



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday December 13, 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
Al Tucker (online)	Russ Sands (phone)	Lauren Duncan (online)
Tom Grasmick (online)	Sandy White (online)	Kat Weismiller (online)
Jeris Danielson	Steve Kastner	Ariel Hacker (online)
Abba Ahmed (online)	Bob Slagle	Mannie Colon
Rick Kidd	Julie Knudson	Eric
Bryce Ehrlich	Rich Hildebrandt	Tom Tharnish
Scott King	Tom Verquer	Tom Sebus
Gil Ramirez	Doug Brgoch (online)	Dwayne McFall (online)
Jim Baldwin (online)	Aaron Hilschorst (online)	Jeff Rodriguez (online)
Dale Lyons (online)	Amy Mitchell (online)	Rich Atkins (online)
Dillon O'Hare (online)	Greg Felt (online)	Kelly Roesch (online)
Travis Payne (online)	Ron Cook (online)	Maria Brandt (online)
Will Koger (online)	Rena Griggs (online)	Patrick Farrell (online)
Mark Gebhart (online)	Alex Zipp (online)	Jeff DeHerrera (online)
Gracy Goodwin (online)	Alli Schuck (online)	Will Koger (online)

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 November 8, 2023** approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – Julie Knudson thanked the Roundtable for support and funding for projects on the Purgatoire River.

2. Project Presentation – Rubicon Water “Smart Irrigation Gates”

- **Rubicon Water** presented on their company, the irrigation gate product, and the needs which brought the product to fruition. The company was formed in Australia in the early 2000s and moved to the USA markets in 2006, and their products are used worldwide. Their products include the “OVERshot Gates” where water flows over the top of the “Flumegate”, the “UNDERshot Gates” which allows control and/or metering of the flows, and specialty gates which can be used for pipes. The benefits of the Rubicon systems is that gates are automated and the canals are balanced. More information may be found at



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<https://rubiconwater.com/> and <https://youtu.be/I3RUFh1-87k?si=4xHaveUuyebDB9M4> Local examples are the Hoehne Structure in Trinidad for the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, and the Beaver Park Water dam in Penrose. They also offer grant services.

Break 1:30pm

3. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

Mark updated the Roundtable about the morning's executive meeting.

Richard Hildebrandt was appointed to the Roundtable as an at-large water rights holder and gave a brief introduction. Greg provided a glowing recommendation for Richard.

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

Greg gave an update of the Shoshone Power Plant water rights discussions with the Colorado River District. Further information can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/-K6GG2rledw?t=8150>

Mark briefly discussed the Drought Task Force (website <https://crrdroughttaskforce.com/>) and would like an update from the Arkansas Basin representative.

Lauren gave an update about the Water Plan Grant applications. 70 applications were received from across the state by the December 1st deadline. 8 basin-specific applications came from the Arkansas Basin, varying in cost. CWCB will post these on their website and discuss further at the CWCB March meeting.

- Wildfire Ready Watersheds still accepting applications <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/> or contact Steve Reeves (steven.reeves@state.co.us) if interested in learning more. Need to be awarded 12/31/24 because of ARPA Funds
- Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/federal-technical-assistance>
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>
- Colorado River Issues <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>

- **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson**

Future meeting dates TBD but likely to be quarterly.

- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**

Still have Arkansas Basin grant funding for projects. Colorado Water Plan Grant Applicants – Next application deadline Feb 15th for April 1st review period. Members are encouraged to reach out to their represented counties and connections for basin projects.

- **Ag/Muni Committee – The committee to determine 2024 priorities**

- **Enviro/Rec – Rena Griggs, Bob Hammel**

Next meeting is January 29th. The Salida Low Head Dam has been removed ahead of schedule and the work was completed. Arkansas Basin Forum will be March 6th and 7th, with the local leader dinner the night before, in La Junta. Planning committee meeting will take place on December 19th. Mark would like to see a presentation by CPW on the Salida dam removal



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project.

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

Jonathan reported that ARWC hired an additional person in Summit County. 2024 fundraising support from Arkansas Basin Conservation Cooperative for \$15,000. Aurora Water provided support as well, and Lake County Government provided \$50,000 of support. ARWC will meet with Colorado Springs Utilities next week. Colorado Gives Day was last Tuesday, and ARWC received over \$1,000. ARWC is now also receiving recurring monthly contributions for the first time. ARWC Board meeting will be on Friday December 15th.

- **PEPO – Ariel Hacker, Maria Brandt**

Maria is moving forward on the projects list and the PEPO group is discussing 2024 priorities. Interested parties are encouraged to email Mark or Ariel with questions, ideas, or topics to discuss. Meetings are every other month and the next PEPO meeting is December 21st at 10:30 on Zoom.

4. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – January 10, 2024
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – TBD
 - PEPOW – December 21st at 10:30 am via Zoom
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – TBD
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – TBD
 - IBCC – TBD
- CWCB – January 29-30th
- Arkansas Water Forum Planning – December 19th
- Colorado Water Congress – end of January in Aurora
- Arkansas River Forum – March 6-7th (VIP dinner is March 5th) in La Junta

5. Adjourn; Mark, 2:44pm