

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday September 11, 2024 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College

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

1. **Welcome and Introductions -**

Introductions – Mark called the meeting to order with introductions of all in-person attendees at that time.

Quorum was determined present, meeting commenced.

Agenda approval by consensus.

Minutes of August 14, 2024 Approved by consensus.

Public comment – None

Reports - Executive Committee – Mark Shea

Mark gave an update of the executive committee meeting.

It was shared that Board Member Sandy White passed away last week. Roundtable members expressed shock and condolences.

October 1-2 is C9 Summit, all tours are sold out, but there is still time to attend the conference itself. There are still 5 or 6 slots available for reimbursement, contact Jeff Rodriguez if interested.

October meeting is the annual election meeting. Currently, the Recorder and one of the IBCC positions are up for election/re-election. Al Tucker has offered to continue serving as Recorder and Terry Scanga has offered to continue serving as an IBCC representative. If a member is interested in an executive committee position, they are encouraged to talk to Mark Shea. If there is more than one candidate for a position, an election will be held, otherwise the currently elected members will continue in their current capacities.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable has grant funding available. Members discussed the importance of reaching out to constituents, and encouraged members to perform this duty as an effective member of the Roundtable. The PEPO Committee will put together informational brochures for use with the upcoming grant cycle.

Blake Osborne stepped down as Environmental At-Large Representative. An appointment must be made by an environmental organization to seat a new environmental representative.

Presentation

Annette Quill, Senior Policy Advisor and Kelly Morgan, Clean Water Compliance & Enforcement Section Manager with the Water Quality Control Division presented on the Colorado State Dredge and Fill Bill ([HB24-1379](#)). [Jojo La](#), Director Environmental Boards and

Commissions and Commissioner Mike Weber presented on the Water Quality Control Commission and its rulemaking process. Roundtable members were given the opportunity for asking questions and expressing concerns. Commissioner Weber encourages members to provide feedback before and during the rulemaking process.

LINKS:

- [Meeting Info \(Agendas, Long Range Schedule, etc.](#)
- [Commissioners' Info](#)
- [Rulemaking Hearing Folder](#)
- [Rulemaking Process Info](#)
- [Dredge and Fill program website](#)
- [Colorado dredge and fill program implementation engagement page](#)
- Questions: cdphe.commentswgcd@state.co.us

Break 1:40 – 1:45

2. Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Jonathan Paklaian

Jonathan paid condolences to Sandy White, who helped start ARWC. Some Roundtable members and organizations will be meeting to formulate and implement wildfire mitigation after the Interlocken Fire. A new employee starts Monday and will manage and coordinate with the Middle Arkansas Basin locations. New Lead Forester position was filled earlier this year and is already working on multiple projects. ARWC has updated their website, arkcollaborative.org. Wildfire Ready Watershed contract was approved. A newly formed roundtable called the Big Horn Roundtable has been formed. ARWC will attend the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference and the C9 Summit. The next ARWC Board Meeting will be November 4th.

3. Public Education Participation & Outreach (PEPO) – Ariel Hacker

The 2025 round of CWCB PEPO Grant funding was submitted earlier in the summer, and CWCB anticipates that responses will be issued as soon as next week. ARWC hired an intern, who will be providing some administrative support to PEPO (COCO will no longer be involved with PEPO) and presenting the projects list. The next PEPO workgroup meeting will be held virtually October 17th at 10:30am.

4. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt

Jeff Rodriguez updated the Roundtable about meetings and deadlines upcoming.

- CWCB Guide draft is posted on EngageCWCB. It will be finalized in the fall, deadline Nov 1.
- C9 Summit is October 1-2 in Crested Butte. The Agenda is posted on EngageCWCB. The tours have a waitlist, which members are encouraged to join if they are interested in a tour. There is still room to sign up for the Summit. CWCB can reimburse for lodging and mileage.
- CAWA Drought Grants: Deadline December 13th.
- Turf Replacement Grant Program open until October 31st.
- Colorado River Issues updates meetings to be held every other month, the next being held October 17

- <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner> Upper Division States
Alternative: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/coloradoriver> Questions, email Amy Ostdiek: amy.ostdiek@state.co.us
- WSRF Grant: Deadline October 1st.
- Water Plan Grant: Deadline is December 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.
- PEPO Infographics – CWCB launching a new effort based on BIPs and Water Plan
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>

Greg Felt gave brief updates about CWCB happenings, including the upcoming board meeting and grant cycles, Shoshone Water Rights acquisition. Lauren Duncan may be able to provide more information at next month's meeting.

5. Inter- Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) – Jeris Danielson, Terry Scanga

The next IBCC meeting will be hybrid and held at the C9 Summit on October 1-2.

6. Needs Assessment Committee – Gracy Goodwin

Gracy gave an update on available funding and encouraged Roundtable members to inform their constituents about it. There will be 3 presentations:

Jean Van Pelt presented on behalf of the Arkansas River Forum and requested WSRF funding. The Roundtable voted by consensus to provide a letter of support for WSRF funding as presented.

Bill Tyner presented for the Lamar Canal Company in Prowers County, requesting Lamar Canal siphon short term repairs for the next 1-2 irrigation seasons, and, ultimately, replacement. The Roundtable voted by consensus to provide a letter of support.

Gracey Goodwin presented for the Upper Arkansas Conservancy District about the Cottonwood Lake Dam. There is aging infrastructure to be replaced and some improvements to be made to the dam. The Roundtable voted by consensus to provide a letter of support for WSRF funding as presented.

7. Environmental/Recreation – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs

Bob Hamel updated the Roundtable that the City of Canon City approved the sale contract for the Black Hills property, a riparian area that will gain the city river access and tie in to the river walk. Kyle Horn, Luke Jabbernick, and Travis Payne presented a project in the existing watershed where they could create a new 500 AF dam in the John Griffin Park area in Canon City, with the support of Representative Brittany Petterson. Luke Jabbernick also reported that the Big Cottonwood River project for debris flow mitigation has been successful so far.

8. **Ag/Muni Committee – Dan Tucker**

Dan Tucker reported that the committee will meet next week and plans to discuss the channel conveyance study that Bill Tyner is undertaking, economic impacts related to proposed water transfers in the basin, and a status update on the Arkansas Valley Conduit Project.

- **Upcoming Meetings –**

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – October 9 at Pueblo Community College

Executive Committee – 10:30am

Roundtable – 12:30pm

Committees

- Needs Assessment - TBD Spring 2025, Zoom
- PEPO - October 17, 2024, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Zoom
- Environmental/Rec Committee - October 28, 2024, 10:00-12:00, Zoom
- Agriculture/Municipal Committee - September 18, 2024, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association, 205 S. Main, Fowler or Zoom
- ARWC - November 4, 2024, 10:00am -1:00pm, Zoom
- CWCB Board Meeting –September 18 & 19 – Rio Grande Basin
- IBCC – October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte
- C-9 Summit, October 1-2, 2024, Crested Butte
- Water Congress Annual Conference, January 29-31, 2025, Aurora
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, March 5-6, 2025, Pueblo

Adjourn: Mark, 3:21 pm