



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions Wednesday February 12, 2025

Start Time: 10:30 am

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building
900 W. Orman Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/ Guests Present

Mark Shea
Abba Aahmed
Terry Scanga
Bob Hamel

Jeff Rodriguez
Greg Felt
Jeffery deHerrera
Gracy Goodwin

Jean VanPelt
Jeris Danielson
Al Tucker
Ariel Hacker

1. Greetings, Introductions, Establishment of a Quorum – Mark called the meeting to order stating a quorum was present.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings – Amendments & Approval – Mark called consensus to approve January 8, 2025 Executive Session Minutes.

3. Reoccurring Matters

- **Chair Comments – Mark Shea** – Mark discussed attending the All Chairs meeting at the Colorado Water Congress Convention recently held. Discussions were on current Roundtable activities and important topics relating to future activities and existence. Mark pointed out his perspective of the important activities provided by the Roundtables and their members having a Forum in which different water communities come together on a regular basis to discuss ideas and build relationships. Greg Felt mentioned the discussions regarding the ageing infrastructures and the concern with future federal funding. Mark stated going forward with possible loss of federal funding issues we may need to promote other sources, such as, low interest loans that both CWCB and the water and power authority administer. Greg suggested we may need to do a better job of prioritizing projects. Other suggestions were studies vs defined projects. Such studies as assessing water availability were deemed useful as it related to water gap availability, Mark closed the discussion stating the need to stay engaged for alternative opportunities as it appears needs will rise and federal funding opportunities will become fewer.
 - Mark next discussed the new water permit program and provisions in the Water Quality Control Act, Sections 2, 5, 8, and 104. These regulations specifically state that any regulations should not cause material injury to water rights. Mark pointed out some concerns. First being “Activity as a Whole” requiring a project’s long term effect as a dredge and fill project. This is being focused on water supply projects and not on other constructions activities that my require dredge and fill seems to be more challenging projects for water supply that require the



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same work activity but not a water project. Another example of concern are projects requiring individual authorizations through state programs similar to the Army Corps of Engineer's 404 permit program. These regulations for individual permits may require conditions beyond the authority of the division to require adding more concerns for these draft regulations. Terry Scanga felt this may be an illegal requirement because it affects adjudicated water rights for individuals needing this work authority. Another concern is requiring permit renewal every five years over the life of the project. This could result in a change in requirements for long-term projects. It was decided that this discussion should be presented to IBCC expressing these concerns.

- **Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members** – None discussed.

4. Roundtable Business

- **ARWC Board membership** – Mark discussed the ARWC Board discussion on what recommendations are being developed for their Board. These will be brought forward at a future date to the Executive Committee as they are developed.
- **April, May, and August meeting locations** – April in Salida is possible but Jeff said a venue is being looked into. Terry suggested Poncha Springs as there are a couple of locations; one being the fairgrounds the other is the community center. The May meeting, possibly being skipped, it was discussed that CSU Pueblo may be available for one of the meetings. August meeting is confirmed for La Junta.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – March 12, 2025**
 - o Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - o Roundtable – 12:30pm
- **Committees**
 - o Needs Assessment – March 2025, Zoom
 - o PEPO – February 20, 2025, 10:30am, Zoom
 - o Environmental/Rec Committee – March 21, 2025 Zoom
 - o Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
- **IBCC – February 26, 2025, Denver metro area**
- **ARWC – May 12, 2025, Zoom**
- **Water Congress Annual Convention, August 19-21, 2025, Steamboat Springs**
- **CWCB Board Meeting – March 19-20, South Platte Basin**
- **Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – March 5-6, 2025, Pueblo**

6. Adjourn –

Executive Committee membership: Mark Shea (Chair), Bob Hamel (Vice Chair-Non-Consumptive), Jeffery DeHerrera (Vice Chair-Consumptive), Al Tucker (Recorder), vacant (Past-Chair), Greg Felt (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Gracy Goodwin (Needs Assessment), Ariel Hacker (PEPO)

Additional distribution: Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB Staff), Jonathan Paklaian (ARWC Director), Jean Van Pelt (RT Admin)