



Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday January 10, 2024 10:30 am

Colorado State University

2200 Bonforte Blvd

Pueblo, CO 81001

Executive Committee/Guests Present

Abba Ahmed

Bob Hamel

Steve Kastner

Russ Sands

Al Tucker (online)

Jonathan Paklaian

Ariel Hacker

Mark Shea

Sandy White

Russ Sands

Scott King

Greg Felt

Tom Grasmick

Tim Canterbury

Matt Heimrich

Jeff Rodriguez

Jeris Danielson

Gracy Goodwin

1. Greetings, Introductions, Establish Quorum

- **Mark called** the meeting to order noting there was a quorum present with five Executive Members present.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - Amendments & Approval

- **Mark** asked if anyone wanted to add or change the Agenda hearing none Agenda approve.
- **Mark** asked if the Minutes of the December had any changes or amendments Jeris moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded and approved Minutes as is.

3. Reoccurring Matters

- **Chair Comments** – Mark opened the discussions on the following topics
 - First being the Colorado River Drought Task Force with discussions currently going on regarding recommendations on funding and priority calls brought on by current drought issues relating to Water Call Priorities. Some issues conversed regard the Shoshone water rights and priorities. The water rights stakes are involved due to benefits to opposing organizations. Discussions regarding priority calls, and where CWCB and the AG's office focus is regarding these issues. Mark will notify Executive Committee members how to participate in the upcoming meeting regarding these issues and upcoming decisions.
 - The other issue Mark brought forward is regarding the latest Supreme Court Decision and Water Quality Control. The latest decision by the Supreme Court (21-454 Sackett v. EPA) affects Colorado by now compelling Colorado to pick up the slack to protect water from pollution because this obligation will no-longer be done by the Federal Government. The issue being which Colorado Department such as our Water Quality Control Commission or the Department of Natural Resources will take up the new permit program and impacts to already heavy workloads.
 - Another matter Mark has been contacted by the Southeaster Water Conservancy District for a Letter of Support for the nominating Jim Broderick to receive the Bob Appel Award at the upcoming Water Forum even scheduled for March 6-7th at the Otero Jr. College.
 - Another matter is an upcoming Water Quality workshop that Mark has been asked to participate in. He has agreed.
 - Mark has been approached for filling a seat for the Pueblo Conservancy District which



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brings up the issue of statutes allowing Water Conservancy Districts seats, but not necessarily Conservancy Districts. The question remains which decree created this district that may allow a position on the Roundtable.

- Gracy opened the discussion of funding water restoration projects some of which are overlapping more than one basin and how this may affect some localized projects that smaller communities couldn't fund without our basin support.

- **Outstanding Reports –**

4. Roundtable Business

- **Proposed Bylaw Amendments (continued)**

- Mark opened the discussion on our proposed Bylaw's amendments highlighting changes proposed that brings the Bylaws in compliance with newly updated statutes since the 2016 Amendments. Mark proposed the Executive Committee adding Needs Assessment Chair to the Committee. Term limits and attendance tracking are issues needing more research. Al stated he is doing the tracking that was done by Elise to determine which seats may not need to be included for considering constituting a quorum. Sandy suggested setting a fixed number for considering a quorum without depending on attendance. It was decided to postpone discussions on these changes to another date prior to presenting them to the General Session.

- **Town of Walsh – Discussion**

- Postponed

- **ARWC Special Meeting to Approve legal Address Change-**

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable February 13, 2024
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – As Necessary
 - PEPOW – December 21, 2023
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – January 29, 2024
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – TBD
 - IBCC – TBD
 - Water Forum - March 5th Local Leaders dinner, Session Dates March 6-7th @ Otero Jr. College, La Junta
- Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting – January 17-18, Fort Collins
- CWCB Board Meeting – January 29-30 – February 2, Aurora (hybrid)
- Colorado Water Congress – January 31 – February 2, Aurora (hybrid)

6. Adjourn; Mark adjourned the meeting @ 12:23pm