

Interbasin Compact Committee Meeting Summary Minutes

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2025

1	Welcome to Grand Junction & Local Projects
	Randi Kim, Grand Junction Utilities Director, welcomed attendees to Grand Junction and discussed local water issues. Randi described the water system in Grand Junction and their strategies for long range water supply planning. She also highlighted several local water conservation and infrastructure projects.
2	Welcome and Meeting Logistics
	Becky Mitchell, IBCC Chair, thanked Randi Kim for the local presentation. Kat Weismiller, CWCB Water Supply Planning Section Chief, noted that a quorum was established. The meeting agenda was shared and previous meeting minutes were reviewed and links were posted in the meeting chat for the virtual participants.
3	Message from the Chair
	IBCC Chair, Becky Mitchell addressed the IBCC and provided a recap of the February IBCC meeting, IBCC Subcommittee meetings, and emphasized openness, transparency, discussion, and consensus. Chair Mitchell also discussed the day's agenda items more in depth and set the stage for the meeting by reminding the membership of the iterative nature of the work. Saying, "I know it can feel like the same conversations keep happening. Sometimes we have to go slow to go fast to build a strong foundation."
4	Colorado & Platte River Updates + Open Discussion
	<p>Becky Mitchell, Upper Colorado River Commissioner (and IBCC Chair), Jason Ullmann, Colorado State Engineer, and Amy Ostdiek, CWCB Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section Chief, provided updates on Platte River and Colorado River issues.</p> <p>Platte River Updates: Discussions focused on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, The Platte River Compact (an overview) and how water rights are administered in Colorado's Platte River jurisdiction. State Engineer Ullmann highlighted issues related to the Perkins County Canal project initiated by Nebraska, and the concerns about its impact on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and the future of the Tamarack recharge project.</p> <p>Colorado River Updates: The update focused on the ongoing Post-2026 negotiations, a description of the concept under discussion by the basin states for supply-driven operations at Lake Powell. This approach would focus on Powell's release based on natural flow at Lee's Ferry, allowing Upper and Lower Basins to manage within their own supplies. This agenda item also included an open dialogue with the IBCC members focused on the issues highlighted above. Key resources for ongoing Colorado River issues can be found on CWCB's Colorado River Webpage.</p>

5	<p>No & Low Regrets Subcommittee Report</p> <p>Sean Cronin, Pat Wells, Lisa Darling presented the findings of the No & Low Regrets (NLR) subcommittee in conjunction with CWCB Staff, Kat Weismiller and Jeff Rodriguez. The NLR subcommittee was formed at the February 2025 IBCC meeting to investigate and compare themes in the 2013 NLR Document and 2024 C9 Summit DRAP. The subcommittee met four times in four months, identified progress on NLR actions, and reviewed similarities and differences. Discussions highlighted the evolution of terminology from "non-consumptive needs" to "fire management and recovery" and "nature-based solutions," and the shifting thinking from "water gaps" to "risks" associated with water needs in the future. The importance of defining a roadmap for discussing and tracking the goals for the next Water Plan update was emphasized among the desire to understand the progress made in the last decade on the original NLR actions. Jeff Rodriguez, CWCB Staff, noted the various ways the 2013 NLR actions have been incorporated into CWCB strategies and statewide planning documents, and highlighted a few areas where significant strides have been made. Also discussed the need for a multi-year workplan and process for the IBCC, which would involve iterative work between the IBCC, Roundtable (RT) members, and the CWCB.</p>
6	<p>No & Low Regrets & DRAP Discussion</p> <p>Kat Weismiller, CWCB Staff, and Kelsea Macilroy, The Langdon Group, led the discussion to address the proposal put forth by the subcommittee to create an updated No & Low Regrets Strategy (NLR) and adopt a flexible workplan to achieve that goal. Kelsea conducted an initial poll to gauge the level of support within the group and noted support from 17 out of 21 members present, and 4 of members noted support but had comments or questions they wanted addressed before moving forward. Following that poll a discussion took place to hear from those members with comments or questions.</p> <p>The discussion focused on agricultural protections and highlighted that current solutions like Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements (CWSA) are not comprehensive enough to address the significant loss of agricultural land. There was strong emphasis from the group on the need for a deeper dive into the topic and increased funding.</p> <p>The IBCC also discussed increasing collaboration between basin roundtables, incorporating additional expertise into future strategy discussions, and clarifying the roles of the roundtables. These discussions focused on improving engagement with the public, new water professionals, the basin roundtables, as well as dedicating C9 agenda items to cross-pollination.</p> <p>Consensus was reached on the workability of the plan laid out by the subcommittee to advance NLR strategies, and the option for the subcommittee to continue work in between meetings. There was a strong desire from the existing subcommittee members to add new members, and keep the momentum moving forward on this work.</p>

