

**IBCC Colorado River Basin, update on 2026 Interim Agreement negotiations,
Fall 2025 WSRF grant awards, Shoshone Power Plant instream flow application,
Upper Colorado Basin 2020 Irrigation Following Study Results**

September 22, 2025 CBRT Roundtable Minutes.

1. Upcoming Meetings & Deadlines.

- a. The Colorado River district annual water meeting is Oct 3, 2025, at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction
- b. C9 Summit is Oct 28-29 at the Sheraton West Hotel at 360 Union Blvd. in Lakewood
- c. CWCB meeting **November 19–20, 2025, in the Denver Metro Area.** The CWCB will decide on the approval of an instream flow for the Shoshone call.

2. 2025 CBRT Meeting Schedule

- a. C9 Summit, Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, Oct 28-29, 8 AM.
- b. November 17 CBRT Meeting, Glenwood Springs.

3. Recorder: These minutes were prepared by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, 970-927-1200, ken@kenransford.com.

4. Today's September 22, 2025, meeting was conducted by Zoom and held in person at the Colorado River District Office.

5. CBRT Roundtable Members Present: Peggy Bailey Summit County municipalities rep, Nathan Bell Garfield County Rep, Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies & Vice Chair of CBRT, Carlyle Currier Colbran Conservancy District, Adam Cwiklin Grand County municipalities rep, JJ Fletcher Mesa County Com'r, Vicky Flynn Eagle River Watershed Coalition & Eagle Munic Rep, Angie Fowler IBCC Representative Schmueser Gordon Meyer PE, Marcia Gilles Eagle County, Hattie Johnson American Whitewater, Ty Jones Clifton Water, Randi Kim City of Grand Junction, Kirsten Kurath Vice Chair and represents water rights owners, Kelly McNicholas Kury Pitkin County Com'r, Brendon Langenhuizen Colorado River District, Merrit Linke Grand County Com'r Ag At large member, April Long CBRT Chair and Ruedi Water & Power Auth. General Manager, Ed Moyer Grand County Manager, Katie Randall Middle Park Water Conservancy District, Ken Ransford Secretary and Recreation member, Charlie Spickert Basalt Water Conservancy, Greg Williams Ute Water, Tom Wood Grand Valley Water Users Association (Agric at large)

6. CBRT Roundtable Non-Voting Members present: Marco Baldo BuRec Loveland, Jeff Bandy Denver Water, Ashley Garrison CWCB Grant Liaison, Taylor Hawes CWCB Rep for Colo River Basin, James Heath Division Engineer Colo Div 5, Nancy Johnston Trout Unltd. and CBRT Grants Com Chair, Kathy Kitzman Aurora Water, Jeff Rodriguez CWCB, Paula Stepp Middle Colorado Watershed Council and CBRT PEPO Coordinator,

7. Guests: Matt Aboussie Colorado River District, Beth Albrecht Brown & Caldwell PE, Joely Anysz Mesa Conservation District, Nels Bjarke Western Water Assessment, Linn Brooks Eagle County Conservation District, Shawn Bruckman, Ella Bump, Perry Cabot CSU, Christy Camp, Stan Cazier former rep for Middle Water Conservancy District with spot now taken by Katie Randall, Kate Collins Middle Colorado Watershed Council, Liberty Costello Middle Colorado

