



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday March 13, 2024 10:30 am

Pueblo Community College

900 W. Orman Ave.

Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/Guests Present

Abba Ahmed

Bob Hamel

Steve Kastner

Al Tucker (excused)

Jonathan Paklaian

Ariel Hacker

Mark Shea

Sandy White

Terry Scanga

Jeff Rodriguez

Jeris Danielson

Gracy Goodwin

Tim Canterbury

1. Greetings, Introductions, Establish Quorum

- **Mark called** the meeting to order noting there was a quorum 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 for February 13, 2024 had any changes or amendments noting there was none approved by consensus.

3. Reoccurring Matters

- **Chair Comments** – Mark mentioned attending the annual Water Forum which was successful and enjoyed seeing members attending. At the Forum several discussions on the value of water and how it related agricultural production. Kate Greenburg and Robert Sakata were presenters and contributors to these discussions and pointing to the difficulty regarding water and Ag.
 - Mark thanked Steve Kastner who is retiring from the Purgatory Water Conservancy District and is stepping down from our monthly meetings. Replacing Steve will be Tony Arnhold.
 - Mark mentioned Mike Weber who serves on the Water Quality Control Commission and its joint meeting the meeting with the Colorado Water Conservation board at this meeting they discussed getting more integration between these two matters. As such, Mike has agreed to meet with the Roundtable and give an update on how these two can work together solving concerns. Mark also mentioned he has been approached by Pat Wells who had been appointed by the governor to serve on IBCC and has offered assistance.
 - New memberships; Kent Ricken who had recently stepped up to one of our At Large Water Right Holder seats has withdrawn due to scheduling conflicts. Dan Tucker who works for Agra will be stepping up to that position. Mark said we'll get a Teller County Muni rep for the first time who will be Gloria Thirsten. Another item Mark brought forward was the issue of CWCB being a liaison not a seat on the Roundtable. That being the case we'll consider Greg Felt to continue being the Chaffee County Rep.
 - Mark discussed the Aurora acquisition on the Catlin Canal for the use of their water



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rights. He requested Abba to make a presentation in one of our upcoming meetings on this.

- **Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members** – Steve Kastner brought up a discussion with the Tax Assessor's office on the Tax proposals coming up with the Legislature and apparently they're not favorable to rural Colorado. Bob Hamel asked about the upper basin states proposal regarding the Colorado River and if there was any concern on the effect with the ability to import water into the Arkansas Basin. Terry Scanga a lot depends on the hydrology reports coming from annual snowpack (<https://coloradosnow.org>) on the amount of water may be transported into our basin. Several questions and discussion regarding the Shoshone instream flow rates and its impact with the Arkansas. This was decided to be discussed in an upcoming Roundtable meeting.

4. Roundtable Business

- **Bylaws final Draft** - Mark opened the discussion with the final draft of the Bylaws which included statutory members and appointments to the Roundtable. The issue of Executive Committee terms needs discussion. Several pointed out this could be a problem going forward with Executive Leadership position. Mark removed this change after discussion. Another issue is the Recorder will be responsible for maintaining attendance to the meetings for constituting a quorum. Mark called consensus from the Executive Committee to approve these changes to be presented to the Regular Session.
- **WSRF Grants for treated water system needs** – Gracy reported on some of the grants regarding treated vs raw water. Accordingly WSRF grants deal with the raw water side with funding. This has clarified process for applicants regarding applying for WSRF grants.
- **Discussion regarding Colorado Airborne Snowpack Measurements (CASM) program support from Arkansas Basin entities** – Mark opened the discussion for the Colorado Airborne Snowpack Measurement (CASM). Bob remarked on this appears to be more useful to the smaller basins, but as Terry pointed out is there is some question as to the accuracy to this program. The issue seems to be the placement of the SNOTEL sites since they were meant to have access to acquire measurements. Whereas airborne appears to have greater access, but cost is the deterrent.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable April 10, 2024
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – As Necessary
 - PEPOW – TBD
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – March 25, 2024
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – TBD
 - IBCC – June 18, 2024
 - ARWC – May 13, 2024
 - CWCB Board March 13-14, Denver Metro (Hybrid)
 - C-9 Summit, October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte

6. Adjourn; Mark called for adjournment @ 12:30