



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday June 12, 2024 12:30 pm

VIRTUAL ONLY

**Members and Guests Present:** Noted on sign-in sheet.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions -

- **Introductions** – Mark called the meeting to order with introductions of all online attendees at that time.
- **Quorum** was determined present, meeting commenced.
- **Agenda approval** by consensus.
- **Minutes of May 8, 2023** Approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – None

### 2. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**

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

Mark attended the Water Education Colorado Tour of the Upper Arkansas Basin and gave an overview of his experience. He highlighted the participant interest in fire mitigation, watershed risks, and Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative collaboration. There is currently a fire near Twin Lakes, and there is a briefing today at 1pm.

Mark gave a brief update on the state "Dredge and Fill" bill, supplemental to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 404 Permit Program. It limited the scope of the definition of the Waters of the United States. Members who are interested in the stakeholder meetings can reach out to Mark or the website for more information.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Jean Van Pelt will support with Recorder position and administrative responsibilities. She will provide assistance in document archiving, web-based products, and website updates. Not discussed in the Executive Session was the previously-asserted idea of having a college intern to support with these tasks, which would help the Roundtable as well as give the student valuable exposure to the Arkansas Basin water community.

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

Jonathan provided a monthly report-out for ARWC. He gave an update about the swift crews and piles in Lake County. A burn plan is being worked on, and expected to be complete later this summer. The outreach component will be very important for these burns, so they will work on this over the summer as well.



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They are interviewing Lead Forestry Position candidates this coming week.

FIBArk in Salida later this week. ARWC and PEPO will have a table Friday and Saturday.

- **Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) – Ariel Hacker**  
Jonathan submitted the next round of CWCB PEPO Grant funding. Jeff believes that it could be as soon as August when we hear back about approved funding, but may be as late as October. Ariel reported that the next PEPO workgroup meeting will be held virtually June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.
- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt**  
Jeff provided an update on the C9 Summit, which will take place at Crested Butte Center for the Arts on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are working on finalizing the agenda.

The CWCB Guide will be posted in draft form on EngageCWCB.org on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a question/comment page as well, or members may email Jeff directly.

Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable about meetings and deadlines upcoming.

- Colorado River Issues updates meetings 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, June 25
- Water Plan Grant: Deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 – June 25 at 9:30 (virtually)
- 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 30<sup>th</sup>
- Water Conditions Monitoring Committee: June 13 at 11:30 (virtually)
- Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants: Questions/interest, contact Michael Regan ([michael.regan@state.co.us](mailto:michael.regan@state.co.us))
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>

Greg Felt gave an update about the CWCB board meeting and the first day of the WECO Upper Arkansas Basin Tour. There were 6 or 7 legislatures on the tour. At the Commissioners Conference, CWCB members provided a Water 201 class to



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commissioners, and there were about 70 commissioners present.

Lauren Duncan spoke about the Water Plan Grant and encouraged members to connect project proponents with her.

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

The next IBCC meeting will be hybrid and held in Durango on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Andy Mueller will present on the Shoshone Plant Water Rights, and Amy Ostdiek will give an update on the Colorado River negotiations.

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

Bob Hamel gave an update about the Voluntary Flow Management Program imports, now up to 72,000 Acre-Feet from the western slope. The river at Parkdale is at 5,550, so some restriction on recreation were requested there and below Pueblo Reservoir. According to Outfitters, however, it is still open above the Royal Gorge. Call for spills will take place on Monday.

Rena Griggs reported that the WQCD approved the CPW proposal for site-specific temperature standard. This is good news for the hatchery below Pueblo Reservoir.

- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimrich and Dan Tucker**

Dan Tucker reported that the subcommittee is reconvening and reorganizing their efforts. Committee plans to support Bill Teiner with river conveyance studies, particularly in lower Arkansas valley/basin.

- **Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin**

Deadline for the next round of WSRF to be submitted to the Needs Assessment Committee is August 15<sup>th</sup>, for grant deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>. July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for Water Plan Grant. Jenny Bishop with the El Paso County Indirect Potable Reuse project will resubmit the Water Plan Grant application, which the Roundtable supported last year.

Brett Bovee from West Water Research presented about the Colorado Canal Company, requesting a letter of support from the Roundtable for WPG program funding. The Colorado Canal Company in Crowley and Otero Counties has experienced loss of farm lands and is looking at proactive approaches to planning to facilitate continued service to farmland. They would like to provide a sustainable and functional ditch system for shareholders in the future. The project is anticipated to last for 6 months and is largely to gather information, analyze the system, and develop a strategic plan and report. The project would ideally provide a model for future efforts in the Arkansas Basin. They are applying for 75% of project costs from CWCB, and the remaining 25% of funding through the company. The overall budget estimate is \$127,970.

Mark asked if they were familiar with any other strategic plan efforts for ditch companies in the area. Brett responded that he was aware of similar projects. By consensus, the Roundtable will provide a letter of support. An update and overview of the planning effort will be given to the



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Roundtable in approximately one year.

Next Needs Assessment Committee will be held the end of August.

**Break until 2:05 pm**

### **3. Presentation – Shoshone Power Plant Water Rights – Rob Viehl**

Rob Viehl presented about the Shoshone Power Plant Water Rights, with purchase by the Colorado River District in process, to be supported by the CWCB.

He provided an overview of the acquisition process and outlined the CWCB meeting process about the acquisition. Andy Mueller provided background information about the purchase and provided assurances that it will not negatively impact the Arkansas Basin. Their goal is to keep the river flowing during dry times and ensure that the purchase benefits the state.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

### **4. Upcoming Meetings –**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – July 10 at Pueblo Community College
  - Executive Committee – 10:30am
  - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
  - Needs Assessment – August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for requests for WSRF Letters of Support
  - PEPO – June 20 at 10:30 am, virtual
  - Environmental/Recreation Committee – June 24 at 10:00 am, virtual
  - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – Fall 2024
  - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – August 12, virtual
  - IBCC – June 18 in Durango
- CWCB – July 17-18, North Platte Basin
- Water Congress – Colorado Springs
- C9 Summit – October 1 – 2, Crested Butte

### **5. Adjourn; Mark, 2:50 pm**