



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

**Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting
Minutes and Recorded Decisions
Wednesday May 10, 2023 12:30 pm
Pueblo Convention Center
320 Central Main Ave
Pueblo, CO 81003**

Members/Guests Present;

Mark Shea	Rick Kidd (ex)	Rena Griggs	Al Tucker
Bob Hamel	Tom Verquer	Jeris Danielson	Scott King
Jeff Rodriguez	Sandy White	Abba Aahmed	Dwayne McFall
Gracy Goodwin	Kent Ricken	Steve Kastner	Robert Sakata
Greg Felt	Terry Scanga	Tom Verquer	Amy Mitchell
Jack Goble	Seth Clayton	Amy Mitchell	Emily Zmak
Ariel Hacker	Mannie Colon	Maria Brandt	

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Shea

- Introductions – Mark called for introductions
- Establish quorum – Quorum was established
- Approval of agenda – Agenda approved
- Approval of minutes – Minutes April 12, 2023 approved by motion
- Public Comment – None

2. Reports-

- **Executive Committee** - Mark reported on the topics of discussion in the Executive Committee meeting held earlier. Mark informed the members about the reappointment from At Large Water Holder to the El Paso Muni position on the Roundtable which had been held previously by Abby Ortega who now has different responsibilities with the Colorado Springs Utilities. We now have left open the At Large Water Holder seat which brought up the discussion of member vacancies on the Roundtable with the focus on how to get these filled. We want to look at the Roundtable members to be ambassadors to filling these seats. Mark will update our roster and have it posted after which will notify members of the vacancies needing to be filled. Another topic discussed was the Water Forum event held last month in Colorado Springs. Mark asked Bob Hamel to give an overview on the event. Bob reported there were 287 attendees which made it the most well attended Forum to date. Bob asked that for those who attended if they would fill out the survey and our next scheduled meeting is May 23rd. Mark reported his participation at the Forum and restated the importance of the Forum as an educational program. And continued necessity of support continued funding support of these events.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Mark stated another issue discussed at the Executive Session was the passage of Stream Restoration Legislation. Part of the legislative act is water rights protections. Mark pointed out that several of the projects resulting on this legislation will be of interest to the Roundtable.

- **CWCB Report** – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt: Jeff reported on the following updates; Mark requested clarification on the SEIS which Emily Zmak CWCB further discussed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) which is allowing public comments at this time and is still a work in progress. Greg Felt reported that this draft SEIS document is an important step and clearly puts a burden on the Lower Basin States with California stepping up at this time even with their lower water rights draw. Greg mentioned the formal ground breaking for the Arkansas Valley Conduit recently and wanted to mention the work beginning on this important project. Greg shared his opinion on the task force being less unifying now with Senate Bill 295 passage and associated problems.

Drought Summit

- May 31, June 1
- Draft Agenda

Funding Deadlines

- June 1
WSRF
PEPO
- July 1
Water Plan Grants

2023 Legislative Session

- CWCB Project's Bill / Passed
- Governor's Budget/ Passed
- Stream Restoration Bill/ Passed
- Colorado River Task Force/Passed

Funding Deadlines

- June 1st
WSRF
PEPO
- July 1st
Water Plan Grants

Reminders

- 1051 Reporting
June 30
- Wildlife Ready Watersheds
- C9 Summit
Nov 14
- Draft SEIS
May 30
- Technical Assistance



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- **IBCC Report** – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga; Jeris reported on the upcoming IBCC meeting and the Wildfire ready Watershed with ARWC. Several agreed with Sandy White’s suggestion that having Bob Hamal present at one of the IBCC meetings on the activities of the Water Forum would be good.
- **Needs Assessment Committee** – Gracy Goodwin; Gracy reported on the Water Plan Grants deadline coming up on July 1st and if any applicants want a letter of support this deadline to get to Gracy is May 15th. WSRF deadline is August 15th to get with an application to the Needs Assessment and October 1st for CWCB. Gracy wanted to convey this year has been great in getting projects moved forward we’ve spent our max.
- **Ag/Muni Committee** – Matt Heimerich, Kent Ricken; Kent reported regarding the Ag/Muni meeting coming up May 30th. This will be followed by a report from the meeting.
- **Enviro/Rec** – Bob Hamel, Rena Griggs; Bob reported on the BFMP group meeting and our snowpack reading for May by which time much of the southern snowpack’s are melting. Bob also discussed the LiDAR laser data readings that are airborne which needs our support with funding and hasn’t been getting is. Terry responded regarding the costs and the limited in measurement numbers which may be part of the deterrent for support funds from the Ark Basin.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative** – Jonathan Paklaian; Maria Brandt reported that ARWC has been receiving grants for continuing work on their projects.
- **PEPO** – Jonathan Paklaian; Maria reported that PEPO has submitted their six month report at the end of April. They are still looking for representation in this position.

4. Presentation: Michael Regan, CWCB Budget and Policy Analyst, Federal Technical Assistance Grants for Colorado Water Projects.

- Steve Kastner introduced Michael Regan a Budget Analyst for CWCB who works for Anna Moss. Michael discussed the Federal Technical Assistance Grant program. This program was created via H.B. 22-1379 in recognition of the large federal funding available for water projects. These funds were made available through;
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

These funds are designed for eligible entities with project development work. This has allowed CWCB was appropriated \$5.0M in ARPA funding for distribution. There are two types of grants, being the Local Capacity Grants with \$2.5M to assist in advancing projects. The other is Technical Assistance Grants with \$2.5M which is awarded to support work with CWCB-selected contractors. Sandy inquired regarding CWCB assistance with grant preparations. Michael replied this may be resolved depending on the request and availability. Michael closed by requesting those with questions or projects to email him or the Program website.

4. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 14, 2023
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am



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- o Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - o Needs Assessment – (WSRF Deadline May15th, Mtg if Necessary)
 - o PEPO – TBD
 - 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
- CWCB Drought Summit Meeting, May 31-June 1, History Colorado Denver
- C-9 Summit, November 14, South Platte Basin, specific location TBD

5. Adjourn; Mark called for adjournment. Rena warned everyone about severe weather warnings and drive with caution.