



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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Arkansas Basin Roundtable Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Recorded Decisions

Wednesday – July 9, 2025

Start Time: 10:30 am

Pueblo Community College Student Center and virtually via Zoom

Executive Committee/ Guests Present

Jeff Rodriguez

Jean VanPelt

Bob Hamel

Greg Felt

Jeris Danielson

Robert Sakata

Terry Scanga

Jonathan Paklaian

Mark Shea

Gracy Goodwin

Dave Allgood

Abba Ahmed

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings – Amendments & Approval – The Executive Committee meeting minutes for May 14 and June 11, 2025, were approved by consensus.

3. Reoccurring Matters

- **Chair Comments - Mark Shea** – Mark reported a potential ballot measure is to create a new State agency called the [Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation Commission](#). Jeff stated he would look into this matter and update the committee. Mark reported that the Water Quality Control Division continues to work on a draft control regulation establishing the dredge and fill permit program for State waters. He stated that most of the concerns expressed at the Roundtable and at the IBCC meetings have largely been resolved. WQCD lead staff recognized that the previously drafted provisions had the potential to complicate and potentially injure water rights which they wanted to avoid. Lead staff were willing to make changes to the draft language and the control regulation to address those concerns. Mark stated the Fountain Creek Watershed District is working to establish a mitigation program that would be able to provide credits for projects permitted. Projects that have impacts that are regulated under the Army Corps 404 permit program and under the new State dredge and fill discharge program that is called an in-lieu fee program. It's a mechanism that was established under the 404 program where an organization that establishes one of these programs can sell credits to permitted projects that are going to have impacts on waters of the US. Once the organization has collected enough revenue for the sale of credits, it can perform the compensatory mitigation project by establishing or enhancing and improving wetlands. The organization basically takes on the responsibility of offsetting the impact of the permitted project(s). Since the Fountain Creek Watershed District is actively working on establishing that type of program it could potentially work in accordance with El Paso and Pueblo Counties with permitting projects that may have requirements for compensatory mitigation. Mark explained the idea is to set up the in-lieu fee mitigation program in such a way that once the State permit programs are in place it could function to provide credits for that permit program similar to providing credits under



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

the Army Corps 404 permit program. It'll also potentially provide required compensatory mitigation for projects that have impacts. Mark said he would follow up with the water quality control division and request an update on this topic.

Bob Hamel reported a coalition called the Colorado Stream Access Coalition has formed and may introduce legislation on the right to float or access. This was a hot issue in 2010 which has resurfaced. The positions are no different than they were before. There's the radical position of people wanting access to what is called the Montana law, which allows access to below the high-water mark. Access has been changed in New Mexico and Utah, and they're pointing to that. Another concern Bob expressed is that current legislators are all different from 2010 and some of them have no idea of the history on this issue, including legislators in the Ark basin. This is an important issue that doesn't appear to be going away and could be coming forward in a meaningful way next session. The Coalition is scheduling another meeting which Colorado Water Congress will again host. There was concern expressed about the appropriateness of CWC hosting these types of meetings. It was decided that the Committee should be regularly updated on this issue. Jeff added that the Roundtable is a forum in which the Roundtable could invite legislators that are involved in a particular legislative bill and discuss potential impacts or concerns.

Mark asked Jeff if the task force that's looking at the severance tax funding for water projects had been established yet? Jeff replied not yet, they have until September to make appointments. He also explained that a representative from the Dept. of Local Affairs will be included because the task force's goal is to determine what alternatives are to funding in the absence of severance tax or with really low severance tax revenues. Jeff will continue to update the Roundtable on progress.

Mark brought up the topic of membership of the ARWC Board, and how that relates to the Executive Committee of the Roundtable. He stated there is a need for Executive Committee members to choose whether or not be an ARWC board member. The Committee discussed making the board positions available to all Roundtable members that understand their commitment. This will enable the board to have better representation and diversity. Mark will work with Jonathan to frame this topic for future discussion and a resolution.

- **Outstanding Reports - Executive Committee Members** – Gracy Goodwin, Needs Assessment Committee Chair, informed the Committee that she has a Colorado Water Plan Grant letter of support to be ratified at the Roundtable meeting. The applicant was unable to attend last month's meeting and is still requesting a letter. The grant is for a soil moisture monitoring project and the committee supported it via email communications. The Needs Assessment Committee provided a letter of support for the project and now needs to notify the Roundtable members and ratify the letter.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Jean Van Pelt, Admin Recorder



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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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 (Admin Recorder)