Watershed Council, K Colt, Jason Cowles Eagle River Water & San. Dist., Ken Curtis, Dolores Water Conservancy Dist, Dennis Davis San Diego County Water Authority, Angie Davlyn Executive Director Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative, Lindsay Defrates Colorado River District Public Relations, Jeff Derry Center Snow and Avalanche Studies, Aaron Derwingson The Nature Conservancy, Gwen Garcelon, Jackie Fisher Orchard Mesa Irrig Dist, Andie Hall, Justin Hildreth, Aaron Hilshorst Manager of Land & Water Resources at Climax Mine, Hannah Holm American Rivers, Scott Jones Colorado Watershed Council , Sara Jurca Rivers Edge West, Bill Ketterhagen, Annie Khnong, Heather Lewin Science and Policy Director at Roar Fork Conservancy, Bailey Leppak SGM Engineering, Chloe Lewis, Vanessa Logsdon Blue River Watershed Group, Kerry Major Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Peter Mayer, Erin McDermott Rivers Edge West, Care McInnis Town of DeBeque, Becky Mitchell Colo Rep to the Upper Colo River Commission, Stephanie Moore, Amy Moyer Colorado River District, Andy Mueller Colorado River District Gen Mgr., Ken Neubecker, Amy Ostdiek CWCB, Stephanie Parker Town of DeBeque, David Payne Ute Water Conservancy Dist, Blake Peterson, Kellie Rand Eagle County, Heather Sackett Aspen Journalism, Jess Sanow, Brian Sewell Colo Div of Water Resources, Darren Simon, Robert Sakata Agricultural Water Policy Advisor for the Colorado Dept of Ag, Rachel Stein, Jon Stavney, Lisa Tasker Pitco Healthy Rivers, Anastasiya Varanetskaya CWCB , Troy Wineland DWR Division 5, , Jeffrey Woodruff Pitkin County Comm'r

8. **Summary of decisions made at the meeting; more detail below on the discussion.**

a. New officer slate:

- i. Abby Burk Chair
- ii. Kirstin Kurath Co-Chair
- iii. Ken Ransford Secretary-Recorder

b. **\$180,600 of WSRF grants were approved:**

- i. \$30,000 to the **Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies** for a **4-year Dust on Snow data collection and cosmic ray evaluation project.**
- ii. \$15,000 to the **Middle Colorado Watershed Council** to replace the **Grand Tunnel Ditch Flume** for a Rifle Creek Restoration project.
- iii. \$20,000 to the **Desert Rivers Collaborative** promoted by **Rivers Edge West** to **build a database of riparian river initiatives.**
- iv. \$50,000 to **Debeque** to **build a river park** through town.
- v. \$30,600 to the **Blue River Watershed Group** to **create a database of water quality attributes throughout the watershed.**
- vi. \$35,000 to the Eagle River Coalition to replace culverts in **Missouri Creek, Homestake Creek, and Upper Fancy Creek** to make them more fish-friendly.

9. **River Forecast.** The Colorado River flow gage at the **Dotsero gage on September 22, 2025,** was **1,280 cfs, just below the median of 1,300.**¹ The Colorado River at **Cameo** flowed **1,700 cfs, below the median of 2,190 cfs on this date.**²
10. **The July 28, 2025 minutes were approved with no change.**
11. **April Long Director Comments.**
 - a. **April thanked** the CBRT members who supported the Colorado River District at the instream flow hearing for Shoshone water rights before the CWCB, and for their financial contributions to purchasing the water right.
 - b. **April encourages CBRT Members to attend the C9 Summit.** The CWCB will pay for 10 members to attend.
 - c. **April encourages CBRT members to create a subcommittee to incorporate key projects in the CBRT BIP into the statewide CWP.**
12. **Upper Colorado Conserved Consumptive Use Hay Growing Study** report by Perry Cabot of CSU Extension and Aaron Derwingson on the Nature Conservancy.
 - a. The study investigated how to estimate water use and conservation accurately and cost-effectively at scale.
 - b. **How quickly high altitude pastures rebounded** after going a season with no or reduced irrigation.
 - c. What are the effects of reduced irrigation.
 - d. Direct measurement of **changes in grass growth** based on flow changes will be very **difficult to measure.**
 - e. Bird species came back the first year after water came back, but this impact disappeared the next year.
 - f. The study demonstrated **how important it is to have a local advocate like Paul Bruchez. The entire irrigation community needs to participate,** not just individual users; it is important that all users on a ditch participate.
 - g. **Don't reduce irrigation for a single year—instead, do this over multiple years.**
 - h. It is easy to calculate the reduction in water consumption, but it is **difficult to trace this to changes in river levels.**
 - i. Nate Bell remarked that the 2020 drought year caused increased cost of purchasing hay. Can we equate this to a more average year? In short, no. **If you reduce irrigating in a dry year,** this is a worst case study, and **it is more expensive to replace lost storage.** It's **impossible for a producer to know** this because they don't know what the year will bring. So, this is a complex task.

