



Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday May 14, 2025, 12:30 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Members Present: Noted on sign-in sheet.

Vice-Chair Jeffrey DeHerrera called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Quorum was determined and the meeting commenced.
- Agenda date changed to May 14, 2024 and approved by consensus.
- Minutes of April 9, 2025, were approved by consensus.
- Public comments: None

2. Reports

- Executive Committee Report: Vice-Chairman DeHerrera stated the Executive Committee discussed the next round of WSRF funding. Needs Assessment Committee (NAC) Chair Gracy Goodwin anticipates several applications and the funding requests may be more than what the funds have available. The NAC will have to undergo scrutiny when evaluating the applications. The Executive Committee also discussed the upcoming CWCB meeting. This topic will be detailed in the CWCB report.
- CWCB Report: Jeff Rodriguez reported that April 2025 was the 15th driest of the 130 year record in Colorado, which resulted in some early snow melt this year. The U.S. Drought Monitor has indicated expanding drought conditions across the west slope and in the Arkansas Valley. Currently, 75% of the State is in at least drought status and as of May 8th the statewide snowpack is 59% and median reservoir storage is about 92% of Median. More information on precipitation indicators and forecasting, is available through the monthly [Water Conditions Monitoring Committee](#) webinar. The next webinar is May 20th from 9:30 - 11am. This information is also available on the [CWCB YouTube Channel](#). Jeff reminded municipal water providers of the upcoming 1051 reporting data deadline is June 30th, as well as an American Water Works Association M-36 Water Loss Audit report for calendar year 2024 is due. He stated that CWCB offers free training through the Colorado Water Loss Initiative to educate providers on how to perform an M-36 audit. If you're interested and For information on 1051 requirements and CWLI, please reach out to Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us or Sam.Stein@state.co.us. Jeff mentioned that the the falluvial hazard mapping team at Cwcb. Is requesting participation in a very brief survey about training needs for Fluvial Hazard Mapping survey: <https://forms.gle/HPRojvcpEQwkRnaZ7>. Jeff stated that CWCB will be hiring 2 newly created positions, one is in the Flood and Watershed Protection section to run the water supply measurement program. CWCB will also hire a Special Projects Manager to assist in developing the technical update for the Colorado Water Plan. He also

reported that CWCB recently developed with great input from PEPO Basin coordinators and other members on the roundtable a new [educational infographics](#) for each of Colorado's river basins for public education and outreach use. CWCB has some print and digital versions available for public use. Jeff reminded everyone that the PEPO Basin Coordinator and PEPO statewide initiative grant applications are due June 1st and the upcoming Colorado Water Plan grant deadline of July 1st. Jeff stated that the second annual [One Water Day](#) will take place in conjunction with the Watershed Summit at the Denver Botanic Gardens on June 20th. This year's theme is managing water for thriving communities, and focuses on stormwater and the urban ecosystem highlighting the benefits of integrated stormwater management and collaboration across utilities.

CWCB Director Greg Felt reported the CWCB Board will meet next week in Steamboat Springs. A discussion on the Perkins Canal is scheduled over the intent to appropriate on the behalf of the State of Nebraska and the lower South Platte. There seems to be quite a bit of distance between what the Nebraska Legislature and Administration views as the water right potential, and what Colorado's Attorney General, and CWCB's Federal Interstate Section views as that water right. The Board will also discuss the Shoshone instream flow proposal. The water right is on the Colorado River just above Glenwood Springs, it is a non-consumptive hydro power right, has a senior appropriation date and provides water for the Shoshone Power Plant. The Public Service Company of Colorado has offered this water for sale. The Colorado River District has been raising \$99 million to pay the price tag. In conjunction, their proposal is to work with CWCB to allow CWCB to acquire the use of that water right for instream flow purposes. The Projects Bill this year includes a \$20 million allocation from the State towards the purchase of this right. This has potential ramifications for the Colorado River and for many trans-mountain diversions. At the Board meeting next week, an announcement regarding an intent to acquire this water right by the State will be made. This sets off a 20 day period of public comment. CWCB will be taking public comment at the meeting, and anticipates not many comments from the general public, but more from front range water interests who have transmountain diversions, particularly diversions that are upstream of the Shoshone power plant, and could potentially be called out by this new in-stream flow concept. This creates the opportunity for anyone to request a full public hearing on this intent to acquire, which would start a 120 day period in which by the end of the public comment period the CWCB board will come to a decision on whether to move forward with the intent to acquire. CWCB anticipates that would lead to probably a big public hearing at the Sept. board meeting. Director Felt explained that there are a lot of steps in this process and these are only a few of them. Ultimately, these steps would probably lead to a Joint Water Court application, presumably by the CWCB, the Colorado River District, and possibly the Public Service Company of Colorado. The ultimate goal is to ensure that both the Colorado River is treated correctly, and also the instream flow rights of front range entities. Director Felt also reported the CWCB Water Plan Grant program has \$36.7 million dollars available for funding for this upcoming fiscal year, which will be broken into 2 cycles, the 1st being the July 1st and December 1st deadlines.

