



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday May 8, 2024 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

900 W. Orman Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

Members and Guests Present:

Mark Shea	Ariel Hacker(online)	Bob Hamel	Gracy Goodwin (online)
Abba Ahmed	Al Tucker(online)	Jeffrey DeHerrera	Jeff Rodriguez (online)
Matt Heimrich	Terry Scanga (online)	Lauren Duncan(online)	Cole Bedford (online)
Jonathan Paklaian	Russ Sands (phone)	Paul Fanning	Rich Hildbrand
Scott King	Tony Arnold	Dan Tucker	Tom Seaba
Rena Griggs	Greg Salter	Greg Teter	Jim Baldwin(online)
Denea Escar(online)	Gil Ramirez(online)	Greg Felt(online)	Mannie Colon(online)
Seth Clayton(online)	Shiloh Fried(online)	Dan Williams(online)	Alex Davis(online)
Jeff Hodge(online)	Aaron Hilschorst(online)	Cecilia Timberg(online)	Dale Lyons(online)
Sandy White(online)	Stephan Harris(online)	Mark Gebhart(online)	Rachel Duran(online)
Patrick Farrell(online)	Lisa Farth(online)	Jack Goble(online)	Joshua Godwin(online)
Justin Kurth(online)	Will Koger(online)	Todd Doherty(online)	Diane Kielty-Pinyon(online)
Steve Smith(online)	Brad Lubbers(online)	Tim Knabenshue(online)	Rob Oquist(online)
Ricki Garden(online)	Robert Sakata	Tom Verquer	Lisa Windom(online)
Keith Hood(online)	Rick Kienitz	Brent Gardner-Smith(online)	Bill Burnet(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 April 10, 2023** Approved by consensus, pending the additions of Jim Baldwin and Dan Williams in attendance.
- **Public comment** – None

2. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

Mark gave an update of the morning's executive committee meeting.

The "Dredge and Fill" House Bill HB1379 passed House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor's Office. A concern from members was that the program would be under management of CDPHE, which may not have the capacity for the program. The Sacket Gap waters were another – HB1379 includes all state waters and water features, with minimal exclusions, which would negatively impact many types of water users.



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Colorado Water Plan grant program: Mark met with Lauren Duncan and Anna Mauss to gain clarity on information submitted on applications. Staff in-kind contributions can be considered on an application, if it is time specifically dedicated towards that project, tracked as such, and signed by a supervisor. CWCB has been discussing internally about how to define this more clearly for grant applicants. Lauren continued that grants that are submitted about water quality are more challenging to consider by the CWCB, which focuses mainly on raw water. CDPHE is the organization that focuses on water quality, and grants are available through their organization for water quality projects. These are items to more thoroughly discuss for water supply/reuse projects that come up. One specific project is from El Paso County Water Providers on Indirect Potable Reuse. That group plans to resubmit for the next round of grant funding.

Jean Van Pelt has offered to assist with Recorder and administrative responsibilities and develop a long term, sustainable program which could support the idea from the previous meeting of offering this kind of work to a college intern. Motion to move this program forward was approved by consensus.

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

ARWC applied for Wildfire Ready Watersheds proposal. Scope of Work focuses on Twin Lakes area. May 29 in Custer County, meeting for Stakeholders group. May 22-24 Colorado Mining Conference in Leadville. ARWC is collecting applications for a few different positions. An intern has been hired and will be starting this summer, she will start attending Roundtable meetings. Lake County chipping program, Jonathan can get interested members more information.

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

Online attendees requested to write first and last names as their titles on Zoom so that attendance can be tracked more efficiently.

WECO's Upper Arkansas Basin tour: June 4-5 in Salida – the tour is full already
FIBArk: June 13-16 in Salida; Jonathan, Maria, and Ariel discussed an outreach table on that Friday, where pamphlets and the WECO "Where Our Water Comes From" materials may be distributed.

Palmer Land Conservancy – Mirasol Film Screenings in Pueblo, Salida, and Colorado Springs. Dates and times can be found at mirasolfilm.com

Statewide Meeting was held May 3, which served as a great platform to collaborate with other PEPO coordinators for ideas and to hear what is going on in the state. Some good reminders and information from the CWCB presenters, and from WECO.

Quarterly Meeting April 18. Summary:

- Next grant submittal is due June 1st, so Jonathan is pushing full steam ahead on that. PEPO has an overlapping grant that closes out at the end of November. The plan is to submit the June 1st grant to be all inclusive.