¹ Dotsero forecast: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=09070500.

² Cameo forecast: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv/?site_no=09095500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060

- j. The study pre-planned a 1-year dryup on fields for **2020**, which as it turned out was a **drought year**. On a 3-year basis, you can restore soil moisture, but coupling reduced irrigation with the 2020 drought year was a **double whammy**.
 - k. Perry Cabot said that **a single year of irrigation withdrawal will have legacy effects lasting more than 1 year**. Robust grasses tend to come back. Most irrigators don't want to do full season fallowing—**partial season fallowing is more likely**, in which they stop irrigating on July 15.
 - l. Carlyle Currier asked. "If 20% participated, would it have a greater than 20% impact on the local agricultural economy?"
 - m. Hannah Holm of American Whitewater said they **can't draw any conclusions based on this study**.
 - n. Seth Mason will speak at November meeting about the social and economic reasons why a producer may participate.
13. **James Heath, Division Engineer for Division 5.** Deputy Caleb Foy will retire from the Colorado River District next month; James is retiring December 31, 2025, so both jobs are open. They hope to fill the positions shortly; the call for nominations has been closed.
- a. **New SB 24-197** enables farmers and ranchers to **temporarily loan their water rights** for other uses while maintaining their agricultural status. A substitute water supply plan is needed to effectuate his change.
 - b. The bill **allows owners of stored water to temporarily loan their water to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to improve river flows, even in stream sections not covered by an existing instream flow right**. The CWCB is in the process of finalizing rules to implement this change.
 - i. **Feedback on rules is requested.**
 - c. The bill **enables the CWCB to reduce or waive matching fund requirements for water conservation grants to the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes**.
 - d. **Division 5 irrigation measurement rules are being revised**. Meetings to discuss this are scheduled on this for **10/20/25 in Grand Junction, and 10/21 in Eagle**.
 - e. **Heath offered to update the CBRT on these rules**; it will take 90 minutes, and April offered to include it into the November 24 meeting.
 - f. River administration, HUP calls: **2025 has been a dry year**, with low stream flows. **Reservoir conditions are lower than normal for this time of year**. As of early October 2025, Green Mountain Reservoir is reported to be about 70% of normal for this time of year, with an average storage of 115,922 af.
 - g. **Water flow at the Dotsero gage from April to July was 960,000 af, significantly lower than forecasts** suggested earlier in the year. Runoff went into soils, and there was little precipitation during that time.
 - h. Flow in the **Colorado River below Cameo was 1.4 maf, only 62% of average**. **The Cameo call came on July 14, and since early August every water right except senior calls has been called out**.

