



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting
Minutes and Recorded Decisions
Wednesday February 12, 2025, 12:30 pm
Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building
900 W. Orman Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004

Members Present: Noted on sign-in sheet.

Chair Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mark recognized Wendell Koontz, Chair of the Gunnison Roundtable and Robert Sakata, Water Policy Advisor, CO Dept. of Ag. Mark also welcomed and introduced new Roundtable members: Prowers County rep. Ty Harmon and Lake County rep. Bryce Ehrlich.
 - **Quorum was determined and the meeting commenced.**
 - **Agenda approval by consensus.**
 - **Minutes of January 8, 2025, were approved by consensus.**
 - **Public comments:** Paul Fanning representing the Ark River Basin Water Forum planning committee stated the Forum will feature a panel on the function of Roundtable, the resources that are available, and a successful project proponent. PEPO will also have an exhibition table with information about the Roundtable and funding opportunities.
 - **Appointment of Out-of-Basin Member.** The Roundtable received a Letter of Recommendation from the City of Aurora, for Abba Ahmed, with Aurora Water, to be an Out of Basin Member Liaison. The appointment was approved by consensus.
2. **Reports**
 - **Executive Committee report:** Mark reported on the Water Congress panel presentation he participated on.
 - Highlighted the Roundtable's value and benefits, including community engagement, relationship building and financial support.
 - Discussed membership challenges and growing engagement.
 - Explained how RT interacts with each other, the state, and IBCC.

Wendall Koontz spoke about aging infrastructure and the need for funding. He also stated that Roundtables have similar goals and objectives and a better understanding of how the state works and how to support each other is needed. He encouraged members to consider what the Roundtables will look like in 10 yrs and beyond and to set goals for the next generation. Mark spoke to the value that the Roundtables have other than funding, such as partnerships, commonalities, foundations for challenges, relationships, and recognition of differences.



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Julie Kundsén, Purgatoire Watershed Partners, wants to partner with other entities to find ways to utilize NRCS funds for aging ag infrastructure.

Mark stated he reviewed the Water Quality Control Division's [Dredge and Fill Material into State Waters](#) bill. He expressed concerns with contents regarding water supply projects, especially regarding water rights (25-8-104). The proposed bill states that permits should consider the entire project's lifespan to ensure no long-term impacts. It was agreed to invite the Water Quality Control Division staff and Commission back to a Roundtable meeting for further explanation and questions. Jeff, Terry, and Jeris asked Mark to join the February IBCC meeting to provide the IBCC members with an explanation of his review.

- **CWCB Reports:** Jeff Rodriguez introduced Kat Weismiller, the new Section Chief of the Water Supply Section.

Jeff provided Lauren Duncan's updates; CWP grants are being reviewed, and the current applications are posted on the CWP grant page. Approval of these grants will be at the March CWCB meeting.

Jeff's report is posted on the [ABRT website](#).

- [Climate & Water Workshops](#), 4/3 workshop in Pueblo, CSU-Pueblo 1-5 pm rsvp required.
- [Ag emergency drought program](#). Application deadline is 4/15, must be an emergency drought designated county.
- [CWP report](#),
- [Action 2.6](#), - 10 Strategies to Protect Irrigated Agriculture
- Floatovoltaics
- [CWCB Guide](#)
- Reminders
 - Funding CWCB WSRF deadline 4/1, Basin Only funds
 - PEPO Basin/Statewide 6/1
 - WPG dealing 7/1
- Upcoming Events
 - WCMS 2/25
 - CWCB meeting 3/19-20
 - IBCC 2/26
 - Climate Workshops 4/3, 4/23
- For more CWCB Event information: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/fullcalendar>
- Colorado River issues: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/coloradoriver>

The members were shown a draft of the Infographic CWCB is developing for the Ark Basin. Greg suggested that the intro on page 1 of the graphic was not sufficient. He provided the



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following: The Arkansas Basin is the largest in Colorado but is chronically short of supply. Reliant on native hydrology and several trans-basin diversions, new water use is

constrained by over-appropriation and a compact with Kansas. Non-consumptive beneficial uses of water like recreation, fisheries, and the environment must collaborate with senior water rights owners, such as agricultural irrigators and municipal water utilities, in order to be successful. Jean will provide this feedback to CWCB and the infographic designer.

