



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday March 13, 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
Tim Canterbury (online)	Jeris Danielson	Steve Kastner
Ariel Hacker	Abba Ahmed	Terry Scanga
Jeff Rodriguez (online)	Gracy Goodwin	Sandy White (online)
Jeff DeHerrera	Tom Verquer	Greg Teter
Rick Kidd	Rich Hildebrandt	Scott King
Andy Klakulak	Paul Fanning	Tony Arnhold
Darren Graff	Todd Streep	Dan Tucker
Bill Tyner	Glori Thurston	Kelsey Mackelroy
Connie Mantelli	Bill Brozadi	Louis French
Mike Holmeberg	Arlin Bolkema	Kelly Rousche
Jim Baldwin (online)	Jayla Poppleton (online)	Sabrina White (online)
Rena Griggs (online)	Dwayne McFall (online)	Dan Williams (online)
Patrick Farrell (online)	Paul Landahl (online)	Aaron Hilschorst (online)
Tom Seaba (online)	Mark Gebhart (online)	Ricki Garden (online)
Gil Ramirez (online)	Diane Kielty-Pinion (online)	Mike Tilko (online)
J Bunderson (online)	Daneya Escar (online)	Rich Atkins (online)
Jack Goble (online)	Dan Richards (online)	Doug Brogch (online)
Dale Lyons (online)	Keith (online)	Kelly Roesch (online)
Amy Ostdiek (online)	Matt Heimrich (online)	Sam Kaelin (online)
Bill Burnett (online)	Holly Loff (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 February 14, 2023** Approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – None

2. Presentations

Water Education Colorado – Jayla Poppleton (Executive Director) and Sabrina White (Programs Director) presented an overview of Water Education Colorado, their target audience, opportunities, and public awareness work. They have offered river basin tours since 2003 and are planning a tour of the Upper Arkansas River Basin for 2024. The tour will be from June 4th to June 5th and begin in Salida. These tours are to offer information and awareness to the public, water



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professionals, politicians, and anyone interested, and provide presentations and tours of a variety of water uses and projects within the basin. Sabrina gave an overview of draft tour locations for both days, some logistics, and next steps for the planning process. Jayla presented a list of sponsorship levels for the tour, and costs for attending. WECO received a grant to provide 100 PEPO materials in English and Spanish for PEPO efforts, and more materials will be coming. WECO provides Fresh Water News and Headwaters Magazine as ways to stay up to date and educated on current water events. Over chat, a roundtable member suggested that tributaries be included in the tour, as well.

3. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

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

Steve Kastner is retiring from the Purgatoire Water Conservancy District and, thus, the Roundtable, and introduced Tony Arnhold as his replacement. Tony gave a brief introduction and qualifications to the Roundtable. A special election will need to be held on the executive committee to fill the Vice Chair position. If interested in the position, contact Mark Shea, otherwise he will make nominations.

Kent Ricken (Agra, At-Large Member) is stepping down from his position with the Roundtable, and Dan Tucker has been nominated to take that seat in place of Kent. Dan gave a brief introduction and qualifications to the Roundtable. His appointment is anticipated to be finalized at the April Roundtable meeting.

Greg Felt will continue to serve on CWCB, but his term is ending with Chaffee County at the end of the year. The Roundtable and CWCB will discuss if Greg will be able to continue to represent Chaffee County on the Roundtable at the end of his term. He has been a great benefit to the Roundtable as a representative from Chaffee County and the CWCB.

Mark gave an overview of the changes made to the Bylaws. No comments from the Roundtable, so consensus was called to approve the revisions of the Bylaws.

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Jonathan Paklaian**

ARWC is still interviewing and screening candidates for their current job openings. ARWC has attended Twin Lakes Board meetings and Jonathan has reached out to CUSP about Teller County representation on the Roundtable.

- **Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) – Ariel Hacker**

Maria (COCO) will reach out to FIBArk to get ARWC a table this summer for the Water Festival in Salida, June 13-16, and will continue working on the projects list, which will be a collaborative effort with COCO, PEPO, and Needs Assessment Committee. Jeris asked if the Arkansas Basin PEPO group met with other PEPO representatives in the state, and if the Arkansas Basin PEPO had any input for IBCC meeting, Ariel will ask the PEPO committee in next meeting (April 18th, 10:30am, virtual) and get back to Jeris about more inter-basin



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communication. Jeff informed the group that April 3rd is the next meeting for PEPO coordinators statewide, Jeff will add Ariel to that calendar invitation.

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) – Jeff Rodriguez, Amy Ost diek**

Amy Ost diek gave an overview of Colorado River issues and the post-2026 Lake Powel and Mead operations plans. The Upper Division states joined together and submitted a proposed alternative to the Bureau of Reclamation for modeling purposes in the post-2026 operations process. Amy emphasized that the Upper Basin already has been taking cuts, so consideration of the hydrologic shortage is critical. The CWCB is taking lessons learned from recent years and the current operations plan to create the framework for the post-2026 operations plan.

Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable about meetings and deadlines upcoming.

