

Colorado River Basin Roundtable

September 25, 2023 CBRT Roundtable Minutes.

Recorder: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, ken@kenransford.com.

1. Today's September 25, 2023, meeting was conducted by Zoom and in person at the Colorado River District Office.
2. **CBRT Roundtable Members Present:** Paul Bruchez, Stan Cazier, Kathy Chandler-Henry, Carlyle Currier, Kelly McNicholas Curry, Kirsten Kurath, Diane Johnson, Merrit Linke, April Long, Ed Moyer, Ken Ransford, Charlie Spickert, Jason Turner, Greg Williams, Peggy Bailey, Jeff Bandi, Rick McNeill, Richard VanGytenbeek, Maria Pastore
3. **Guests:** Anna Drexler-Dreis, Ashley Garrison, Brendon Langenhuizen, Becky Mitchell, Ed Olszewski, Amy Ostdiek, Sam Potter, Jeff Rodriguez, Wendy Ryan, Heather Sackett, Robert Sakata, Russ Sands, Lisa Tasker, Richard Vangytenbeek
4. **September CWCB Update, Jeff Rodriguez**
 - a. Lauren Ris has been selected as the new CWCB director by the CWCB Board, effective August 22, 2023.
 - b. WSRF Application deadline of October 1, 2023. The annual WSRF Grant disbursement will be made October 2, 2023, in the amount of \$350,000 for each basin, unless a basin has reached the \$750,000 cap; if so, that basin will have surplus funds that will be shared among other roundtables that have not reached the \$750,000 cap.
 - c. There will be a Basin Roundtable C-9 Summit at the Westin Hotel in Westminster in November.
5. **CBRT Roundtable Vacant Positions:**
 - a. Pitkin County Municipal
 - b. Gunnison County and Municipal
 - c. Industrial Representative
 - d. Summit County Municipal
6. **Discussion of WSRF Grant Guidelines:**
 - a. Limit the guidelines to Basin WSRF grants.
 - b. Post a brief summary of grant application procedures on the CBRT website
 - c. Link to other grant programs:

- d. Grant committee: April Long recommends 6 members.
- e. Ken proposed two grant cycles: spring and fall.
- f. The Next Steps Committee will meet October 30, and it will be the de facto grants committee. Any roundtable members can attend Next Steps meetings, but the grants committee will vote on whether to submit grants to the CBRT Roundtable for approval.
- g. Initial Roundtable grant committee members include:
 - i. Richard Vangytenbeek
 - ii. April Long
 - iii. Kirsten Kurath
 - iv. Charles Spickert
 - v. Ken Ransford

7. **Water Plan Grants Coordinator.**

- a. Ashley Garrison, ashley.garrison@state.co.us of the CWCB attended the meeting. Ashley is one of the 4 regional coordinators that assist the basins with Colorado Water Plan grants.

8. **Colorado River Interstate Matters, Colorado Interstate and Federal Water Information Team-Amy Ostdiek, CWCB Section Chief.**

- a. Amy Ostdiek identified that the System Conservation Pilot Program, which compensates landowners to limit irrigation, has been authorized for an additional year. Amy explained the criteria the State will consider in recommending projects.

9. **PEPO Update and Discussion-Anna Drexler-Dreis**

- a. Anna Drexler-Dreis gave an update on PEPO activities, including the articles that have been provided by Roundtable membership. Anna identified a number of PEPO Grants that have been supported, including:
 - i. \$1,000 to Roaring Fork Conservancy for annual river float.
 - ii. \$750 Eagle County Flyfishing Council
 - iii. \$750 Blue River Watershed Group
 - iv. \$1,000 Middle Colorado Watershed Council

10. **Crystal River Augmentation Feasibility Study Update, Wendy Ryan.**

Wendy Ryan gave an overview of the Crystal River Augmentation Study and its findings. Wendy also identified potential augmentation sources and potential future projects.

11. **Grand County Stream Management Plan-Anna Drexler Dreiss, LBD Coordinator.**

- a. Anna Drexler Dreiss, coordinator of Learning by Doing, discussed their CWCB Water Plan grant application. The grant was not awarded because implementation support did not align with Colorado Water Plan Grant Guidelines. According to CWCB staff Stream Management Plans can be funded by Colorado Water Plan grants including plan updates, but ongoing program management is not something that the CWCB funds. This grant request received a unanimous vote of support from the CBRT.