

## Colorado River Basin Roundtable

### March 27, 2023 CBRT Minutes.

1. Recorder: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, [ken@kenransford.com](mailto:ken@kenransford.com).
2. Today's March 27, 2023, meeting was conducted by Zoom and held in person at the Colorado River District Office.
3. **CBRT Members Present:** Paul Bruchez, Stan Cazier, Carlyle Currier, Kirsten Kurath, Diane Johnson, Randi Kim, Merrit Linke, April Long, Zach Margolis, Ed Moyer, Ken Ransford, Greg Williams, Peggy Bailey, Nathan Bell, James Dilzell, Kathy Kitzman, Maria Pastore
4. **Guests:**, Laura B. Bohannon, Ken Brenner, Grant Cole, Austin Corona, Andrea Datz, Mitch Dorsk, Ashley Garrison, Hannah Holm, Mike Holmes, Brendan Langenhuizen CRD, Heather Lewin, Holly Loff, John McAnally, Shania McCain, John McAnally, Seth Mason, Jeff Myer, Greg Peterson, Dave Payne, Katie Randall, Jeff Rodriguez, Paula Stepp, Lisa Tasker, Lee Traynham.
5. **Jeff Rodriguez, CWCB report.**
  - a. **March 31, 2023, Turf Replacement grant deadline**, contact Sam Stein or Jeff Rodriguez.
  - b. **April 1, 2023: WSRF Grant application** deadline to CWCB. Anything submitted by roundtable by June 1 will count against the current fiscal year cap.
  - c. **April 3, 2023, meeting for Roundtable chairs.**
  - d. **May 31 to June 1, 2023: Drought Summit** at History Colorado, first since 2012. They will focus on drought data and climate lessons learned.
  - e. **Tuesday November 14, 2023: C-9 Roundtable summit**, the first since the 2019 summit. The CWCB, IBCC Board, and Roundtable members will convene to discuss the Colorado Water Plan. The CWCB will discuss the draft agenda of the November summit at the IBCC meeting in June.
6. **CWCB meeting report by Paul Bruchez**
  - a. 25 water plan grants and 13 WSRF grants were awarded at the March CWCB meeting, including some to applicants from the Colorado Basin.
7. **CBRT Basin Account WSRF Balance.** \$544,524.77 is available in the CBRT WSRF grant fund. Today we will deliberate grant requests totaling \$277,050.

8. **PEPO Update from Anna Drexler-Dreis.**
  - a. PEPO grant award is \$25,000.
  - b. The CBRT received \$6,000 to redesign the CBRT Website;
  - c. Middle Colorado Watershed Council will get a \$1,000 grant to produce copies of its River Access Guide.
  - d. PEPO plans to submit monthly columns to county newspapers in the CBRT geographic area.
    - i. May 1 deadline: Melanie Smith will write an article on the state of the 2023 snowpack.
    - ii. June 1: Anna Drexler-Dreis will write an article about a CBRT project that received a grant award.
    - iii. July 1: Colorado River Days July 25. Abby Burk will write an article about Colorado River history..
  - e. PEPO received \$4,000 for event planning; they hope to support 3-4 events in the Basin; each event will qualify for grants equal to \$1,000-2,000.
9. **Yampa-White-Green Roundtable request to develop West Slope position on Colorado River allocation negotiations.**
  - a. Ken Brenner and Jeff Myers of the “Big River Committee” of the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable attended the CBRT meeting to discuss policy matters regarding the Colorado River. They hope to use the IBCC to increase communication between the roundtables, and to discuss what is important to roundtables.
10. **WSRF Funding Request for Grand County Irrigated Land Company, Vail Ditch Conservation and Efficiency Project-Mike Holmes, President, Grand County Irrigated Land Company-\$78,015.**
  - a. Merrit Linke moved to approve the grant request, and Zach Margolis seconded it. There were no objections to the grant request and it **passed unanimously**.
11. **WSRF Funding Request for Colorado Ag Alliance Drought Resilience & Innovative Water Conservation Project Phase 2-Greg Peterson, Executive Director, Colorado Ag Water Alliance-\$75,000.**
  - a. Ed Moyer motioned to approve the grant request, Ken Ransford seconded it, and it **passed unanimously**.

12. **WSRF Funding Request for White River National Forest Pond Maintenance-Greg Peterson, Executive Director, Colorado Ag Water Alliance-\$31,500.**
  - a. Ken Ransford motioned to approve, April Long seconded it and it **passed unanimously.**
13. **WSRF Funding Request for Eagle River Community Water Plan Completion & Implementation-James Dilzell, Executive Director, Eagle River Watershed Council-\$42,935.**
  - a. Diane Johnson made a motion to approve funding, Ken Ransford seconded it, and it **passed unanimously.**
14. **WSRF Funding Request for Investigating Social and Environmental Dimensions of Water Conservation-Seth Mason, Lotic Hydrological; Heather Tatersall Lewin, Roaring Fork Conservancy-\$49,600.**
  - a. Ken Ransford motioned to approve it, April Long seconded it, and it was **approved unanimously.**
15. Update on System Conservation Pilot Project by Hannah Holmes. Key findings are listed below.

**We can accurately measure water use with satellite based remote sensing,** and eeMETRIC is the model of choice. It aligns strongly with the detailed field data from the eddy covariance tower, especially for low water use scenarios.

Water use **mostly returned to previous levels in this first recovery year.**

**Forage recovery was more varied.** In general, we saw a stronger recovery to reference conditions for the higher production areas of the fields, and recovery lagged more in the low production areas.

For evaluating **impacts to the stream,** it was **hard to detect impact** from the water conservation activities. We hope to learn more by comparing field data with modeling results.

In looking at impacts to bird habitat, the data shows that **bird detections went down with irrigation curtailment and came back up when irrigation returned.**

We have **more to come!** Moving forward we will bring in the economic data from the producers and evaluate the water use and forage data for 2022.

16. Jason Turner is stepping down as Basin Chair. Our membership list needs to be updated, and Jason is asking everyone to confirm their membership by sending a letter to him by May. We have some open membership positions.