



# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday March 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.

Vice - Chair Bob Hamel called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Bob introduced Phil Hemphill as the new Bent County member. Al Tucker introduced Lonnie Brown as the new Huerfano County member pending a letter of recommendation from the County Commissioners.
  - **Quorum was determined and the meeting commenced.**
  - **Agenda approved by consensus.**
  - **Minutes of February 12, 2025, were approved by consensus.**
  - **Public comments:** None

### 2. Reports

- **Executive Committee report:** Bob stated that most of the discussion focused on having the Needs Assessment Committee set up a special round of WSRF grant funding. NAC Chair Gracy Goodwin will explain during her committee report.
- **CWCB Report:** Jeff Rodriguez introduced Emily Adrid who spoke about the upcoming [CWCB Climate and Water Workshops](#). Jeff spoke about the [Diane Hoppe scholarship](#) opportunity for high school seniors or college freshmen interested in water issues in Colorado. The application closes on April 1, 2025. He also stated that the [Ag Emergency Drought Emergency Response program](#) is eligible within counties, pursuant to Federal or state law, where an emergency drought designation or a disaster emergency has been proclaimed. The deadline is April 15, 2025. Jeff reported that the CWCB [Water Plan Progress](#) Report and the [CWCB Guide](#) are available online and he provided a link to upcoming [CWCB events](#). CWCB Director Greg Felt reported that the Board will meet next week. The board will have three new board members: Mike Camblin, Yampa/White rivers, Taylor Hawes, Colorado River mainstem and Greg Johnson, County and City of Denver.
- **IBCC Report:** Representative Terry Scanga reported a good meeting was held with Becky Mitchell encouraging more discussion among members and the development of new subcommittees to accomplish more. The focus of the meeting was on Drought Resilience. Anna Mauss with CWCB gave a legislative update where concerns about the state's budget shortfall were expressed. Mark Shea gave a superb presentation on the problems with the proposed [Dredge and Fill Material into State Waters](#) bill. Terry suggested that water providers have an attorney review the bill and contact the Water Quality Control Division with comments. Terry said that Amy Ostdick provided an update on alternatives to the new Lake Powell and Lake Mead Operating plan. She highlighted the fact that the new plan wants the Lakes to operate using real hydrology and balance



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their use by considering evapotranspiration losses. The next IBCC meeting is June 25, 2025 in Grand Junction. Representative Jeris Danielson reported that it was a productive meeting with a consensus that more interaction between IBCC members was encouraging so they will be able to focus on IBCC business and not have as many staff / panel presentations. Colorado River issues: <https://cwc.colorado.gov/coloradoriver>.

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Report:** Executive Director Jonathan Paklaian reported he anticipates an active fire season and ARWC has used up previous funding. ARWC needs a new funding strategy. He stated ARWC sponsored and supported the ABRT's Arkansas River Channel Morphology meeting in La Junta. Dan Tucker reported the event was held on Feb. 18th and maybe the proper term should be channel restoration, there was a good turnout; 60 attendees with 50 online. Presenters included Ducks Unlimited, USGS, LAVWCD and Former Division 2 Engineer, Bill Tyner. Channel conditions were outlined, projects were described that have addressed conveyance and sedimentation issues and ongoing work on the levees in Las Animas. He stated there was a lot of momentum and desire to act on the lower river to remedy some of these issues. ARWC's Yates McConnell spoke about a technical assistance grant for a feasibility study to redesign the Minnequa dam that was kicking off this week. The dam is owned by Evraz and the project is an interesting collaboration. ARWC attended a recent tour of the area.
- **PEPO Report:** PEPO representative, Ariel Hacker reported that discussion about the upcoming Ark River Basin Water Forum was the focus of the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 4pm. Topics to be discussed will be outreach and how to support ABRT efforts. Al Tucker stated that he completed a cover letter that could be used to request new members to represent the various counties/municipalities, etc.
- **Ag/Muni Committee Report:** Dan Tucker stated he had already covered current topics.
- **Enviro/Rec Committee Report:** Chair Bob Hamel asked for feedback from members who attended the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum last week. Members reported it was good, interesting and ever evolving. Bob stated the next Enviro/Rec meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2025, at 10am.
- **Needs Assessment Committee:** Chair Gracy Goodwin reported that the Executive Committee discussed a submittal from ARWC to perform post fire mitigation. The Committee will ask ARWC to redefine the scope and will open an opportunity for a 3<sup>rd</sup> funding session before the end of the state's fiscal year grant deadline. The following information will be posted on the ABRT website and sent to the membership. All applicants are welcome.



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CWCB - Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application Schedule						
Cycle	Draft Application Due for ABRT	Needs Assessment Approval Meeting  (date set by NAC chair)	Roundtable Approval Meeting  (2nd Wed of the month)	Application Due for Basin Approval  (CWCB Portal)	Final Application Due to CWCB  (CWCB Portal)	Reviewed in CWCB monthly meeting  (CWCB Website)
Special Round	June 15th	June	July	July 25th	August 1st	November

Gracy introduced Stacy Sober, Colorado Canal Company and Greg Petersen, Colorado Ag Water Alliance. Stacy explained the Lake Meredith Rehab Project is requesting \$75,500 in basin WSRF funding and has a \$37,275 match from the Canal Company. The Colorado Canal supplies water to the last of the irrigated acres in Crowley County. It is a critical source of water for late season irrigation. Water stored in Lake Meredith is Winter Water for themselves and others. Lake Meredith also releases augmentation water required for some entities. The lake serves as a prime boating and fishing location and is a seaplane landing area. It also serves as an active waterfowl season area from Nov 1 – Mar 1. The project will replace the stems on 2 gates. Both stem gates will be removed and replaced with new stainless-steel stems. Doug Brgosh made a motion, and Al Tucker seconded, the motion was approved by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Van Pelt  
ABRT Admin Recorder