7	<p>Legislative Updates</p> <p>Senator Dylan Roberts discussed the state budget challenges and legislative efforts related to water issues from the 2025 Legislative Session. Key bills mentioned included HB25-1115 (statewide supply and measurement forecasting), SB25-040 (severance taxes and water funding task force), SB25-283 (CWCB Projects Bill), HB25-1014 (DWR efficiency), and HB25-1311 (sports betting revenue for water projects). Senator Roberts also discussed priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session which include water funding, Colorado River negotiations, and monitoring past legislation. Discussions with the IBCC included ways to re-stimulate soil conservation districts and improve engagement between the legislature, IBCC, and basin roundtables.</p>
8	<p>IBCC Member Project Highlights</p> <p>At the February IBCC meeting the committee discussed a desire to hear more in depth presentations on projects around the state and CWCB staff created this agenda item as a response. The project highlights came from IBCC members from the Metro and Yampa-White-Green basins, as well as a Governor's Appointee from the Rio Grande Basin.</p> <p>Rick Marsicek (Metro) presented on the Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency (WISE) project, which uses unused return flows to create new supply for South Metro entities, reducing new buy and dry, and supporting regional cooperation. Lisa Darling (Metro) presented on the South Platte Regional Opportunities Water Group (SPROWG) which is a group of stakeholders continuing conversations on conservation and reuse, aiming to facilitate river administration without harming agriculture. One project, the Platte Valley Water Partnership aims for long-term, multi-beneficial water supply planning, supporting agriculture, environmental needs, and municipal development.</p> <p>Heather Dutton (Governor's Appointee) provided an update on supply variability across the Rio Grande Basin. She also highlighted key projects, including infrastructure work and agricultural programs aimed at promoting low-water-use crops and developing new markets for them.</p> <p>Ken Brenner (Yampa-White-Green) highlighted projects stemming from the Yampa River Integrated Water Management Plan, Maybell Diversion Restoration and Headgate Modernization, Craig River Park, Wildfire Ready Action Plan, and data gathering initiatives (soil moisture, White River Valley Hydraulic Study).</p>
9	<p>C9 Summit Planning & Additional Information</p> <p>Kat Weismiller, CWCB Water Supply Planning Section Chief, provided updates to the IBCC about the timeline and evolution of 2070 Scenarios for use in the next Water Plan and C9 Summit Planning. The presentation included rationale for the updates, including making the planning scenarios simpler to communicate, focusing on the most impactful drivers in the planning scenarios; climate and population, and finding ways to better show solutions like conservation and storage. The scenarios would use current conditions as a</p>

	<p>baseline, and include conservation and potential storage overlays. Using conservation and storage as a solution overlay applied to all scenarios will help make results interpretation more intuitive. The IBCC's role will be to provide feedback on planning scenario narratives. The C9 Summit is scheduled for October 28-29 in Lakewood. Kat presented that Day 1 would focus on IBCC meetings, scenarios, and basin roundtable PEPO booting, and Day 2 featuring a conference format with panels on various topics, including innovative coalitions, water legislation, climate adaptation, communication campaigns, grants, and Colorado River updates. Feedback included that there is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee meeting on 10/29 so there was discussion of flipping the days agendas around. Other suggestions included less structured peer learning time, focus on basin roundtable recruitment, and clarifying the roundtable's role to enhance engagement.</p>
10	Recap, Next Meeting Planning & Closing Thoughts
	<p>The recap focused on planning the next meeting and C9 Summit. The committee suggested topics for future meetings include Rio Grande in interstate discussions, improving roundtable engagement and cross-pollination at the C9 Summit, and continuing to allow the subcommittee to update the committee on work between meetings. The importance of engaging with the water congress state affairs committee and stream access was also identified as potential upcoming topics.</p>
11	Public Comment
	<p>Public comment period was held but no comments were made.</p>
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