- i. **There have been additional HUP releases** as a result. There will not likely be any HUP surplus this year. We aren't likely to see 15-mile reach flows, and we've been **below the 10,825 targeted flow for a lot of the summer.**
 - j. Taylor Hawes: Is there a place to follow on to discussion re. measurement rules; James said he'd drop it into the chat room.
 - k. Nate Bell asked if new Division administration rules have been implemented in other Divisions? Divisions 1, 2 and 3, have new measurement rules, particularly for groundwater.
 - i. Yampa Division 6 created rules that have been signed by the water court judge, they're effective and are being phased in.
 - ii. San Juan Division 7 used the new Yampa Division 6 rules as a template and the water court judge has signed off on the new rules.
 - iii. Division 4 Gunnison is working through the water court process.
 - iv. **Division 5, the Colorado River Basin, is still in the stakeholder process.**
14. **Roundtable appointments.**
- a. **IBCC Representative:** April nominated **Angie Fowler to serve as the IBCC representative in place of Stan Cazier.**
 - b. **New CWCB Appointment:** Taylor Hawe has been appointed to the CWCB to represent the upper Colorado River basin.
15. **IBCC Update Carlyle Currier and Angie Fowler.**
- a. No meetings have been held since last June. The C9 Summit is coming up Oct 28-29. Make reservations to participate. It's being held at the Sheraton West Hotel at 360 Union Blvd. in Lakewood.
 - b. **Carlyle is stepping down from the IBCC next year. Greg Williams has expressed interest in filling Carlyle's spot.**
 - c. Angie, the other IBCC rep, said an IBCC subcommittee is working on Low and No Regrets standards. They will discuss this at the C9 Summit.
 - i. Jeff Rodriguez said the 1st rendition of **No and Low Regrets started the ball rolling for statewide water planning.** As IBCC was finishing this effort, **what low hanging fruit can Colorado agree upon** to face future water challenges. This was rolled into the first CWP in 2015.
 - ii. The 2015 no and low regrets did not get incorporated into the 2023 CWP because they were out of date.
 - iii. They are looking at topics to incorporate into the Tech Update, and they have set **a 10-15 year planning horizon for new strategies to inform BIPs.**

- iv. The CWCB rolls up the BIPs into a comprehensive water plan for the state.
 - v. **An IBCC workshop is scheduled for day 2, October 29, of C9 summit**—what are Basin priorities that can be incorporated into a statewide no and low regrets position.
 - vi. It will be messy and time intensive to incorporate so many opinions into the No and Low Regrets analysis.
16. **2026 Interim Guideline Colorado River negotiation update, Becky Mitchell**, Colorado Representative to the Upper Colorado River Commission.
- a. Hydrology in the Upper Basin is not great.
 - b. **At the Upper Colorado River Commission meeting last week it was difficult to reach consensus. It will be hard to break reliance on water that is not there. The fact that Colorado has not fully developed its water should not be an impediment.**
 - c. **System losses** from reservoir evaporation and transit losses are **1.5 maf**; this was **previously called the Structural Deficit**. We should have acknowledged this decades ago. That's why a larger correction is needed now.
 - d. We should **adjust demand to meet the supply. The system will stay in crisis until we start looking at supply**, and that should be unacceptable to all of us.
 - e. Becky said, "I'm **not willing to sign on to a deal that will fail** in the first couple of years."
 - f. During the 2007 Interim Guidelines term ending in 2026, releases exceed inflows and the reservoirs were drained. **Once the reservoirs are drained, that does not help the Upper Basin.** We're negotiating these guidelines in a much tougher place. **It's easier to negotiate when the reservoirs are full. The wriggle room is not there.**
 - g. The Upper Basin expresses a willingness to embrace a supply based system. **The Lower Basin continues to fall back on old theories of how supply can meet current demand. They feel like they are entitled to historic releases.** No amount of **lawyering or threats will create more water.** We are clear about our willingness to do our part, but **there's not enough water in the Upper Basin to solve our problems.** We're continuing to look at voluntary, temporary, compensated conservation.
 - h. One of the biggest issues is that the solutions don't prop up Lower Basin uses.
 - i. Recent rhetoric makes me wonder whether there are folks in the room that want a deal. I know there are folks in the Lower Basin that know what's at risk.
 - j. How Calif makes deals to get through. Look at what **Nevada has done to save their allocation, passing reuse into Lake Mead**, and storing water in the ground. I know there are resources in the Lower Basin, and I know there is creativity. **This won't be easy for the Upper Basin.**
 - k. **Living within the means of the river is strict administration.**

