



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday July 10, 2024 12:30 pm

900 West Orman Ave

Pueblo, CO 81004

### 1. Welcome and Introductions -

- **Introductions** –
- **Quorum** – Quorum present
- **Agenda approval** – Agenda approved w/correction to date
- **Minutes of June 12, 2024** – Minutes approved by consensus
- **Public comment** – Robert Sakata Dept of Ag addressed the Roundtable regarding DNR Emergency responders working with the Beulah fire responders in Pueblo County. Mr. Sakata also stated that there are DNR grants for water/irrigation canals that may have been adversely affected by wildfires. If so, please contact the DNR.

### 2. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**
  - Mark shared the Executive session's discussion regarding the CWCB Guide and Colorado's Water Plan document on what it means to be a Roundtable member. Also discussed were decreed ponds in the Basin and a property owner who was interested in WSRF funding to do repair work and the Executive Committee members after lengthy discussions felt this was not in the best interest of our Roundtable funding to provide fiscal support with these type of projects, but may assist with finding other types of support. Another topic discussed was Jean's Admin role with supporting the Roundtable so a contract will be worked on with CWCB defining roles and responsibilities going forward. Mark shared Sandy White's not being present for today's meeting and may be absent for a month or two going forward.
- **CWCB/IBCC Update** – Russ Sands and Jeff Rodriguez gave the update on the Drought Resilience Action Plan listing the following;
  1. Our Future is increasingly warmer and dryer
  2. IBCC is thinking about actions that can help reduce the 740,000 AF/year gap in 2050
  3. Roundtable can help build a pipeline of ideas IBCC can discuss
  4. Concepts can help inform conversations, the Tech Update, the BIPs and the Water Plan
  5. We will discuss more at the C9 Summit – October 1&2 in Crested Butte.
- Jeff further discussed July CWCB Updates regarding the Engage/CWCB draft, C9 Summit, Water Conditions and the Water Plan Grant Cycle 1, Colorado River Webinars which was originally scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> but has been moved out for now due to scheduling changes with organizers. Wildfire ready funding applications are still available, needs to be completed by year end.
- Greg Felt gave a brief update regarding the grant availability program and the upcoming



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Walden meeting.

### 3. Presentation – Arkansas River Water Preservation Principals, SECWCD et, al, panel discussion,

**Moderator: Chris Woodka, Panelists: Bill Long, Alan Hamel, Terry Scanga, Jack Goble, Abby Ortega**

- Chris Woodka presented the Panel Members; Alan Hamel (Retired Executive Director Pueblo Board of Water Works), Abby Ortega (Colorado Springs Utilities), Bill Long (President SE Colo. Water Conservancy District), Terry Scanga (Director Upper Arkansas Conservancy District), Jack Goble (GM Lower Valley Arkansas Conservancy District). Chris introduced himself beginning with work he performed with the Pueblo Chieftain and the interest the editor had with water preservation involving him. The Panel discussed the Arkansas Water Preservation Principals in 2003 with the focus on preservation of water in the Ark Basin and Agriculture. *See attached document;*

### 4. Break

### 5. Old Business – Motion to support for SECWCD resolution in opposition to Aurora water purchase

- Mark presented the motion brought forward by Matt Heimerich regarding the Aurora Water District's purchase of more water rights. After a lengthy discussion on the decree regarding support for the SECWCD resolution the motion was seconded by Tom Verquer and passed by consensus.

### 6. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – August 14, 2024
  1. Executive Committee – 10:30am
  2. Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
  1. Needs Assessment – August 2024
  2. PEPO – August 15, 2024, 10:30 – 12:00 Zoom
  3. Environmental/Recreation Committee – August 26, 2024 at 10:00 – 12:00 Zoom
  4. Agriculture/Municipal Committee – Fall 2024
  5. ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – August 12, virtual
  6. IBCC – October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte
- CWCB – July 17-18, Walden
- Water Congress Summer Conference, August 20-22, 2024 – Colorado Springs
- C9 Summit – October 1 – 2, Crested Butte
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, March 5-6, 2025

### 7. Adjourn;

#### Members and Guests Present:

Mark Shea  
Abba Ahmed  
Jean VanPelt  
Bob Hamel  
Al Tucker  
Jeff Rodriguez

Greg Felt  
Jeffery DeHerrera  
Jeris Danielson  
Marlisa Essells  
John Hottenstein  
Greg Teter

Megan Holcom  
Peter Nichols  
Gil Ramirez  
Steve Smith  
Alan Hamel  
Abba Ortega



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Bill Long  
Kim Gortz  
Katie Garrett  
Terry Scanga  
Gracy Goodwin  
Russ Sands  
Blake Osborn

Matt Heimerich  
Dan Tucker  
Dwayne McFall  
Scott King  
Jonathan Paklaian  
Rick Kienitz  
Tom Verquer

Kelly Roesch  
Jack Goble  
Dave Wissel  
Jim Prioreschi  
Tony Arnold  
Chris Woodka  
Manne Colon

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **ARKANSAS RIVER WATER PRESERVATION PRINCIPLES PREAMBLE**

In order to safeguard and preserve for present and future generations the water available for diversion and use within the Arkansas River Basin, including therein all cities, towns, counties, and communities of interest within the Arkansas River drainage, and in order to impose appropriate conditions and limitations on the transfer of water and water rights from the Arkansas River Basin, the undersigned lawful representatives of the Pueblo City Council, the Colorado Springs City Council, the Board of Water Works of Pueblo, Colorado, the Board of Directors of the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, the Board of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, and the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District hereby agree collectively to adopt and pursue the following goals in a cooperative manner.

### **GOALS AND PRINCIPLES**

1. Support reasonable efforts to maintain and improve the economy of the entire Arkansas River Basin from its headwaters to the State line with the understanding that protecting the quantity and maintaining a reasonable quality of the water in the Arkansas River available to water users for existing and future decreed beneficial uses is absolutely vital to that objective.
2. Support reasonable efforts to protect or improve the quantity and quality of the water in the Arkansas River Basin from the headwaters to the State line.
3. Support reasonable efforts to retain water originating in the Arkansas River Basin for use within the Basin while acknowledging the ability of water rights owners to sell their water rights and to support reasonable mitigation for the future loss of any water that is transferred out of the basin by sale, lease, or other device.
4. Support stream flows in the Arkansas River Basin sufficient to enhance and protect recreation, the environment, agriculture, economic development, and water quality.
5. Support efforts for development of agricultural and municipal water storage and delivery projects for the benefit of Arkansas River Basin users.
6. Support agreements, which will optimize and coordinate water storage and water exchanges within all reaches of the Arkansas River Basin (including recreational instream flows) with priority for such water exchanges directed to intra-basin water users.
7. Promote the vitality of the Arkansas River Basin communities by pursuing regional economic development, transportation, and other projects of mutual interest.
8. Consider water quality in all discussions, negotiations, agreements, and legislation related to the foregoing goals.
9. All of the foregoing goals shall be pursued in accordance with the doctrine of prior appropriation, federal law, local law, and the laws and regulations of the State of



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Colorado, while acknowledging the rights and obligations of certain of the parties under existing agreements, the right to continue utilizing existing decreed water storage rights and exchanges in order of priority, and the right of the parties to compromise such rights or interests and amend existing agreements.

The parties acknowledge that each is a governmental entity with differing legal authority that, in some circumstances, may constrain a party's actions in pursuit of the stated goals. The parties will work cooperatively, promptly, and constructively within this framework towards reasonable and equitable specific solutions, projects, and agreements that achieve the parties' respective goals and to the benefit of the Arkansas River Basin.