



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday April 9, 2025, 12:30 pm

Steam Plant, Salida

220 W. Sackett Avenue

Salida, CO 81201

Members Present: Noted on sign-in sheet.

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

- Welcome and Introductions
- Quorum was determined and the meeting commenced.
- Agenda approved by consensus.
- Minutes of March 12, 2025, were approved by consensus.
- Public comments: None
- Appointment of Brian Berger, Chaffee County municipal representative completed.
- Nominations for At-Large Water Rights Holder seat vacancy - Security Water and Sanitation District nominated Dave Allgood to fill the vacant seat. Hearing no objections the nomination was approved by consensus.

2. Reports

- **Executive Committee Report:** Chairman Shea stated that the Executive Committee meeting was not held due to traveling to the new meeting location in Salida. Gracy Goodwin, Chair of the Needs Assessment committee stated that the special round of WSRF grant funding applications are due on June 15, 2025 to be able to meet the August 1st CWCB deadline. The applications will be heard at the July Roundtable meeting. Gracy reported there is \$126,000 left in the basin's Water Supply Reserve Fund.

Mark reported he had the opportunity to participate in a Podcast with Journalist Joe Stone, called Water Talks, a program of the Salida radio station [Heart of the Rockies](#). This was the second interview Joe has done for this podcast. Jonathan Pakilian also participated and the focus was watershed management and health. Water Talks podcasts are available on [UAWCD.com](#) website and it will be ready sometime early next week.

- **CWCB Report:** Chairman Shea introduced Lauren Duncan, CWCB regional water plan grant manager who explained the Coffee and Catch Up series. [2025-2026 CWCB Grant Outreach in the Arkansas Basin](#). She wants to make sure that the entire basin is represented and to provide an opportunity to connect with water managers throughout the entire basin. The series will start next month, and based on the number of locations, it will run through 2025, or into spring 2026. Lauren asked for feedback on two different



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approaches. Number one is to visit 14 strategic locations within the basin. This would allow only one visit per location throughout this outreach cycle. The second option is to host regional hub meetings and visit those locations more frequently. Lauren asked for guidance on how to best communicate this opportunity to participants. Suggestions included using local water conservancy districts as a location hubs, focusing on underrepresented areas where there is a lack of funding requests, considering picky-backing onto existing water meetings, work Division 2 for contact lists and meeting dates, and inform Roundtable members when a meeting will be in their area and work with them. If any others have suggestions please contact Lauren at Lauren.Duncan@state.co.us.

Jeff Rodriguez reported that Jenna Battson will be the CWCB contact for Roundtables while Jeff is out on parental leave. At the March CWCB Board meeting 30 water plan grants were approved to the tune of 6.4 million dollars. The water supply reserve fund approved 14 projects totaling 4.1 million dollars. The [One Water Day](#) will be held on June 20th at the Denver Botanic Garden. This year's theme is managing water for thriving communities, and will focus on storm water and the urban ecosystem highlighting the benefits of integrated storm water management and collaboration across utilities. It's held in conjunction with the Watershed Summit. The One Water Day workshop will be from 9am to 12pm, and then the Watershed Summit from 1 to 5pm. Jeff reported the [Water Conditions Monitoring committee](#) next meeting is Tuesday, April 22nd. Forecasting information and precipitation indicators will be presented including an update on projected fire risk for the season. Jeff reminded folks of the June 30th deadline for 1051 data inputs that includes a M-36 water loss audit for the 2024 calendar year. 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 stated that CWCB held the 1st [CWCB Climate and Water Workshops](#) last week in Pueblo. The next one is April 23rd and will be in Clifton. Registration is open and closes April 18th. Colorado Water Plan grant applications are due July 1. Jeff encouraged Roundtable members to attend the CWCB board meetings virtually. For more CWCB Event information: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/fullcalendar>

CWCB Director Greg Felt reported the Legislative Council distributed a memorandum about [Colorado Water Funding](#) which he highly recommended to Roundtable members. The memorandum explains how state funding for water projects works, details about how severance taxes work, and shows over time how volatile these money sources are. Greg stated the CWCB March meeting went well and the next meeting will be held in Steamboat Springs in May and the July meeting will be held in Salida.