- Colorado River Webinars:
 - 3/19 11:30 – 12:30
 - 4/4 11:30 – 12:30
- Colorado River Issues <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>
- Upper Division States Alternative: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/coloradoriver>
- Questions, email Amy Ost diek: amy.ost diek@state.co.us
- Water Conditions Meeting, virtually on March 19th virtually at 9:30 am.
- Water Plan Grant: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/december-2023-water-plan-grant-applications> Deadline is July 1st. Reach out to Lauren Duncan for more information.
- 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.
- Water Conditions Monitoring Committee - <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/events/water-conditions-monitoring-committee-meeting-march-2024>
- ULCTF: <https://engagecwcb.org/urban-landscape-conservation-task-force>
- Turf Analysis: <https://engagecwcb.org/turf-analysis>
- 1051 Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZW57PGF> - Deadline June 30th
- 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)
- IBCC Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZWRTT3N>
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>

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

Jeris updated the group on the hybrid meeting, held in Golden, which was the first meeting



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with Commissioner Becky Mitchell, who emphasized that IBCC is not a player in interstate issues, they are intrastate only. There was a lot of interest in the Shoshone Power Plant water rights issue, and concerns about what this means for front range water users. This purchase has been partially funded from the state, thus all state residents have paid for it. This could be a point of contention if the Colorado River District insists against transbasin diversions to the Front Range. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers has lost authority on some waters, so a new bill is being proposed in response to that. IBCC discussed CO River outreach/PEPO materials and funding, as well as the next C9 Summit. The next C9 Summit will be in Crested Butte in October. The next IBCC meeting will be hybrid and held in Durango on June 18th. Terry Scanga noted that there is a bill proposed about grey water requirements as well, and that the Colorado River District has offered to present to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable about the Shoshone Power Plant water rights acquisition.

- **Environmental/Recreation – Rena Griggs, Bob Hamel**

Bob Hamel thanked the group for attending and supporting the Arkansas River Forum and reported that it was the most well-attended forum in the basin yet. The next enviro/rec meeting will be held at the end of April.

- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimrich**

No new updates.

Break 2:15 pm

- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**

The total project funds for the basin is \$960,165 currently. The projects discussed will be presented to CWCB at their July meeting. Deadline for the next round of WSRF to be submitted to the Needs Assessment Committee is August 15th.

Presentation 1 - Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District - Chilili Ditch Diversion Infrastructure Replacement – Steve Kastner

The Chilili Ditch is a small ditch in need of a new diversion structure and an automatic head gate. It is priority number 7 in the District, and is currently minimally functional. The Division Engineer is encouraging the Ditch Company to pursue upgrades and efficiency. The improvements to the ditch would provide a positive environmental impact, as well. This proposal is for engineering design, and the request is \$3,120 from the Basin (10% of total cost). The total estimated cost for design, survey, and geotech is \$31,200. If this is approved, the design is anticipated to be finalized by the end of the year. Tom Verquer, who represents Las Animas County and holds a position on the PRWCD Board, noted that this ditch badly needs this upgrade, and encourages the basin to support this project. The Roundtable provided consensus to provide this project with a letter of support.

Presentation 2 - Rocky Ford High Line Canal Company - Rocky Ford High Line Canal Diversion Dam Project – Todd Street (WW Wheeler & Associates, Engineer)

There is currently no diversion dam at the (aging) headgate infrastructure, which experiencing significant seepage. A feasibility study has been completed and an alternatives analysis has been performed. The conclusion of these studies is that an RCC dam and



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overshot headgates is the most economical and efficient solution. The scope of work for the final design includes the design package itself (drawings, specifications, design report, and opinion of probable cost), permitting, and contractor selection. They are requesting \$15,000 from the Basin Fund (10% of total cost). The Roundtable provided consensus to provide this project with a letter of support.

Presentation 3 - DeWeese-Dye Ditch & Reservoir Company - Irrigation Safety & Efficiency Project Phase 1 – Arlin Bolkema

The DeWeese Reservoir is over 120 years old and has a 36" outlet pipe. The service area of the DeWeese Ditch is agriculture, parks and wildlife, and private land. There are 725 shareholders, 1500 irrigated agricultural acres (including orchards, vineyards, crops, and hayfields), and 27 miles of critical fish and wildlife habitat. The access road is eroded and has significant overgrowth, the reservoir is overflowing (since February 2nd), the spillway is off-center, and the outlet pipe is wearing away, allowing seepage on the surrounding concrete. Rather than waiting for a disaster, the Ditch Company would like to proactively remedy this problem and improve safety and efficiency. The total cost of the project is \$418,965, and they are requesting \$314,224 from WSRF, and \$42,000 from the Basin Fund. The Roundtable provided consensus to provide this project with a letter of support.

Presentation 4 - City of Victor – Reservoir Delivery Pipeline Replacement Study – Bill Tyner

The City of Victor's water supply system was significantly disrupted during the winter months when the (aging) distribution pipe experienced a massive break. The proposed project is vital to the City of Victor. The project will consult with an engineering firm to evaluate the aging infrastructure system to recommend repairs and replacements, to determine priority areas, and submit design plans. Bill listed the ways that this project supports the BIP and presented exhibits of the existing infrastructure and the mainline failure. They are requesting \$176,000 from WSRF and \$40,000 from Basin Account Funds, and the total cost for the project is estimated to be \$360,000. The Roundtable provided consensus to provide this project with a letter of support.

4. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – April 10 at Pueblo Community College
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – TBD
 - PEPOW – April 3 (statewide) and April 18 (Arkansas Basin) at 10:30 am, virtual
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – TBD
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – May 13
 - IBCC – June 18 in Durango
- CWCB – March 13 and 14
- C9 Summit – October 1 and 2

5. Adjourn; Mark, 3:04 pm