



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday August 9, 2023 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

900 W. Orman Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

### Members and Guests Present:

Mark Shea	Bob Hamel	Jonathan Paklaian	Jeff Rodriguez
Seth Clayton	Greg Felt	Rick Kidd	Terry Scanga
Sarah Mudge	Al Tucker	Dwayne McFall	Doug Brgoch
Rick Kienitz	Dan Williams	Sandy White	Rena Griggs
Jeris Danielson	Jeffery DeHerrera	Steve Kastner	Scott King
Emily Aldrid	Ariel Hacker	Abba Ahmed	Krystal Brown
Aaron Hilshorst	Maria Brandt	Tom Verquer	Andy Klakulak
Jack Goble	Tim Canterbury	Blake Osborne	Kent Ricken
Tom Tharnish	Amy Ost diek	Paul Fanning	Jim Baldwin
Kim MacDonnell	Emily Zmack	Luke Mecklenburg	

### 1. Welcome and Introductions -

- **Introductions** – Mark called the meeting to order with introductions
- **Quorum** was determined present, meeting commenced
- **Agenda approval** by consensus
- **Minutes of July 12, 2023** approved by consensus with one comment – Rick Reiter was not listed in attendance.
- **Public comment** – Russ Sands to win Emerging Leader award, Anne Castle to win Dianne Hoppe Leadership Award at Water Education Colorado President's Reception. If interested in assisting in planning the 2024 Arkansas River Forum, speak with Jean VanPelt.

### 2. Reports –

#### • Executive Committee -

Mark reported on the Executive Committee meeting held previously. October elections were discussed. Current officers planning and willing to serve another year in current capacity, and open to hearing from other interested parties/interest in growing engagement/membership. Kim MacDonnell, the new Bent County Representative, introduced herself. The Legislative seat must be appointed by 2 legislatures. Kelly Rousch is interested in the position and Mark will look into requirements to have him fill that seat. Mark complimented Rena Griggs' and Andy Klakulak's engagement as agency liaisons, and mentioned other agency liaison seats to fill, including the Forest Service. Engagement from other key agencies in the Arkansas Basin will keep the Roundtable informed on the water related topics they face.

- Kelly Rousch, Legislative seat
- Dave Schneider, Custer County Municipal
- Aaron Hilschorst nominated by Climax Moly Mine for Industrial At Large



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- **CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt;**

Jeff summarized upcoming meetings and deadlines, and reminded the roundtable that open applications for grants are available through the CWCB Portal and considered on a rolling basis. The Climate Change in Colorado Report (update to the 2014 report) is expected to be released within the next month and the CWCB is working on web-based tools to facilitate community interaction and report on climate data. Greg mentioned the July meeting in Crested Butte where Becky Mitchell was presented with an award, and that the CWCB is working to complete all ten actions in the water plan in ten years. The CWCB has interviewed 3 candidates for the Executive Director position. It was also reported that the Arkansas Basin has done well regarding the WSRF grants, reported on some WSRF funded projects across CO, hoping to know more about LIDAR programs/project in the fall. Mark asked where the Arkansas Basin should be prioritized for grant and planning work for the Wildfire Ready Watershed Grant. The planning and construction money allocated by the grant program must be spent by December 2026. Greg listed the top priorities for 2024: How much time to spend on CO River Issues? How to account for less predictable hydrology? Supporting entities within the state are developing the next generation of models, and members of the Roundtable can continue public outreach/education for general awareness. Mark asked how the Arkansas Basin can help support the Colorado Water Plan, and Jeff responded though the Basin Implementation Plan.

  - Drought Task Force August 10<sup>th</sup> – Amy Ost diek presenting 399-page Demand Management document
  - Water Congress August 22<sup>nd</sup> – formally appointing new Executive Director
  - Operations Planning Workshops August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Finance Committee Meeting September 19<sup>th</sup>
  - C9 Summit November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Upcoming Funding Deadlines – October 1<sup>st</sup> WSRF/Regional Supply Needs
  - Cycle 2 Turf Replacement - August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Climate Change in Colorado Report expected release in Fall 2023
  - Wildfire Ready Watersheds Awarded 12/31/24
  - Technical Assistance Awarded 12/31/24
- **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga**

