

Interbasin Compact Committee Basin Roundtables  
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 12th, 2025  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District  
Alamosa, Colorado

**Call to Order at 2:05 p.m.**

Amber Pacheco called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made and quorum was met for Roundtable Members.

**Approve Meeting Agenda**

Amber Pacheco noted the agenda was amended as the Division of Water Resources would not be able to attend. She also noted the American Rivers Funding Update would need to be moved up on the agenda in the future.

Mike Gibson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Cassandra McCuen. All approved and the motion passed.

**Approve July 8th, 2025 Minutes**

Virginia Christensen moved to approve the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Heather Dutton. All approved and the motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Adam Moore reported the next 232 Partnership meeting is Sept 24 in Antonito. The Forest Restoration & Wildlife Risk Mitigation Grant Program opened August 1<sup>st</sup> and applications need to be back by Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. Examples of projects for this grant opportunity are fuel reduction works and forest and watershed health. Anyone with questions please let him know.

Paul Formisano gave an update on an upcoming presentation on Wednesday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m. Dr. Maria-Elena Giner will be giving a presentation titled "1944 Managing the Water of the Rio Grande". The presentation will coincide with a visit from a group of Mexican engineering students, faculty, and administrators. This will be a great opportunity to interact with this international group.

**Colorado Division of Water Resources Update**

Amber Pacheco gave an update from the report Craig Cotten sent over. Curtailment has gone to 0% which means that the river is lower and we are allowing water rights in Colorado to take all of the water on the Rio Grande. We could get lower than what was seen in 2002 this season.

**CWCB Updates**

Jeff Rodriguez gave the following reminders:

- The C9 summit is the 28th and 29th of October. CWCB is still working on the agenda but they are planning the 28<sup>th</sup> will be the main conference day and meetings and workshops on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Up to 10 individuals per Roundtable can be eligible for reimbursement for millage and lodging.
- The D3 drought has almost doubled in the past couple weeks in Colorado. Stream flows are down and temperatures are a little bit down too. If you are interested in learning more the Water Commissions Monitoring Committee is meeting on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The meetings are recorded and on the CWCB YouTube channel.
- WSRF deadline coming up on October 1st.
- Water Plan Grant Cycle: They are reviewing the grants now that were submitted in July. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> is the next deadline.
- The Watershed Protection Section is hosting webinars on the second Tuesday of the month.
- DWR Ag Water Protection Water Rights meeting was held in Alamosa a couple weeks ago but, if you missed it, they are hosting them across the state and the next one is going to be in Steamboat at Water Congress. The next one is the 13<sup>th</sup> in Glenwood Springs.
- The C9 Summit will be held at the Sheridan in Lakewood. They should be opening registration by September. Cassandra McCuen asked if non-Roundtable members can attend C9 and CWCB can pay for them? Jeff said there are 10 reimbursements available for each Roundtable and people who attend the Roundtable and want to go can be reimbursed.

Nathan Coombs gave an update for the CWCB Board. They are in the middle of hearing for the Shoshone Water Rights instream flow. The deadline has passed for filing for party status for the hearing. The next meeting for the CWCB is in September and that is when they will be making a decision on the Shoshone Water Right. The CWCB Board have primarily supported it, but now they have to make the requirements. There are some discrepancies in the accounting, how they are going to qualify it, and what CWCB's role is going to be. The Board wants to make sure that everything is out in the open. There are a lot of questions and comments from the Front Range. Amber asked if there were there a lot of comments filed? Nathan responded there were and the CWCB staff is going through them to narrow them down. Erin Minks said she understood that CWCB and Colorado Water Trusts are the only holders of instream flows in the state of Colorado. Nathan replied it is only CWCB. Nathan said this is a big deal and he thinks it is good that there is a lot of public comment and interest.

Jeff said his understanding is that the hearing and the decision being made by the board is to accept the offer of the instream flow from the Colorado River District. He believes the CWCB will hold the instream flow right and it would get a loan of water from the Colorado River District. He dropped a link to the Shoshone Water Right info in the chat. He said this is a normal process that they go through. He said the link he provided is the best place to go to get information.

Jeff reported the September CWCB meeting is shaping up to be a very busy 3-day meeting the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> in Durango.

### **Letter of Support for SLV GO's Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership - Capacity and Plan Implementation Grant Application**

Dani Robben was present to request a letter of support for a proposal they have for the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Grant Program. This is a program through Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado. They are funding regional partnerships across the state that are working to ensure Colorado water, land, and wildlife thrive, while providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities for the population. They are partnering with: Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Forest Service, Costilla County, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, and the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The proposal is called Sangres to San Juans: A Regional Landscape Vision for Recreation and Conservation. The project will help support functional ecosystems, healthy watersheds, ecosystems, and improve wildlife habitat. She listed the projects that they would be a part of and the ones that they would be helping to continue.

Mike Gibson made a motion to approve the letter of support and Judy Lopez seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

### **Education Committee Update**

Cassandra McCuen gave an update on the upcoming tour to the Arkansas Basin on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the tour is open. Amber Pacheco added the Arkansas Basin will have 10-15 people from their Roundtable who will be joining the tour. The tour will include a visit to the Bessemer Ditch which was featured in a film at the C9 Summit last year. Palmer Land Conservancy will be there to talk about their project and how it came together. Cassandra announced the Roundtable can reimburse those who want to attend the tour but need financial assistance.

There are no tours planned for October and November but anyone with any ideas should reach out to Cassandra.

Ally, the intern with Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, sent an email out to all Roundtable Members requesting bios and updated photos. If you haven't responded yet, please do so as it is important for people to know who we are.

Paul Formisano announced the Water 101 class at Adams State University is beginning and is open to community members. Quite a few people in this room will be speakers.

### **Executive meeting Update**

Amber Pacheco reported the focus the discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting was the report from the Committee for a Healthy Rio Grande and the meeting that was held on Aug 5th.

The Committee also talked about membership. Members who have not been in attendance in a while will be contacted to see if we can get them coming or if the seat can be opened up as there are others who are interested in participating.

### **Committee for a Healthy Rio Grande**

Jim Loud was present to give the presentation from the Committee for a Healthy Rio Grande which is an ad-hoc committee interested in seeing the recreational and environmental aspects of the Rio Grande Cooperative project come to fruition. He reported on the meeting held August 5<sup>th</sup> in Creede and said it was really good and very informative. The Committee also provided a list of specific issues they would want to see addressed on the river. Mr. Loud said these issues need to be addressed in a smaller and more focused group. Mr. Loud provided the list to the Roundtable Members.

There was a discussion about the Rio Grande Cooperative Project and its purpose. It was explained that there were two reservoirs that needed repairs and that the Rio Grande Cooperative was created so that they could come together to get funding to make these repairs. The project laid out what deliverables might be possible if the reservoirs were fully functioning. The Cooperative brought forth more conversations between different organizations. There was also discussion regarding recreation as an economic driver and the need to develop other ways to recreate with our current water situation.

More discussion was had about the Committee working with specific groups to get more information and it was suggested they get more involved and become more established so they are able to seek grants for some of their listed projects. It was noted that things are getting done on the Rio Grande but projects take time. Many groups, organizations, etc. are involved and working together to make things successful with the water that we have. Amber let them know that the Roundtable is happy to direct them to resources and projects that are being done so they can get more involved.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.**