



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday September 13, 2023 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

900 W. Orman Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

Members and Guests Present:

Mark Shea	Jonathan Paklaian	Jeff Rodriguez	Kelly Roesch
Lauren Duncan	Greg Felt	Amy Mitchell	Gracy Goodwin
Sarah Mudge	Al Tucker	Greg Teter	Doug Brgoch
Sandy White	Rena Griggs	Brad Lubbers	Justin Kurth
Jeris Danielson	Steve Kastner	Robert Sakata	Gil Ramirez
Ariel Hacker	Krystal Brown	Mike Holmberg	Heather Sackett
Aaron Hilshorst	Maria Brandt	Tom Verquer	Andy Klakulak
Jack Goble	Marlissa Essells	Bryce Ehrlich	Kent Ricken
Tom Tharnish	Amy Ost diek	Emily Zmak	Chloe Lewis
Tom Grasmick	Russ Sands	Bobby Howell	Keith Hood

1. Welcome and Introductions -

- **Introductions** – Mark called the meeting to order with introductions. Excused parties were Kim MacDonnell, Terry Scanga, Bob Hamel, Jim Baldwin, and Jeffrey DeHerrera.
- **Quorum** was determined present, meeting commenced
- **Agenda approval** by consensus
- **Minutes of August 9, 2023** approved by consensus
- **Public comment** –Justin Kurth introduced himself as the representative of Congresswoman Petterson. The Roundtable welcomes him and any other legislative voices to attend meetings.

2. Reports –

• Executive Committee -

Mark reported on the Executive Committee meeting held previously. He reached out to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and received interest in having a collaborative meeting, and requests roundtable members send their questions and ideas for topics. The C-9 Summit is another great opportunity to collaborate with other basin roundtables.

Mark reported that Congresswoman Petterson met with him, Robert Sakata, Christine Arbogast, Greg Felt, and Bob Hamel to identify priority topics for her attention regarding water policy and legislation and encouraged her to meet with Becky Mitchell (which Justin reported that she has done). The top issue discussed was Colorado River issues as interstate, trans-basin water supplies, and local matters.

Maintaining accurate attendance records, sign-in, and tracking absences was considered and will be discussed further at a future meeting. Mark requests that



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members tell him in advance if they will miss a meeting so he can mark them as excused.

There was interest in inviting presenters for projects that received funding from the roundtable to present at the end of 2023. Members can notify Mark if there is a particular project they would like to see a presentation from.

The CWCB is developing a stakeholder handbook for roundtables and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable will receive a copy when it is complete. Additionally, the DNR has a handbook for Roundtables as a recent resource we can share with new members as they come on board, as well as provide consistent info to the general public. Jeff will tentatively share at the beginning of 2024 as they are finalizing it.

October elections were discussed.

- Kelly Roesch, Legislative seat
- Dave Schneider, Custer County Municipal
- Aaron Hilshorst nominated by Climax Moly Mine for Industrial At Large
- Working with USGS and UFS to set up a position similar to Rena Griggs' position as liaison for the CPW
- Ariel Hacker, PEPO Liaison

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

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 finalized in the beginning of 2024.

Amy Ostdiek gave a brief report on the work Commissioner Mitchell has been doing, as well as the lessons learned report being compiled by UCRC staff regarding the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP). Some topics they've received include suggestions such as starting a program like this much earlier, needing more clarity on pricing mechanisms for various types of participation, confusion about negotiating pricing, confusion between UCRC and consulting, request for greater transparency, and more outreach. The UCRC has not made a decision on moving forward with the SCPP for 2024 yet. If Roundtable members have an opinion on whether they should, Amy encourages members to email them. 3 of 4 commissioners preferred to move forward with SCPP this year and she would like roundtable input. 2026, the year for the new set of guidelines, is fast approaching.

Mark would like to show lower CO basin that we in the upper basin take our water accounting very seriously and are willing to teach.

Jeff provided a link for members and guests who would like more information on Colorado River Issues: the Commissioner's Corner at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>

Jeff provided an update for the remaining CWCB report. The C9 Summit is on November 14 from 8am to 5pm with dinner and a reception after. It will be held at the Westin Hotel in Westminster. Greg reported that Lauren Ris is new CWCB director, and she will meet with roundtables in the coming months. He gave an overview of Lauren Ris's background and an update on Water Congress. The CWCB met on August 31st in Keystone to work on their operational planning effort. They will be working on increasing effectiveness/efficiency internally and with communications to



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the public.

Robert Sakata recognized Russ Sands for receiving the Emerging Leader Award.

Jeff will follow up with more information about Kelly Roesch's appointment to the legislative appointee roundtable seat.

