



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday August 14, 2024 12:30 pm

Virtual

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Shea, Chair

- **Introductions** – Mark welcomed everyone and explained that due to extreme weather the previous evening the scheduled location was unavailable necessitating virtual access.
- **Establish a Quorum** – Mark stated that Jean will be tracking attendance and determine the presence of a quorum in attendance. Quorum present.
- **Approval of Agenda** - Mark informed that the agenda shows Kent Ricken reporting on the AG/Muni committee, he's been replaced by Dan Tucker since Ricken is no longer on the Roundtable. Jeff corrected the name on the CWCB report as being Emily Adrid CWCB on the Climate Change Report. Mark called to approve the Agenda as Amended.
- **Approval of minutes - July 10, 2024** – Mark called for any changes or amendments to the July 10th minutes, hearing none called for consensus to approve.
- **Public Comments** – Mark asked for public comment hearing none move to the next agenda item.

2. CWCB Climate Change Presentation, Becky Balinger, Emily Adrid

- Emily Adrid Water Planning and Climate Impact Specialist, CWCB gave the presentation on Climate Change in Colorado- Trends and Projections for Colorado's Climate and Hydrology. She and Becky's presentation focused on;
 - Background of Climate change assessments in Colorado, Global context for Colorado's climate, with the following key messages;
 - Temperature & Precipitation
 - Snowpack, Soil Moisture, and Streamflow
 - Climate Hazards and Extremes
 - The updated 2024 Climate Change report describes human impacts on climate affecting Temperature, Water, Wildfires and Drought conditions.
 - This report provides specific climate data to help decision makers better understand localized climate impacts and the need for climate adaptation
 - The report describes trends in Colorado's climate and hydrology, interprets model-based projections for the future, and considers potential hazards stemming from changes in climate. It also verifies projections found in earlier reports and updates them to extend out through 2050 and beyond.
 - The question of wildfire ready watershed was raised in reference to Air Quality Index, AQI and may be included in future discussion, as it was pointed out this is an important aspect for people and pollinators for food production. Mark's response was our support regarding mitigation and the Fix Our Forest Act is addressing many of these issues.
 - The Climate Center in Colorado has data for further research on this.

3. InterBasin Compact Committee Presentation, Jeff Rodriguez & Russ Sands CWCB

- Russ Sands Gave the Presentation on the IBCC Drought Resilience Action Plan discussing the CWCB Guide on Duties for the IBCC this included the Checklist;



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- No & Low Regrets Action Plan to:
 - ❖ Address the 740,000 AF/ year gap with 2023 Water Plan
 - ❖ Identify strategies to make Colorado thrive under any future
 - ❖ Buffer from drier, warmer & drought conditions
 - ❖ Inform next tech updates, BIP's & the Colorado Water Plan
 - ❖ Build cross-basin collaboration & momentum for project funding
- o Also discussed; Questions for Roundtable members;
 - Concerns and thoughts for IBCC
 - Specific ideas other than addressed
- o A Question was raised regarding accurate CASM data and environmental impacts. It was felt that funding is an important issue with obtaining wider and more accurate data supporting both the Western Slope and Eastern slope snow packs and possible forest health with future research methods.