Chairman Shea asked for information from CWCB on the Projects bill for the analysis and technical update. Jeff replied that the CWCB's funding request to do the analysis and technical work. The objective is to update the technical as the 1st part of the comprehensive water plan update, and then the basin implementation plans as the second part. It is a shift from the way that CWCB previously funded the work. This time CWCB asked for funding for the tech update, and then the BIPs together in order to



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streamline the process. Mark also asked for a report on the status of the Arkansas Decision Support System that has been in development for a long time. Jeff will reach out to Brian Mcpherson and CWCB modelers to let them know that there's interest. Mark would like a presentation from CWCB on the Ark DSS sometime this summer. Jeff explained that CWCB moved the water Efficiency Grant program into the Water Plan Grant program. This is a cleanup procedure to make sure CWCB doesn't operate a separate efficiency plans grant program. Now funding goes through the water Plan grant program.

- **IBCC Report:** Representative Jeris Danielson stated nothing new to report since the February meeting. The next IBCC meeting is scheduled for June 25th or 26th. Mark Shea reported he and an attorney who leads the Water Congress water quality subcommittee met with the Water Quality Control Division staff who are responsible for drafting the control regulation. They discussed some of the specific concerns about compliance with Bill 25-1379, [Dredge and Fill Material into State Waters](#) and the statutory protection of water rights. The discussion was how the WQCD actions cannot result in material injury to water rights and the concern that some of the conditions and requirements that WQCD may require for individual authorizations and some of the requirements are an erosion of that protection. WQCD staff agreed that would be a problem. Mark stated that WQCD was open to changing language in the draft regulation to make sure that those water rights issues were resolved. Mark stated that WQCD heard loud and clear that issues like that are important to the water community, and when WQCD are working on regulations that has the potential to affect water users and water rights they need to come to places like the Roundtables and IBCC to be part of the discussion on why and what they are doing.
- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Report:** Executive Director Jonathan Paklaian reported he met with Lauren Duncan regarding funding capacity for projects to address the geomorphology and sediment challenges in the lower Arkansas valley. Jonathan has a tour planned to see some of the challenges. ARWC is considering applying for a water plan grant. that would be implemented in phases. The first phase would be to define the issues and to hire a watershed coordinator for that area. ARWC has also moved the forester position forward through the Colorado State Forest Service. They have 3 foresters to interview. ARWC is also investigating potential projects on Lake Creek that empties into lower Twin Lakes.
- **Needs Assessment Committee:** Chair Gracy Goodwin reported the special round of WSRF grant funding applications are due on June 15, 2025 to be able to meet the August 1st CWCB deadline.
- **PEPO Report:** PEPO representative Ariel Hacker was absent and excused. Jonathan Paklaian reported the next meeting is scheduled for April 17th at 4pm via zoom. PEPO is developing a quarterly newsletter. PEPO wants to encourage interaction with Ag water users and extended an invitation to the Colorado Ag Water Alliance to speak at an upcoming Roundtable meeting. PEPO is also working on the next funding grant



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application and asked if anyone would like to suggest projects that should be added to the application to please attend the upcoming meeting.

- **Enviro/Rec Committee Report:** Chair Bob Hamel stated he would email the Enviro/Rec minutes to the Roundtable with the Roundtable meeting notices. He also announced that the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum has reserved the SteamPlant in Salida for the location of the 2026 Forum. It will be held on April 21-23.
- **Ag/Muni Committee Report:** Dan Tucker stated a lower Ark tour on April 25th with ARWC is planned. They will visit several of the main gauging station locations and main river diversions for irrigators off of the river. The Ag/Muni Committee also has recurring meetings set up to discuss scoping and what program structure is going to exist to carry these efforts forward. They have also been working on a draft RFP for a staff member that we're trying to build capacity for.
- **Presentation: Climax Mine Site Information and Water Management Strategies, Aaron Hilshorst, Manager - Land and Water Resources**

[Climax Mine Site Information and Water Management Strategies](#)

- **Presentation: 2024 Upper Arkansas River Basin Update, Alex Townsend, CPW Aquatic Biologist**

[2024 Upper Arkansas River Basin Update](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Van Pelt
ABRT Admin Recorder