The IBCC meeting will blend into the C-9 Summit. The importance of collaborating with other basin roundtables, especially those which neighbor the Arkansas, was discussed. Mark will contact Heather Dutton at the Rio Grande Roundtable and encourages interested parties to submit questions and provide support prior to the next IBCC meeting to help facilitate more discussion with other roundtables at that meeting.
- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin** was excused from the meeting and will update at the September meeting
  - **Reserve Funding** August 15<sup>th</sup>
  - **Water Planning Grant Requests** October 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Ag/Muni Committee** – Kent Ricken - meetings will resume in the fall.
- **Enviro/Rec** – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs – next meeting August 28<sup>th</sup> – Request to members to inform them of any discussion items which should be added to the agenda. Bob updated



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the group that the Bureau of Reclamation is moving 350 cfs in the river to work on a power plant later this year; augmenting native water, helpful to keep water cool for fish and usable for rec. Release until sept 4th before ramping down. GOCO tours; saturday raft trip, conversations about GoCo fund projects. Greg: toured methodist front wildfire mitigation; rec rangers/adopters program to mitigate negative effects of recreationg (camping) on ag, Brandy Eckhert presented on challenges; met at Hutcheson Ranch, which has done conservation easement work. Provided Board with more well-rounded view of projects they oversee and challenges we face re water in colorado. Bob: 10 am - 12 pm planning committee meeting for Forum (will be 1st week of March at Otero Junior College). Rena: brief project updates. Interest for Mindy May to present on projects over the winter.

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative** – Jonathan Paklaian - interest in the basin for wildfire-ready watersheds, Jonathan: Wildfire ready Watersheds funding, met ith Steve Reeves CWCB, lots of support for that, next step to apply for those. Watersmart Grant \$300k ceiling, planning/mgmt focused grant, ARWC will target collaborative groups throughout basin for this. Lake county, lots of movement re natural resources/ Gulch project, culvert needs replaced, on track to be replacd this fall; CO Forest Collaborative summit at Salida Steam Plant. Lake County, might expand a position for coordination. ARWC Board mtg sept 12. Mark: consider how to include lower basin in ARWC;
- **PEPO** – Maria Brandt – Meeting August 17<sup>th</sup>. Project list will be sent out for update and prioritization, and Maria is checking with partners about how to fill in the project list. Creek Week will be in September.

**3. Presentation: Amy Ostdiek, Emily Zmack, and Luke Mecklenburg at CWCB and Attorney General Office – Update on the Colorado River** Luke presented about the “Law of the River”, summarizing the “Big 3” Colorado River Compacts of 1922, 1944 (Treaty with Mexico), and 1948, and the “Functional 4” acts/laws – 1928 Boulder Canyon Project, 1956 CO River Storage Project, 1963 AZ vs CA, and 1968 Central Arizona Project. His challenge to the comments about rewriting the CO River Compact(s) is to read the compact as a whole, as there are provisions for many common concerns. Amy presented about how the CO River reached its current conditions, the unequal and overuse of the lower basins, and what we can do moving forward. She emphasized that the Upper Basin has been in full compliance and making a considerable effort to try and remedy the situation we are in. The 2007 Guidelines are the current operations guidelines for CO River Reservoirs such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell. The focus now is on the 2026 negotiations, as the 2007 Guidelines will expire then. Emily shared how Roundtables can be involved. Some of her suggestions included sharing ways we adapt to shortages, storytelling and art, PEPO and water education, thoughtful action where needed the most, and unity across roundtables. She emphasized encouraging input from water users and residents in the basin as a whole, especially those with more moderate opinions who are less likely to express themselves. All of the presenters are reachable by phone or email, and recommended reviewing the CWCB Commissioner’s Corner “Engage CWCB” webpages, where roundtables can easily submit information to the CWCB.

**4. Upcoming Meetings –**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – September 13, 2023
  - Executive Committee – 10:30am
  - Roundtable – 12:30pm



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- Committees
  - Needs Assessment – As necessary
  - PEPO – TBD
  - Environmental/Recreation Committee – TBD
  - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
  - IBCC – at C-9 Summit
- C-9 Summit, November 14, South Platte Basin

## 5. Adjourn; Mark