Director Greg Felt's report: He attended the Colorado Water Congress Conference and the January CWCB meeting. The WSRF grant for the Cottonwood Lake project was approved at the meeting and the Water and Power Development Authority gave a presentation on how WPDA is assisting with funding for the Arkansas Valley Conduit spur lines. CWCB also discussed the Turf Replacement Pilot program and how much water the program is actually saving because the cost per ft. varies between proposals.

- **IBCC Reports:** Jeris Danielson reported the IBCC will meet in Westminster on 2/26. Mark will provide information to the IBCC regarding the Water Quality Control Division's [Dredge and Fill Material into State Waters](#) bill.
- **Needs Assessment Committee** – Gracy Goodwin stated the WSRF deadline 2/15 for Roundtable funds and the committee will meet on 2/27 or 3/3 meeting. She also stated that the WSRF focus is on funding water supply, aging infrastructure, etc. projects. Jeff provided the following links for other types of water project funding.
 - Water Opportunity Funding Navigator:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQVmVJW2huhKOOzvPbFT9IK5_5f5Tj7N7fFJux-6aFwjEnH5B4_52H_AvzGQm-CKZ7xKvpovsNeSVTI/pubhtml#
 - DOLA funding list:
<https://lookerstudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/6bf90675-163a-4c84-9eb8-eef9779be136/page/T7j0C>
 - State Revolving Fund Opportunities:
<https://tapin.waternow.org/colorado-state-revolving-fund-technical-assistance/>
- **ARWC** – Mark reported the quarterly board meeting was held in January and that membership and leadership issues are being worked on. ARWC will develop a proposal and bring it to the Roundtable for discussion & determination.
- **PEPO** – Ariel Hacker stated the next meeting will be Thursday 2/20. She also said they will participate on a Roundtable panel at the Water Forum and have an exhibitor's table.
- **Enviro/ Rec** – Bob Hamel stated the next meeting will be 3/21. Both Bob and Jean encouraged Roundtable members to attend the forum and the Local Leaders Dinner. Jean explained that Lauren Ris and Lauren Duncan will speak at the dinner about the various grant programs that CWCB offers, and it would be beneficial to members to learn about them to assist the communities they represent.



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- **Muni/ Ag** - Dan Tucker reported the committee is hosting an Arkansas River Channel Morphology event at Otero college on 2/18 and ARWC is a lunch sponsor. Dan also shared a flyer that will be distributed to the membership. The committee is

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exploring ways to move these types of projects into the future. The committee is planning on developing a comprehensive plan to do a series of work along the river.

3. Presentation: PEPO Grant Close Out Report

Cecilia Timberg presented the work that has been done on the Basin Implementation Plan's project list. The [PEPO presentation](#) is posted on the Roundtable's website. Cecilia also reported that PEPO is working with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable on hosting a tour in Pueblo County for them in May.

4. Presentation: Canon City John Griffin Park Reservoir

Travis Payne, City of Canon City Water Treatment, Luke Javernik, River Science, and Kyle Horn, Canon City Area Recreation District provided a presentation on the [John Griffin Park Reservoir Project](#), which is posted on the Roundtable's website.

5. **Upcoming Meetings:** Mark stated that the April 9th Roundtable meeting will be in Salida, location TBD, the May 14th meeting will be at CSU-Pueblo and the August 13th meeting will be at Otero College. The Executive Committee is considering changing the format of the agendas for the April and August meetings to offer local educational topics. Mark encouraged members to attend these meetings in person.

Mark adjourned the meeting at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Van Pelt
ABRT Recorder