4. Break

5. Reports

- **Executive Committee Update – Mark Shea**
 - o Mark stated most of the Executive Committee's Meeting discussed the topics we've been discussing including the CWCB No & Low Regrets Action Plan and the Role of the IBCC. Mark asked Jeff to provide the following link to the CWCB Guide; <https://engagecwcb.org/cwcb-guide>. It was also suggested by Terry Scanga for us to revisit the HB 1177 relating to the statutory role of the IBCC, but all agreed that the value of the IBCC dealing with intrastate compacts is a valuable benefit.
 - o Mark also informed everyone of Jean's new role in Admin Support and will be working with Committee Chairs about agendas, scheduling meetings so they will be posted on the Roundtable Website.
 - o Mark also mentioned the state Dredge and Fill Permit Program and the state will be starting a series of stakeholder meetings on the basics of the program starting on September 4, 2024 @ 9:30 – 11:30 which will be virtual. Registration for this meeting is at the Colorado Water Quality Control Division website.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian**
 - o Jonathan reported that ARWC is currently hiring. With the new staff, watershed coordinators, ARWC will be now focusing on the middle Ark watershed projects. The staff and added support is due to the series of recently acquired grants made available to ARWC and Jonathan thanked the Roundtable for its continued support in this area.
- **Enviro/Rec – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs**
 - o Bob reported their next meeting will be August 26th and the voluntary flow program will be ending August 15th. The recent rains have helped with water flow.
- **PEPO – Ariel Hacker, Maria Brandt**
 - o Mark announced a PEPO workgroup that is scheduled has been canceled.
- **CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez**
 - o Mark called on Jeff and Commissioner Greg Felt. Jeff reported on the C-9 Summit scheduled for October 1 -2, 2024 at Crested Butte. There are tours and a dinner scheduled. There are some reimbursement monies available and some rooms



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available. Jeff reiterated the CWCB Guide and comments should be submitted prior to finalizing the Draft this fall. Also, the water conditions monitoring program committee and climate projections meetings are monthly with the next meeting August 27th. These meetings are posted on the CWCB YouTube page and recorded. Greg Felt added that all the grants for our basin went out. The next meeting will be in the Rio Grande Basin.

- **IBCC Report – Jeris Danelson and Terry Scanga**
 - o Terry Scanga reported the upcoming meeting will be included at the C-9 Summit coming up.
- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich and Dan Tucker**
 - o Dan Tucker reported an Ag/Muni meeting will be coming up in September and a Panel discussion scheduled November 15th in La Junta Jr. College with stakeholders throughout the basin.
- **Needs Assessment Committee** Mark stated the deadline for submitting is coming up on August 15th

6. Upcoming Meetings

- **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – September 11, 2024**
 - o Executive Committee – 10:30 am
 - o Roundtable – 12:30 pm
- **Committees**
 - o Needs Assessment – August 23, 2024, 1:30 pm Zoom
 - o PEPO – August 15, 2024, 10:30-12:00 Canceled to be rescheduled
 - o Environmental/Rec Committee – August 26, 2024, 10:00-12:00, Zoom
 - o Agricultural/Municipal Committee – Autumn 2024
 - o IBCC – October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte
 - o ARWC – November 4, 2024, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Zoom
- **CWCB Board Meeting – September 18 & 19 – Rio Grande Basin**
- **Water Congress Summer Conference, August 20-22, 2024, Colorado Springs**
- **C-9 Summit, October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte**
- **Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, March 5-6, 2025, Pueblo**

7. Adjourn

Members and Guests Present:

Mark Shea
Jean VanPelt
Abba Ahmed
Russ Sands
Jonathan Paklaian
Gracy Goodwin
Al Tucker
Tony Arnold
Jim Baldwin
Doug Brgouch
Set Clayton
Ron Cook

Jack Goble
Bob Hamel
Richard Hilderbrand
Rick Kienitz
Scott King
Kim MacDonnell
Dwayne McFall
Gill Ramiez
Kelly Roesch
Terry Scanga
Tom Seaba
Alli Schuch

Bob Slagle
Greg Teter
Dan Tucker
Chris Woodka
Thomas Kennedy
Becky Bolinger
Emily Aldrid
Nathan Ward
Mark Gabhart
Rachel Duran
Darren Adams
Marlissa Essells



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Bryce Ehrlich
Ken Mercer
Rick Kienitz
Jeff Rodriguez
Greg Felt
Rena Griggs
Cecilia Timbera
Patrick Farrell

Robert Sakata
Lauren Duncan
Bethany Arnold
Steve Smith
Lisa Fardal
Caroline Schafer
Julie Knudsen
Dale Lyons

Ariel Hacker
Terry Scanga
Jeffery DeHerrera



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