- IBCC Report: Representative Jeris Danielson stated that last time the IBCC met they appointed a subcommittee to start looking at directions the IBCC should be looking at and moving towards. He is interested to hear what the results of that subcommittee is. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th.

- Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Report: Executive Director Jonathan Paklaian reported ARWC had a board meeting on Monday. The Board discussed refining board policies and bylaws and how that relates to the Roundtable and at the 3rd quarter meeting ARWC will request a vote to approve some changes. He also reported that ARWC unveiled a new logo and branding stuff. ARWC conducted a field site visit in the lower Arkansas Valley from Pueblo to John Martin Reservoir and looked at a number of possible restoration sites. Dan Tucker, Co-chair of the Ag-Muni Committee, reported the site visit was to advance work begun in February, at Stream Morphology event at Otero College. The intent is that our ARWC will oversee the implementation of projects, will act as a program manager, and will hire staff to oversee the planning process related to the restoration efforts. ARWC's Yates McConnell presented a slideshow detailing the proposal. The slideshow is available [here](#). ARWC requested a letter of support from the Roundtable to pursue a Colorado Water Plan grant to support this project. Hearing no opposition, Vice-Chair DeHerrera declared approval by consensus.
- Needs Assessment Committee: Chair Gracy Goodwin reminded everyone that a special round of WSRF funding deadline is June 15th to the Needs Assessment Committee. The proposals will be heard at the next committee meeting, probably June 26th or 27th. The date and time will be posted on the arkansasbasin.org website. Chair Goodwin introduced Travis Payne who gave a short [presentation](#) on the Canon City John Griffin Regional Park Reservoir. They are requesting a letter of support from the Roundtable for a Colorado Water Plan grant. Hearing no opposition, Vice-Chair DeHerrera approved the request by consensus. Committee Chair Goodwin introduced Anna Greenberg with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies who are requesting a letter of support on a PEPO statewide initiative application. Ms. Greenberg presented a powerpoint [presentation](#) to the Roundtable. Hearing no objections to the support letter, Vice-Chair DeHerrera approved the request by consensus.
- PEPO Report: PEPO representative Ariel Hacker provided an update. Jonathan and Cecilia are preparing a PEPO application for fiscal year 2026. The application includes tasks supporting events, such as the Fountain Creek Watershed District Creek Week, and the Water Forum financially as well as working on some membership packets. Also developing handouts for new members and possibly existing members and doing more outreach for the roundtable itself.
- Enviro/Rec Committee Report: Chair Bob Hamel provided his report with the meeting notice delivered to members on April 9th.
- Ag/Muni Committee Report: Dan Tucker stated he had already reported during the ARWC session.
- Impromptu presentation: Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Hannah Mohr and Luke Knaggs. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program is about to start field work on a 1.5 year study in the front range. It's a regional wetland and watershed capacity building study. They are trying to highlight the range of vulnerable wetland types across the front range. The mission at CNHP is data backed assessments of areas and providing that to the public. The intent is to create site stories of wetlands at risk in our region and to connect stakeholders with resources for more stewardship capacity. Vice-Chair DeHerrera suggested asking CNHP to possibly give a planned presentation at a later

time to the Roundtable.

- Presentation: Holcim Carbon Capture Project – [Justin Kurth](#) and [Manika Prasad](#)

A [presentation](#) was given by Justin Kurth and assisted by Manika Prasad.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Van Pelt
ABRT Admin Recorder