

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024, at 2:00pm
Rio Grande Water Conservation District
Alamosa, Colorado

Call to Order

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

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

Minutes were approved as presented.

Heather appointed Nathan Coombs to Chairman to hold elections. Nathan opened the floor for nominations. Judy Lopez nominated Heather Dutton, President, Kevin Terry, Vice President, and Nikita Cooper, Secretary. Mike Gibson seconded the nominations. Travis Smith thanked previous board members and the current slate for their work on the board. Heather, Kevin, and Nikita were elected to the respective positions.

Public Comment:

Anna Greenberg, Bird Conservancy/NRCS requested a letter of support for the Conejos Restoration Project for funding through the CPW Wetlands Program. The group had no objection to providing a letter of support for this project.

Anna also noted that there will be a film, Roots so Deep, Adaptive Grazing Management, shown on January 20, 2024 at Richards Hall, Adams State University at 2pm.

Jenny Nehring announced that the Crane Festival is quickly approaching and the Friends of the Crane Fest are looking for sponsors. Booth registrations are also opened. The Festival will be March 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Travis Smith announced that Colorado Water Congress will be January 31st through February 2nd.

Rio de la Vista announced that Adams State University's Director of the Rio Grande Del Norte Center position is open.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Staff, Jeff Rodriguez gave an update for CWCB. Jeff noted that the Climate Change in Colorado Report was released, updated from 2015 report. Soil Moisture Survey will open February 5, 2024. The results from the survey will help direct funding. IBCC meeting will be February 27, 2024. Jeff reminded the group of upcoming deadlines: WSRF deadline February 1., Wildfire Ready Watersheds is accepting applications, and the Technical assistance and local capacity grant program is accepting applications.

Nathan Coombs noted that C9 summit was successful. The Colorado River District voted to purchase 1,400 cfs of Shoshone Water right and to make it an instream flow. This may have an effect on transmountain divisions. Xcel owns the water rights for power generation, currently. The water would be leased to Xcel until Xcel finds no economic feasibility.

Craig Cotten, DWR, gave an update on the compact, Colorado nearly reached compact goals on both systems. Snow pack was currently at 63% of average in the Rio Grande Basin and 70% state wide. State Engineer, Kevin Rein has retired and that position is open.

PEPO Update was given. The Ed Committee will meet Thursday January 11, at Trenchera Ranch to discuss plans for the next year.

CWCB Request for Phase III of the Sanchez Reservoir Dam Repair Engineering and Water Infrastructure Optimization was presented by Keith Caldon and Nicole Langley. Capacity of the reservoir is 104,000 acre feet, 38 miles of concrete lined ditch, and 23 miles of canal. RiGHT is partnering to help with this project. AECOM will continue to work on this project. Seepage is usually around 3-4 cfs when low storage and up to 8 cfs during peak storage. AECOM will be meeting with the state engineer and finding the level of seepage that is acceptable. There was concern about seepage being the only thing keeping ecosystems alive. There was a comment that there is benefit to increasing the storage in the reservoir for all water uses including ag, recreation and environmental. Judy Lopez moved to fund the project, Virginia Christensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00.