



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting

Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday December 11, 2024 12:30 pm

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

900 W. Orman Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

Members Present: Noted on sign-in sheet.

1. Welcome and Introductions - Called to order at 12:30pm

- **Introductions** – Chair Mark Shea called the meeting to order with introductions.
- **Quorum** was determined and the meeting commenced.
- **Agenda approval** by consensus.
- **Minutes of November 13, 2024** Approved by consensus.
- **Public comment** – A representative from the Colorado Master Irrigator Program explained an 4-day training will be held January 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2025 from 8:30am - 5pm at the Giodone Library in Pueblo County. For more information:
<https://www.comasterirrigator.org/page/arkansas-valley-program>.
Mark also introduced Jen Shanahan with Ducks Unlimited. Ms. Shanahan gave a brief overview of opportunities Ducks Unlimited can bring to a water project.

2. Presentation –Dust on Snow Report - Arkansas Basin, Jeff Derry, Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies

Mr. Derry presented information pertaining to studies being performed throughout the western slope on the impact that accumulated dust has on snow pack. There is currently only one study site in the Arkansas basin, which is on Monarch mountain.. There is interest in adding an additional site. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

3. Presentation - CWCB PEPO Infographic - Jean Van Pelt, PEPO Workgroup

Ms. Van Pelt provided a brief overview of the process and status of the infographic. The infographic is being developed to assist in PEPO's education and outreach efforts and will be provided to all of the basins in the state. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

4. Reports

- **Executive Committee – Mark Shea**
Mark gave an update of the morning's executive committee meeting.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) – Jonathan Paklaian**
Jonathan provided information on getting permits to remedy slash piles in Lake County. He also gave an update on the Interlocken fire recovery efforts and the Wild Fire Action Plan. The Plan covers mitigation efforts, fire recovery and solid planning efforts. He reported that ARWC has applied to fund technical assistance for a diversion dam on the Arkansas River below Canon City. Jonathan introduced Yates McConnell, Middle Arkansas Watershed Coordinator, who has been instrumental in finding funds for this project. He also



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introduced Cecilia Timberg who holds ARWC's outreach and communications position.

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

Ariel reported that Paul Fanning submitted a proposal to the Ark Basin Water Forum to present on the Roundtable and funding opportunities. Mark noted that PEPO continues to work on the projects list. Ariel stated that the PEPO Workgroup meeting scheduled for 12/19/24 will need to be rescheduled.

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

Jeff provided an update on CWCB happenings, CO Water Plan grants were due Dec. 1st. CWCB received 38 applications with \$9M requested. The applications will be posted on their website in January. He stated the C9 Summit recordings are posted on the CWCB Engage page. <https://engagecwc.org>. He mentioned the Colorado Ag Water Alliance is accepting applications for its Drought Resilience program until Dec. 14th. The CWCB board meeting will be January 27-28, 2025 and the IBCC meeting will be held February 26. Jeff stated the state WSRF fund is currently running low but anticipates being replenished in early spring.

Greg Felt gave an update about the governor's budget and how it affects the CWCB budget. He also reported on a presentation given by the Colorado River District to the CWCB on the Shoshone Permanence Project. In addition, Greg stated that the USBR is providing \$7M in funding to CWCB to support better measurement of water rights diversions on the western slope. Greg briefly talked about the discourse that was present at the Colorado Water Users Association meeting between representatives of the Upper and Lower Basins.

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

The next IBCC meeting is February 26th in Denver.

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

Bob report there is 140 cfs of Project Water in the river and the Wellsville gauge indicates 500 cfs today.

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

Dan Tucker reported that the Arkansas River morphology program/presentation has been rescheduled to take place in La Junta on Tuesday, February 18th. The location will likely be Otero College. All members and interested parties are invited to attend. Mark suggested that the committee might be interested in presenting a revegetation topic at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.