



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday – May 14, 2025

Start Time: 10:30 am

Virtual Only Meeting via Zoom

Executive Committee/ Guests Present

Jeffrey DeHerrera

Jean VanPelt

Al Tucker

Jeff Rodriguez

Jeris Danielson

Elissa Velasquez

Greg Felt

Dave Allgood

Gracy Goodwin

Jonathan Paklaian

1. Greetings, Introductions, Establishment of a Quorum – Jeffery called the meeting to order stating a quorum was present.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings – Amendments & Approval – The Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 12, 2025, were approved by consensus.

3. Reoccurring Matters

- **Chair Comments - Mark Shea** – Comments were not given.
- **Outstanding Reports - Executive Committee Members** – Greg Felt stated the CWCB Board will meet in 2 weeks in Steamboat Springs. Most of the attention will be on procedural on the Shoshone permanency discussion and basically hearing from staff about the in-stream flow investigations and their proposal. Greg stated an important meeting on this topic will be in September. He is almost certain some of the concerned parties will be requesting a formal hearing. CWCB has received many letters from some of the larger front range water entities that import water from the west slope, particularly those that divert upstream of the Shoshone power plant and are subject to that call. He anticipates a few hours of public comment both for and against. There's 2 water rights in the Shoshone diversion, a senior and junior. He feels a real point of diversion in people's thinking as to whether the junior one should be included. Another issue is what period of time was used for the in-stream flow study and if it adequately represents what's gone on. Jeff Rodriguez stated that a mandatory comment period is the first piece of the procedural aspect of adjudicating a new in stream flow right for the CWCB. Greg stated that the CWCB Board is dealing with not only the huge issue of the Shoshone water rights but also Colorado compact negotiations, Perkins Canal issue on the South Platte, and a final resolution on the Rio Grande compact. Greg stated the challenge is integrating a hydropower right into the in-stream flow program and doing so in a way that it is fair throughout the State. Because of all the tranmountain diversions it is challenging trying to find ways to protect the Colorado River but doesn't unduly and unfairly constrain front range water interests that also rely on the Colorado River.



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Gracy Goodwin reported the Needs Assessment Committee will present two letters of support for Colorado Water Plan grants. She asked for direction regarding prioritizing the money the remaining WSRF funds (~\$140,000) to ensure the Roundtable is supporting good projects with limited resources. Greg stated that the NAC could prioritize much needed infrastructure projects over studies to get the most out of a limited supply. Jeris stated the first criteria the NAC ought to ask is this project ready to go? And is it likely to be successful? The other one is how much this is going to put a drain on the money that we have available, since it's very limited. Gracy stated that CWCB's priorities are drought resiliency and aging infrastructure for statewide funds, and the NAC have used these types of projects as priorities. Jeff Rodriguez agreed with Greg's and Jeris' statements. He stated that if there's money left over from the annual refreshes that money gets distributed to basins that are below the cap equally and each basin would get extra pending that it doesn't put them over the cap. Aging infrastructure and drought resilience are still a priority for WSRF, and the main priority is to help the basins utilize and implement their BIP and the Colorado Water Plan is the first criteria. The second criteria being aging infrastructure and drought resilience. Jeris stated another criterion is to consider the applicant's ability to get other funds and consider projects that don't have the resources to raise additional project funding. Gracy thanked the committee for their input and stated that a Needs Assessment Committee meeting with the applicants will be on June 26th or June 27th. Jeff offered to attend the upcoming NAC meeting to assist in steering applicants to proper sources of funding. Jonathan asked permission to present slides for a letter of support for a Water Plan application during the NAC report.

Jeris reported that IBCC will meet June 25th in Grand Junction. Jeff stated a subcommittee that the IBCC appointed was designed to further the work of the No and Low regrets work that the IBCC is doing. The subcommittee has met 3 times and a meeting is scheduled for May 28th. The subcommittee is making progress, comparing the 2013 No and Low regrets document with the ideas that came out of the C-9 summit for the Drought Resilience Action plan. The subcommittee is developing a proposal for how the IBCC might begin to systematically update the No and Low regrets document from 2013 for today's water challenges. The report will be presented at the June meeting along with a continuation of that work with the full IBCC meeting. The meeting minutes are available on the IBCC website.

Jeff reported at the Water Conditions Monitoring committee meeting it was revealed that April 2025 was the driest April on the 130-year record in Colorado, which resulted in some early snowpack melt. CWCB is anticipating a lot faster snow melt coming with the current warm weather and more warm weather in the forecast. He also stated the Drought Monitor indicated expanding drought conditions across the west slope and in the Arkansas Valley over the past month. Currently 75% of the state is in at least D-0 drought. Snowpack statewide is 59% of median and reservoir storage is still relatively good at 92% of median.



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4. Roundtable Business

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Board membership** – Jeffery reported that ARWC held a board meeting last week and discussed using the acronym ARWC less. Jonathan presented the board with a new logo design in which the name of the organization is given instead of just the acronym. Al Tucker explained he has resigned from the Roundtable and also the ARWC board. Jonathan reported that the organization is in the process of formalizing a structure in which Executive Committee members can opt in or out to be on the ARWC board.
- **August meeting locations** – Confirmed for La Junta.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – July 9, 2025
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – June 24, 2025 10am, Zoom
 - PEPO – June 19, 2025, 4:00pm, Zoom
 - Environmental/Rec Committee – June 30, 2025, 10am, Zoom
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD
- IBCC – June 25, 2025, Grand Junction
- ARWC – August 11, 2025, 10am, Zoom
- Water Congress Summer Convention, August 19-21, 2025, Steamboat Springs
- CWCB Board Meeting – July 16-17, 2025, Arkansas Basin

6. Adjourn

Executive Committee membership: Mark Shea (Chair), Bob Hamel (Vice Chair-Non-Consumptive), Jeffery DeHerrera (Vice Chair-Consumptive), Vacant (Recorder), vacant (Past-Chair), Greg Felt (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Gracy Goodwin (Needs Assessment), Ariel Hacker (PEPO)

Additional distribution: Jeff Rodriguez (CWCB Staff), Jonathan Paklaian (ARWC Director), Jean Van Pelt (RT Admin)