

Inter Basin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables  
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 12, 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 amended.

Travis Smith had corrections to the minutes. Rhonda Lobato moved to approve the minutes corrected. Kevin Terry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Jenny Nehring thanked the sponsors and supporters of the Crane Festival and noted it was a successful event.

Erin Minks, Senator Bennetts Office announced that the deadline for congressional funding is approaching and applications are online. Azarel Madrigal noted that there will be a webinar held on the Congressional Funding held the following week.

Cassandra McCuen announced that the City of Alamosa is having a “Water Week” April 7<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Vern Heersink, Alamosa County Commissioner announced that Alamosa County is updating their comprehensive plan and are holding a listening session March 12, 2024.

Jeff Rodriguez, Colorado Water Conservation Board, gave an update on the state board. CWCB staff will be coming to talk about the CWCB guide in April. 1051 reporting is due June 30. Water Conditions Committee will meet March 19<sup>th</sup>. CWCB deadline for WSRF is April 1 and WPG deadline is July 1. Wildfire Ready Watershed is continuing to take applications.

Division of Water Resources update was given by Craig Cotton. Compact delivery will be in debt 1,100 acre feet for 2023. New Mexico was 121,000 in debt for 2023. Craig noted that the US Supreme Court Case has been ongoing since 2013, Special Master ruled in the 3 states favor however US appealed that decision. The snowpack is currently 84% normal. Irrigation Season will most likely begin on April 1. State Engineer’s Position: going through the hiring process.

PEPO Update was given. On Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Snow Shoe Tour and Dust On Snow. The Water Symposium is March 30<sup>th</sup>. Water Leaders applications were reviewed, and applicants will be notified shortly.

An update on the study: “Drought, Heavy Metals, and Water Quality. San Luis Valley, Colorado; Water Quality Phase 1 Community Report” was given by Dr. Kathy James, Augusto Basterrechea, and Anna Vargas. Reports of the study can found at Colorado School of Public Health has the website for the study: [SLVWaterTesting@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:SLVWaterTesting@cuanschutz.edu).

La Sierra Environmental Guardian Committee presented their concern for the Cielo Vista Ranch. There have been 3,482 petition signers. Cielo Vista Ranch is a 88,000 acres that is being fenced, preventing wildlife from passing and causing erosion in the watershed. They asked for topic experts to help with the project and noted that there will be a hearing held in October.

Amy Ostdiek, CWCB gave an update on the Colorado River and the Post 2026 operations on Lake Powell and Mead. The current guidelines expire in 2026 and the goal of the new guideline is to make releases from Lake Powell to be sustainable and in line with hydrologic conditions helping to rebuild storage and avoids sharp deviations.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45.