- Upcoming Funding Deadlines – October 1st WSRF/Regional Supply Needs, annual allocations October 2nd
- Wildfire Ready Watersheds still accepting applications
<https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/> or contact Steve Reeves if interested in learning more. Need to be awarded 12/31/24 because of ARPA Funds
- Finance Committee Meeting September 19th in Salida, and will look at funding priorities and status of funding streams, look at projects bill allocations
- Regular CWCB Meeting September 20th-21st in Salida
- Water Education Colorado Board meeting September 22nd in Salida
- C9 Summit November 14th <https://forms.gle/mkn2mSLWrgxJFKZe6>
- Technical Assistance Awarded 12/31/24; if interested contact Michael Regan
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>
- **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson**
The IBCC meeting will blend into the C-9 Summit. The intention of joining the meeting is more to have roundtables generate ideas and collaborate about how to support topics that affect regions vs singular basins.
- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**
Water Plan Applications are due December 1, and it is recommended for them to present at a Roundtable meeting but not required. Requests need to be submitted a month in advance to reserve a presentation slot at the next month's meeting. For instance, for a presentation at the November meeting, the request would need to be submitted by October 15. Gracy introduced applicants DeLappe Ditch Feasibility & Design by Lake County Government. Until recently, Lake County did not have a water section. They are requesting water infrastructure analyses and feasibility studies within the Lake County augmentation plan area. 40 AF promised from Aurora per an IGA, from Twin Lakes shares, for private and irrigated use. They are asking the Roundtable for support in creating a full report. They will be looking at benefit of DeLappe ditch in water supply plan if it is brought to useable standard, and multiple stakeholders would benefit. They are also looking at potential storage facilities, and to gain information for strategic planning to prepare for Lake County augmentation plan. Basin benefits include municipal and industrial goals, critical water storage, maximizing water use, maintaining existing water uses, and agricultural goals. \$201,400 is the total project cost; WSRF request from state and basin is \$151,050; 25% match from Lake County is \$50,350. Roundtable provided consensus to support.
- **Ag/Muni Committee – None.**
- **Enviro/Rec –Rena Griggs**
Salida Low-Head Dam removal update: on track to remove, anticipate work to begin in October. Water temperatures downstream of Pueblo Dam: Fish hatchery discharges to that segment of river; CPW is getting notifications from CDPHE that they are putting hatchery effluent 1 degree Fahrenheit warmer than the proposed stream temperature. However, the stream has been warmer for decades from the dam itself. CPW is working to cool the water from the hatchery, but also requesting to change the temperature standard for at least a few



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months of the year. Rena also reported that voluntary flow management program for rafting was not needed this year due to wet conditions.

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian**

ARWC Board meeting on September 12th, which focused on strategic planning and vision.

ARWC is hiring, for information, visit arkcollaborative.org/careers or

<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/watershed-coordinator-at-arkansas-river-watershed-collaborative-3703194058>

- **PEPO – Maria Brandt**

Met August 30th. Website updates are under review. Contacting leads and following up on all projects with no contact info, synergistic with what Jeff is doing for full CWCB project list; can discuss and obtain input from Jeff. Ariel was nominated to serve as PEPO Liaison role, for vote at the October meeting.

3. **Presentation: Mike Holmberg, USBR – Fryingpan-Arkansas Project System Review and Upcoming Maintenance**

Mike introduced himself as the facility manager at Pueblo Dam. Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is the legal agency responsible for repayment of the reimbursable portion of the project. Turquoise Reservoir, located about 5 miles west of Leadville, was initially a natural lake but was expanded to 129,423 acre-feet (AF) capacity via an earthen dam. Mt Elbert Forebay and Powerplant contain a 200 MW hydro plant (100 MW per turbine, two 138k hydro turbine generators). Twin Lakes Reservoir is located 12 miles south of Leadville and has a storage capacity of 140,855 AF, but active capacity of 68,000 (large dead pool, currently), and provides significant water supply storage for the basin, including the Otero pump station for customers of Colorado Springs Utilities and Aurora Water. Recreation and fish hatchery flow are also considered. Pueblo Reservoir is the terminal storage facility for the project. Pueblo Reservoir has outlets for the North Outlet Works, the Spillway Outlet Works (release to river), the Fish Hatchery, the Bessemer Ditch outlet, and the South Outlet Works. Managing the joint use pool and usage deadlines, or evacuating water to make water space available. Additionally, this project must consider hydropower and power customer demands, while meeting prior appropriation laws and O&M needs. There are numerous storage accounts in Pueblo Reservoir and over 120 different water rights flowing through these accounts. Currently, Reach 1 of the Arkansas Valley Conduit project is under construction. During the project, the Mt Elbert Forebay unit will out of commission and maintenance is anticipated to occur from December to mid-February. The managers will coordinate closely to get water out of Turquoise Lake and are moving water from Turquoise to Twin Lakes to prepare.

4. **Upcoming Meetings –**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – October 11, 2023
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – As necessary
 - PEPO – October 19th
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – TBD
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - IBCC – at C-9 Summit



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- C-9 Summit, November 14, Westin Hotel in Westminster

5. Adjourn; Mark, 3:15pm