- l. Ken Ransford asked what is the timing. The federal **Bureau of Reclamation wants to know if there's a path forward by November 11**, and is there hope. Becky sees **November as a critical month. There's an additional deadline in February 2026 for the NEPA details**. No one will be happy if there is no deal.
- m. Mitchell said all users are concerned **if the federal government mandates operating criteria**: this takes away creativity and can **limit outside agreements, conservation agreements, Intentionally Created Surplus, or water pools**. These are off the table with the federal authorities. The system will be protected. There surely won't be funding available.
- n. Ken Ransford asked if the Upper Basin's requirement to **deliver 82.3 maf every 10 years** into Lake Powell is likely to be required. Mitchell responded that **this is not a requirement of the Compact. The Compact requires 75 maf every 10 years**, not 82.3 maf. On average we've delivered 8.6 maf every year. A lot of the releases occurred early in the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Full releases to Mexico have not been used.
- o. We should not use the Lower Basin's arguments against ourselves.
- p. Carlyle Currier asked Becky is she was going to continue to be the nominee. There has been active engagement from the highest levels of the Dep't of Interior. There's not a lack of leadership at that level. Consensus comes from the 7 Basin States and that's where the pressure is right now.
- q. The Bureau of Reclamation has an acting commissioner right now.
- r. April Long asked about the upcoming deadlines. If BuRec is not confident that the 7 Basin States reach consensus by the Nov 11 deadline, what happens? They continue the NEPA process. **We can produce a plan but if it does not meet the requirements that the System needs, it is not a plan. The plan must acknowledge the hydrology we have at hand.**
- s. Ken Ransford remarked that the **Upper Basin did not authorize SCPP funding in 2025**, asking, **"Is this part of the solution in the future?" Maybe**. Concerns on SCPP need to be addressed. It was temporary for a reason. **There would not have been much water to save in 2025 due to the low rainfall. SCPP funding going forward depends on whether we have a deal or not among the 7 Basin States**. The compensation to be beneficial must come from outside Colorado; if we pay for it ourselves, it burdens our tax dollars. I do not know what will happen with SCPP, but I know **Colorado has always stepped up to the plate**.

17. **Andy Mueller, Colorado River District update on securing Shoshone flows**

- a. Taylor Hawes, the CWCB Representative, recused herself since the Colorado River District instream flow application is pending before the CWCB.
- b. The instream flow application and purchase application is put forward by the Colorado River District, but it is representing many entities.
- c. **The first step is reaching an instream flow agreement with CWCB** and that is the process we are in right now. We then go before Water Court to determine historic use,

and the PUC in which Xcel is the applicant. We also need to meet the \$99m fundraising goal.

