



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday February 14, 2024 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	Amy Ostdiek (online)
Sandy White	Jeris Danielson	Steve Kastner
Ariel Hacker	Abba Ahmed	Greg Felt (online)
Terry Scanga (online)	Jeff Rodriguez	Jen Lynch (online)
Gracy Goodwin (online)	Rachel Zancanella	Scott King
Tom Verquer	Jack Goble	Rick Kienitz
Andy Klakulak	Rick Kidd	Tom Tharnish
Paul Fanning	Greg Teter (online)	Dave Schneider
Rich Hildebrandt	Mannie Colon	Mike Holmberg
Jim Pioreschi	Benjamin Meier (online)	Tom Grasmick (online)
Mark Gebhart (online)	Carrie Tucker (online)	Jeff Hodge (online)
Diane Kielty-Pinion (online)	Aaron Hilschorst (online)	Jeff DeHerrera (online)
Robert Sakata (online)	Rena Griggs (online)	Gil Ramirez (online)
Alan Ward (online)	Tom Seaba (online)	Sean Flanagan (online)
Patrick Bachman (online)	Andrea Harbin Monahan (online)	
Ricki Garden (online)	Rachel Duran (online)	Lisa Fardal (online)
Steve Smith (online)	Steve Leonhardt (online)	Ryan Unterreiner (online)
Todd Doherty (online)	Sam Kaelin (online)	Rob Harris (online)
Travis Sauder (online)	Emily Zmak (online)	Pablo Fernandez
Kelly Rousche	Lisa Windom (online)	Will Koger (online)
Lauren Duncan (online)	Sarah Mudge (online)	Glenn K (online)
Dale (online)	Keith (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 January 10, 2023** Proposed change: Add Scott King as in attendance. Approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – None

2. Presentations

Department of Water Resources, Division 2 – Rachel Zancanella, Division 2 Engineer presented



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a summary about 2023 Division 2 water conditions, including snowpack, spring runoff, operational challenges, and flooding, as well as how those conditions affected the Arkansas River Compact and its administration.

Rachel gave an overview of the 2024 Division 2 administrative priorities, beginning with the Pond Management Program. Phase 1 of the program includes a 5 mile buffer on either side of the Arkansas from Pueblo to the New Mexico – Colorado state line. She summarized the program’s scope of work, educational program, challenges, communications, and the administration and coordination involved. Public relations is considered a priority in this program, as well as environmental impacts of filling illegal ponds.

Another 2024 priority is the Refined Futile Call Administration, about physically and legally connected groundwater and surface water. Division 2 will hold public meetings on this topic, which are posted on the DWR website: <https://dwr.colorado.gov/events>.

The next 2024 focus Rachel discussed was priority administration and Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS) Tools. The Colors of Water Tool is now live, and they are looking for feedback during the season. The scenario planner and transit loss tools are also available. These tools may be found on the CDSS Tools website at <https://cdss.colorado.gov/>.

Rachel took questions from Roundtable members.

More information on the Division 2 can be found at <https://dwr.colorado.gov/division-offices/division-2-office>.

Break 1:29 pm

Colorado Water Conservation Board – Russ Sands presented an overview of the CWCB Guide for Roundtables draft. The purpose of the Guide is to define how CWCB, Roundtables, and IBCC coordinate, as well as answer common questions typically asked to CWCB staff, to provide a useful resource for Roundtables, particularly new members. The Handbook/Guide will cover conflicts of interest, code of ethics, Colorado Open Meetings Law, Colorado Open Records Act, public comments, accessibility, and training. It will include reference materials and links. The schedule for implementation is to present to Roundtables January through Spring, have a full draft in Spring, a revised draft in June, and have full CWCB approval of the document in September (2024). If members have input, they may contact Jeff Rodriguez at jeff.rodriguez@state.co.us. Russ answered questions from Roundtable members.

3. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

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

The bylaws are being updated, and Mark gave an overview of the questions and

discussion about recommended changes of the bylaws. The bylaws will be send to

Roundtable members for review. The state “dredge and fill” legislation was discussed in



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executive session, and Mark gave a brief overview of this house legislation to the Roundtable and recommended members individually contact elected officials with concerns.

