidd	Steve Kastner	Jean Van Pelt
Tim Canterbury	Tom Verquer	Blake Osborn	Amy Ostdiek
Spike Ausmus	Sandy White	Amy Mitchell	Matt Stearns

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Shea

- Introductions – Mark called for introductions
- Establish quorum – Mark noted we have a quorum
- Approval of agenda – Agenda no changes
- Approval of minutes – Minutes of March 12, 2023 approved
- Public Comment – None

2. Presentations: Amy Ostdiek, CWCIB Interstate, Federal & Water Information Session Chief.

“Colorado River Compact Update

- Amy Ostdiek presented an update to the Colorado River Compact. Explaining that the Compact dating to 1922 is broken into individual Articles defining details ranging from water apportionments in the Basins along with obligations to Mexico. The purpose of the compact is equitable portions to the Basins. This compact is Federal Law as it stands. Amy pointed out one of the biggest misunderstandings with the compact is the requirement to provide a delivery obligation for set acre foot flow instead it states the upper Basins will not cause a depletion of the flow. Amy explained that in recent years Lake Powell has released far more water downstream than has flowed into it. This is creating a deficit in Lake Powell. This is a result of the Lower Basin states continually drawing far more water than is inflowing. The Bureau of Reclamation is addressing these issues in order to protect withdrawals from further depleting Reservoirs Mead and Powell. To conserve water depletion there is now a 6-state Consensus Based Modeling Approach agreement. This agreement is designed to protect the Reservoirs from depleting to dangerous levels. To date California isn't participating in this agreement currently. Part of the agreement is



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2. Colorado River Compact Update cont.-

to take into account evaporation losses. As of today the Bureau has released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement as of April 2023 to include sustainable management of the reservoirs to ensure depletions is aligned with available supply. Also includes an engagement with Tribal Nations. Mannie Colon inquired about the Biden Administration getting involved with the lower Basin states and water issues regarding flows. Amy indicated that is proceeding. Bob Hamel inquired about California's response to the six state proposal. Their response was creating their own proposal regarding priority that would affect Arizona which has a lower priority than California.

3. Reports –

- **Executive Committee** – Mark Shea asked if there were any questions regarding DNR legislation regarding the appropriation of funds for the Colorado Water Plan. Jean Van Pelt will check further and report back. Terry Scanga discussed the stream restoration projects and diversion out of priority issues. The subject of stream restoration out of priority was discussed and does this create problems with water right holders. D.J. mentioned that stream restoration doesn't always negatively affect water right holders.

Mark opened the discussion of the All Chairs Meeting held that Steve Kastner and Al Tucker attended and the WSRF \$300K available per Basin.

- **CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt** – Jeff reported on the following;
 - Drought Summit scheduled for May 31 and June 1 @ History Colorado in Denver
 - Spring Forecast 23 Counties in Drought Flood Bulletin
 - C-9 Roundtable Summit scheduled November 14 a survey is available to participate this month
 - Turf Program
 - PEPO statewide initiative

Greg Felt added additional funding for the Basins were discussed and several other programs in the works.

- **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga** – No report given.
- **Needs Assessment – Gracy Goodwin** – Gracy gave a brief report on four of the five projects have moved forward in the funding process to date. Jean Van Pelt referenced a notification from Ben Wade that future ARBWF requests should come from WSRF instead of the Colorado Water Plan Grants. Jean explained that the Water Forum funding should continue from the Water Plan Grants because it's a better fit than the WSRF funds that those funds are better used with Project ready feet on the ground. Gracy concurred that the WSRF grants don't state that those funds are for education and outreach in their categories. She also felt the Water Plan grants would be a better fit for education. Lauren Duncan responded that the reason for this was it had been felt this was Basin specific rather than state wide. Bob Hamel said the Forum does reach outside the Basin. Lauren said they will further discuss this to better understand where funding is a best fit. Jeff felt WSRF funds as shown in the Criteria and Guidelines do provide funds for education and outreach as well as these funds have better control from the



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- **Needs Assessment cont.-**
Roundtables to move the projects forward. Bob Hamel pointed out that this funding issue is important enough that without timely funding available the Forum may not be able to continue. Gracy stated the next deadline for the Water Plan Grants is July 1st which means a letter of support from the Roundtable will need to be in by May 15th.
- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich, Kent Ricken** – Mark turned the report over to Kent Ricken regarding Division two ongoing issues. Kent reported at the last meeting March 21st one of the comments was regarding Division two and some of the issues involved so a letter was sent to the Engineer which has resulted in a Meeting scheduled for April 18th at the Agra office in Fowler.
- **Enviro/Rec – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs** – Rena reported that watershed programs are continuing to date. Bob reported water flows into Pueblo Reservoir have been slow but that happens this time of year but it's a normal process.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative** – Jonathan Paklaian – Jonathan reported that they're continuing work on various projects and they've met with the Arkansas River Outfitters and everything is going well. Jonathan plans on being in La Junta in the coming month and ARWC Board meeting is scheduled in the coming week. They're still looking for a Mitigation Specialist.
- **PEPO – Jonathan Paklaian** – Maria Brandt the reported the various project proponents are continuing with their work on getting project support.

4. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 10, 2023
 - o Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - o Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - o Needs Assessment – May 15, 2023
 - o PEPO – April 20, (10:00am)
 - o Environmental/Recreation Committee – June 26, 2023 (10:00 am)
 - o Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - o IBCC – June 8, 2023
- ARWC – Second Quarter Board Meeting – April 20 (1:00-3:00pm)
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 17-18, Yampa/White/Green Basin
- Arkansas River Forum, April 24-26, Colorado Springs
- CWCB Drought Summit Meeting, May 31-June 1, History Colorado Denver
- C-9 Summit, November 14, South Platte Basin, specific location TBD

5. Adjourn