

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 2:00pm
Rio Grande Water Conservation District
Alamosa, Colorado

Call to Order

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

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

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The minutes of the June 13, 2023, meeting were approved as presented.

Public Commit:

Erin Minks, Senator Bennet's Office and Leah Weir, Colorado Open Lands announced that a Ground Water Conservation Easement Bill was introduced to the Farm Bill. This bill has bipartisan support from different states and basins. If the bill is successful, the program and funding will be more flexible than conventional programs like CREP.

Daniel Boyes, Rio Grande Restoration Project requested a letter of support for a Colorado Water Plan Grant to fund the Alamosa Riverfront Design and Engineering project. Gene Farish moved to ratify the letter of support. Virginia seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Members at large elections were held for the following positions by secret ballot. The following members were elected.

Agriculture: Derek Schreck
Education: Cassandra McCuen
Recreation: Brian Puccerella
Alamosa River: Cindy Medina
Conservation Easements: Judy Lopez
Industrial: Charlie Spielman
Reservoirs: Travis Smith
Well Owners: Marty Peterson

The Education Committee Organized a Panel of Local Producers to discuss current hurdles facing agriculture. The panel was comprised of Marty Peterson, Conejos County Farmer and Rancher, Monte Smith, Costilla County Potato Farmer, Tyler Mitchel, Rio Grande County Potato Farmer and Jill Lucero, Conejos Farmer and Rancher with a Wildlife Biology background. The group agreed that economics and water are the biggest hurdles for agriculture. Young people involved with agriculture are one of the valley's most valuable resources to help tackle these hurdles. Jill mentioned that Farmers and Ranchers are very good stewards of the land. They do their best to protect and create benefits for the ecosystem while sustaining their operations economically. Marty noted that educating people the community

outside of agriculture and keeping the community working together to solve water shortages will be important in the future.

Jocelyn Catterson, Education Through Art presented her artwork. The art was to communicate a changing environment with hard science through community perspectives. Her art showcased the layers of the groundwater systems in the San Luis Valley. She will be continuing to reach out to the community.

CWCB Staff, Jeff Rodriguez shared deadlines and funding reminders to the group. August 1st is the WSRF and NRI project deadline. Annual WSRF allocations will be available October 2nd. Programs that are currently accepting applications are Wildfire Ready Watersheds, Technical Assistance, and the Local Capacity Grant Program. The Turf Program Cycle 2 is open and closes August 31. The C9 summit will be held November 14th.

Daniel Boyes, gave a PEPO Update. The Molson Coors Farm Tour will be on Tuesday, July 18th. The committee is in the process of scheduling a Water Resources Tour with High school groups and a Producer Tour this fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.