

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 2:00pm
Rio Grande Water Conservation District
Alamosa, Colorado

Call to Order

Heather Dutton called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m.

A quorum was determined to be present. The agenda was approved as presented.

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The minutes of the May 9, 2023, meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment

Erin Minks noted that Senator Bennet's office is working on the Farm Bill update including possibly adding a Groundwater easement portion that would be pushed out through NRCS. This program would be more flexible to reduce pumping across a farm unit.

Travis Smith announced that the Colorado Water Congress will be held August 22-24th with a great agenda lined up.

Keith Holland thanked Casandra, Heather, and Connor for organizing the Ute Mountain Tour.

There were several requests for a letter of support for Colorado Water Plan Grant funding as follows.

The Alamosa County Master Plan CWCB Grant Project was presented. This plan will help Alamosa County handle growth. The Colorado Water Plan Grant request will be for \$100,000. The County is also requesting funds from DOLA and other sources. Water is a primary concern for the County including the levy certifications and FEMA maps. An engineering firm has been contracted to help design the levy. Keith moved to send a letter of support. Travis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Rye Resurgence Project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan Grant goals. This project is to develop a market for Rye while helping to improve soil health. The project also includes equipment to help clean the rye crop. The grant request is for \$300,000. SLV Water Conservancy District will be carrying out the project. Travis moved to send a letter of support. Kevin seconded the motion and the motion carried. The goal is to grow the local rye market through the growing rye whiskey market. Pete will report back with a taste analysis.

Cross Basin Education: Life on the North Platte, Jim Yahn gave an educational talk on the North Platte and how they have solved some of their water issues and how they are currently moving forward.

Adam Moore, Colorado State Forest Service, gave an overview of the Colorado State Forest Service Health Report which gives insights into insects and diseases, Wildfire concerns, and Watershed Protection.

CWCB Update was given. Craig Felt, Chaffee County CWCB Representative and CWCB Board President was introduced, and he explained that CWCB will be looking for a new executive director soon.

CWCB Board Survey was shared with a QR Code. Drought Summit was successful and there are recordings on EngageCWCB. The Water Plan Grant Deadline is July 1 and the WSRF Deadline is August 1. PEPO grants are being reviewed, currently. 1051 Reporting is due June 30th.

Daniel gave an update on PEPO. The Restoration Project is the applicant for the PEPO grant for 2023/2024. The PEPO grant will have more funding for youth programming and website updates, and other educational activities. The education committee is planning more tours this summer. A production ag tour was encouraged.

IBCC Update was given by Kevin Terry. He is new to the board but learning a lot. There are 12 new staff positions in DNR.

Heather reviewed the seats that will be opened in July. She will be sending out a follow-up email with information on open positions.

Jim moved to appoint Kevin into the Fish and Wild seat. Pete seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Craig Cotton gave a report from the Division of Water Resources. Pat McDermott did a study of data on record and 2023 was the highest May on record. The Peak was 5,600 cfs on the Rio Grande River. The Terrace Reservoir and Platoro Reservoir moved into storage. Terrace Reservoir is spilling which is the first time since possibly the 1980s. The SWAG Court Case will begin in July and will likely last up to 5 weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.