



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday November 13, 2024 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

900 W. Orman Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

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

1. Welcome and Introductions -

- **Introductions** – Bob Hamel called the meeting to order with introductions.
- **Quorum** was determined present, meeting commenced.
- **Agenda approval** by consensus.
- **Minutes of October 9, 2023** Approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – Colorado Parks and Wildlife notified the Roundtable attendees that Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive species of plant, has been found in Fountain Lake and the Arkansas River. CPW staff are on the scene performing mitigation actions.

2. Reports –

- **Executive Committee – Bob Hamel**

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

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Sarah Mudge**

Sarah Mudge gave an overview of the ARWC Board meeting from November 4th, including budget, a new staff hire, and ARWC projects.

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

At December's meeting, PEPO will discuss the PEPO survey and materials. Ariel has scheduling conflicts between work and the Roundtable meetings now and encourages any interested members of the Roundtable or public to contact her if they are interested in taking over the PEPO Liaison position.

- **Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) – Jeff Rodriguez, Greg Felt**

Jeff provided an update on CWCB happenings, including the governor's budget and the CWCB Guide for Roundtables.

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>



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Questions, email Amy Ostdiek: amy.ostdiek@state.co.us

- 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.
- 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.
- ULCTF: <https://engagecwcb.org/urban-landscape-conservation-task-force>
- Turf Analysis: <https://engagecwcb.org/turf-analysis>
- Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grants: Questions/interest, contact Michael Regan (michael.regan@state.co.us)
- Climate Change in Colorado Report <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/>

Greg Felt gave an update about the governor's budget and how it affects the CWCB and their budget.

Lauren Duncan gave a presentation about the Water Plan Grant Program and her role in helping potential projects. Greg added that the Roundtable exists for water professionals to meet together to discuss water issues, and take the information back to each of the represented areas. This kind of presentation could be beneficial for local communities and places outside of the Roundtable with water projects, as well, so members are encouraged to mention this program and Lauren's role to their communities.

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

The next IBCC meeting is February 26th in Denver.

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

Bob Hamel updated the group about the Voluntary Flow Management Plan and Bureau of Reclamation project. There has been a 150 cfs rise, with more to come as the recent snow melts, so the Bureau of Reclamation will begin to move project water November 13th or 14th. A call is expected in January.

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

Matt Heimrich reported about rescheduling the Arkansas River morphology program/presentation that was to take place in La Junta on November 8th. It was canceled due to the recent snowstorm. The new dates are still to be determined, but the location will likely be Otero College. All members and interested parties are invited to attend.



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Break until 1:45 pm

3. Presentation – Regional Resource Planning Group – Water Quality Dashboard

Annie Berleman and Lisa Miller presented about the “RRPG”, which was established to identify regional opportunities, implement plans, and safeguard, preserve, and develop the water available for diversion and use within the Arkansas Basin. The history of the RRPG was summarized, and funding water quality issues was discussed. This program targets water quality and integrating the information learned is being turned into an actionable science. Lisa discussed the factors that affect water quality in the Arkansas Basin, and the concentration of ion levels and total dissolved solids of the water studied in different locations along the river. The RRPG aims to keep a basin-wide perspective and members are encouraged to get involved. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

4. Upcoming Meetings –

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – December 11 at Pueblo Community College
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – February 2025
 - PEPO – December 19 at 10:30 am, virtual
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – January 27, 2025
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
 - ARWC Board of Directors to reconvene – February 3, 2025
 - IBCC – February 26 in Denver
- CWCB – January 27 - 28 in Denver
- Arkansas River Forum – March 5-6 in Pueblo

5. Adjourn; Bob, 2:40 pm