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

Jonathan gave a summary of the board meeting on February 12, 2024. Andy Lurch will be leaving ARWC after 5 years, so there will be some staff openings coming up. Wildfire ready watersheds application is nearly ready to be submitted. ARWC obtained a small office at the college in Salida. Mark suggested making the ARWC board meetings longer, as 2 hours was not enough time, extended a thank you to Andy Lurch, and mentioned sending out the job postings (including Middle Arkansas Basin coordinator, outreach coordinator positions).

- **PEPO – Ariel Hacker**

No new updates. The next PEPO meeting is February 15th at 10:30 on Zoom. Email Ariel if interested in attending.

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Report – Jeff Rodriguez, Russ Sands, Greg Felt, Robert Sakata**

Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable about meetings and deadlines upcoming.

Director Greg Felt gave an update about new CWCB members. He also spoke about the January CWCB board meeting and Water Congress. The Water Quality Control Division and the CWCB had a joint meeting for the first time. They worked on finalizing the Shoshone permanency request and Projects Bill. Lake County was the one grant request under the Projects Bill for the Arkansas Basin, proposed by Sarah Mudge for \$151,000.

- Colorado River Webinars:
 - 2/15 11:30 – 12:30
 - 3/19 11:30 – 12:30
 - 4/4 11:30 – 12:30
- Water Conditions Meeting, virtually on 2/20 at 9:30 am.
- Water Plan Grant: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/december-2023-water-plan-grant-applications>
- 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>. Need to be contracted by 12/31/2024 due to ARPA Funds.
- WSRF Deadline is April 1st.
- ULCTF: <https://engagecwcb.org/urban-landscape-conservation-task-force>
- Turf Analysis: <https://engagecwcb.org/turf-analysis>
- Water Conditions Monitoring Committee: <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/223854/WCMCAgendaFeb2024.pdf?searchid=2f295a2b-ff03-42aa-8f8b-21a285141ef6>
- Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants: Questions/interest, contact Michael Regan (michael.regan@state.co.us)



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- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>
- Colorado River Issues <https://cwcw.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>

- **Inter- Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) Report – Jeris Danielson**

First meeting of 2024 will be February 27th in Denver. Russ Sands gave an overview of the agenda for that meeting – updates and reports in the morning session, and more PEPO-related discussions in the afternoon. Jeris and Terry will attend. Jeris plans to report on ARWC, PEPO, and the Arkansas Valley Conduit project. Terry mentioned discussions on how Colorado River issues affect the Arkansas Basin, and the Shoshone Power Plant Water Rights trans-basin concerns. IBCC meetings may be attended virtually or in person.

- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**

Next Needs Assessment Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 28th at 2:00 pm. \$729,000 remaining in Arkansas Basin account. WSRF Application Deadline February 15th, so applications for WSRF grants should be sent to Gracy this week and presented at the March Roundtable meeting to be submitted in time for the April 1st deadline. Needs Assessment Committee meetings can be attended by any member of the Roundtable, and attending may be helpful to applicants during the pre-vetting process. Contact Gracy if interested in attending. The NAC provides recommendations for grants to the Roundtable, and the Roundtable provides an independent review and response to the project applicant.

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

Bob Hamel reported to the group about “scenic designation”, snowpack, and working with media to help them report accurate information. Rena gave a brief update on Salida Lowhead Dam project and temperature reporting on Pueblo Reservoir downstream flows. Bob mentioned working on funding temperature gauging sites and turbidity monitoring site.

- **Ag/Muni Committee –**

Mark reported that Kent might need to renounce his position on the Roundtable and find someone who has more time to run this committee. Mark asked Robert Sakata if he is interested in attending those meetings and staying connected in that way.

4. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – March 13, 2024 at Pueblo Community College
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – February 28th at 2:00 pm
 - PEPOW – February 15th at 10:30 am via Zoom
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – TBD
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene –
 - IBCC – February 27th in Denver
- CWCW –
- Arkansas River Forum – March 6-7th (VIP dinner is March 5th) in La Junta

5. Adjourn; Mark, 3:10 pm