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- What was discussed for the next round of funding was to continue reaching out to projects in underserved communities (aka narrowing down and closing out the project's list), and also doing more of the kinds of work that people think about when they hear "PEPO", like informational brochures about the Roundtable, BIP, PEPO, WSRF funding, attending water-related events to talk to people and distribute those and the WECO materials, do more updates on the website, possibly reactivate the Facebook page. If a volunteer likes creating social media content, maybe start an Instagram or other popular social media platform.
 - WECO will continue to distribute materials in English and Spanish to Roundtables
 - Members were encouraged to SPEAK NOW if they had ideas they would like to discuss. If any member feels strongly about certain topics being included, please attend the PEPO workgroup meetings.
- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt**
Jeff provided an overview on House Bill HB24-1435, for Water Plan Grant funding (\$23.3M) and Projects Bill, Turf Replacement Program (\$2M).

CWCB Guide will be coming soon.

This will be the second year of the TLC (transformational landscape challenge). Interested parties may apply on the Resource Central website, with a deadline of June 1st.

Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable about meetings and deadlines upcoming.

- Colorado River Issues updates meeting virtually on May 9th, to be held monthly
<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>
Upper Division States Alternative: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/coloradoriver>
Questions, email Amy Ost diek: amy.ostdiek@state.co.us
- Water Conditions Meeting, May 29
- Water Plan Grant: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants>
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.
- 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:



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<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/>

Greg Felt provided an update on the CWCB board meeting. A new Chair was elected, Nathan Coombs, who will likely be elected as Chair when Greg steps down. CWCB will be electing a new Vice Chair. The next meeting will be in Granby on May 15-16. Executive session to be held on Demand Management, likely in response to Colorado River discussions. More discussions to be held on Shoshone Water Rights. The Dredge and Fill bills have been evolving and Greg feels that they have been improved.

Robert Sakata stated a formal thank you to Greg Felt for his service, and all members applauded.

- **Inter- Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) – Terry Scanga**

The next IBCC meeting will be hybrid and held in Durango on June 18th. Survey feedback will be discussed at this meeting.

- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**

Deadline for the next round of WSRF to be submitted to the Needs Assessment Committee is August 15th, for grant deadline of October 1st.

- **Environmental/Recreation – Bob Hamel**

The Water Forum in 2025 will be March 5-6 in Pueblo.

Voluntary Flow Management Program discussed imports. It is anticipated that reservoirs will be full, so may not have room for the imports. What creative solutions exist to free up this water? Members are encouraged to reach out with ideas.

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

Dan Tucker and Tom Seaba joined the workgroup to help Matt, and in early fall 2024 all stakeholders will meet. Group has discussed ideas for the workgroup moving forward. Bill Teiner may support.

Break until 1:55 pm

3. Presentation – Aurora Water Rights Purchase in Arkansas Basin

Rick Kienitz presented to the Roundtable about Aurora Water, its current Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA's) in the Arkansas River Basin, and water rights acquisitions and interests. He summarized the 2024 Cooperative Farm Proposal in Otero County, its IGA, upcoming meetings to discuss impacts in Otero County. No changes in water rights or usage is proposed in the program, all existing leases and agreements will be honored. Rick provided an overview of the project



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assets and assured the Roundtable that no “buy and dry” or changes in water rights will occur.

2024 Cooperative Farm Proposal

- Strong Agricultural Partner for farm with full farming in 7 out of 10 years and partial farming in the other 3 years.
 - Partnership continues during interruptible supply to Aurora
 - Look to make on farm improvements for labor and water savings
- Otero County Payments in Lieu of Taxes to keep County and communities whole - new IGA with Otero County
- Keep all lands in production no permanent dry up or change of water rights
- Continued partnership with current entities and agreements
- Compliance and cooperation with the Flow Management Agreement through Pueblo
- Compliance and cooperation with Voluntary Flow Management program
- Work closely with Catlin farmers to ensure non injury and strong support by City of Aurora



Rick answered questions from Roundtable members. Some farming will continue on the land. The river health is contemplated in the IGA, studies are likely to be funded to contribute to these studies. The water will pass through Otero Pump Station. County Commissioners expressed concerns about water supply limitations, particularly in the over-appropriated Arkansas Basin. The concern that anyone outside of the IGA may not be represented.

Motion to table this discussion to next meeting. Unanimous support.

EMAIL PRESENTATION TO bgardnersmith@gmail.com.

4. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – June 12
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
 - In-stream Flow Water Rights Presentation (Shoshone Proposal) will be discussed
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – May 15th deadline for requests for WSRF Letters of Support
 - PEPOW – June 20 at 10:30 am, virtual
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – June 24 at 10:00 am, virtual



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- Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
- ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – May 13 at 10am, virtual; August 12, virtual
- IBCC – June 18 in Durango
- CWCB – May 15-16, Granby; July 17-18, North Platte Basin
- C9 Summit – October 1 – 2, Crested Butte

5. Adjourn; Mark, 3:09 pm