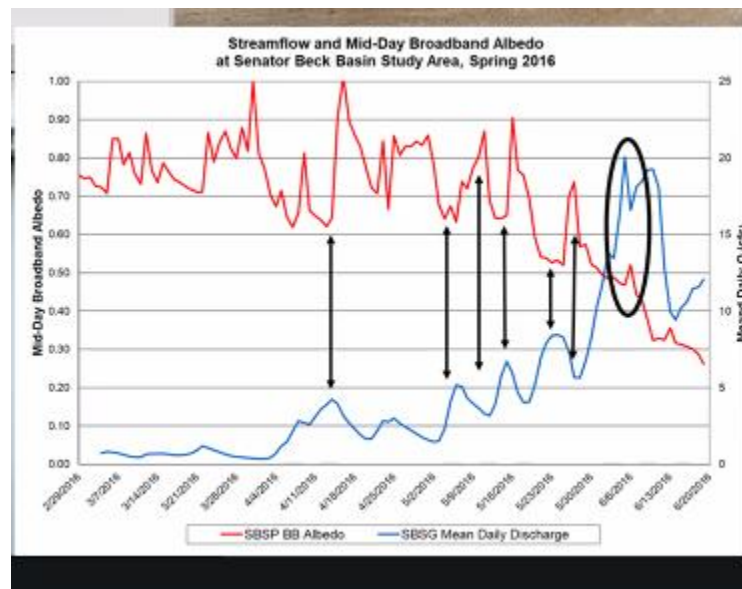
- d. Instream flow. The Colorado River District initiated the acquisition of these rights in May 2025 with the CWCB. The **water right would be owned by the Colorado River District but administered as an instream flow by the CWCB**. The sticking point revolves around who manages this instream flow right. **The call will remain on the river whenever its flow drops below 1,408 cfs**, subject to limitations in water court decrees, which includes TMDs and all other water rights. **Getting the historic use analysis correct in water court is critical.**
- e. Co-management is an issue: what happens if the Colorado River District and CWCB do not agree that the call can be relaxed. There are **4 major opposers including Denver Water, Colorado Springs, Aurora, and the WISE project**. The CWCB wants a statewide board to decide when the call can be relaxed. This could harm downstream parties (such as the Cameo Call). **The Colorado River District informed the CWCB that co-management is not an option**, and the Colorado River District would withdraw from negotiations if this becomes a sticking point.
- f. **The CWCB has delegated management of for other instream flows to the Colorado Water Trust, Steamboat Springs, Northern, and the City of Denver**. The Colorado AG's office has the opinion that the CWCB can delegate this authority to the Colorado River District.
- g. **The CWCB can acquire an instream flow**, or adjudicate (i.e., create) a new instream flow. The former is **likely here**. **The CWCB doesn't call many of its originally adjudicated instream flows**.
- h. There are 35 parties on the West slope in favor of the Shoshone water right acquisition, and \$37m has been raised from West slope entities toward the purchase.
- i. The Colorado River District is **not trying to expand the water right, we are trying to preserve it**. The past 20 years the right has not operated for significant periods **due to hydroelectric plant repairs**. We want **the past 120 years to be the historic use period, not the past 20 years**.
- j. **The CWCB will have a 14-hour hearing and under the terms of the law is required to produce a decision that evening**. This has been extended to the next CWCB meeting **November 19–20, 2025, in the Denver Metro Area**.
- k. The coalition of West slope entities did an amazing job at the CWCB hearing. It was clear to me the value that this river has for the West slope.
- l. April Long represented the CBRT at the hearing. It's a testament to **this roundtable** that it **presented an absolutely united front**. April commented that she is confident the CWCB will make the right decision.
- m. Does co-management create future challenges? Everything we do in the water world creates future challenges.

- n. **If the state had to replace this water**, all water users would quickly be in jeopardy due to **low flows in the 15-mile reach**.
- o. A number of reservoirs are cooperating to keep water in the 15-mile reach. **The Colorado River District's position is that Colorado has not fully developed its entitlement under the Colorado River Compact**, and we will continue to pursue full development of the Upper Basin's right to 7.5 maf under the Colorado River Compact.
- p. There was over 120,000 af that could be developed. **The power plant is not interfering with Colorado's ability to develop new water under the Colorado River Compact. There is water available in the system to develop.**
- q. Merrit Linke emphasized how important the Shoshone water right is to ag users both upstream and downstream of the Shoshone Power Plant.
- r. What is co-management and what deal would be off the table? **The Colorado River District has offered to let the state manage the Shoshone water right as an instream flow.**

18. **Taylor Hawes, Colorado Basin representative to the CWCB**

- a. She **serves on CWCB in her personal capacity**, not as an employee of The Nature Conservancy.
- b. Hawes has worked on Colorado River activities since 1997, starting her career with the Northwest Colorado Council of County Governments NWCCOG where she worked on water quality, land use, land rights, water and sanitation districts, and 1041 regulations. She then worked as Associate counsel for the Colorado River District. For the past 17 years she has been the **Colorado River Program Director for The Nature Conservancy from the headwaters to Gulf of California**. Hawes served as Summit County's representative to the Colorado River District from 2020-2024, and also serves on board of Colorado Water Trust.
- c. How to reduce water use in the future in a hotter environment. Hawes served on the IBCC when 2015 Water Plan was developed.
- d. The Division water measurement rules are top of mind, and she owns water rights personally.
- e. Fire issues are also top of mind—how to mitigate impacts before and after a fire. She commented that **Colorado forests are in terrible state**, with impacts to rangelands and water quality.
- f. The state of Colorado has funding for fire mitigation through the **Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)**.
- g. Zebra mussels are worrisome.
- h. Taylor is closely watching CWP and WSRF grant recommendations by CBRT.

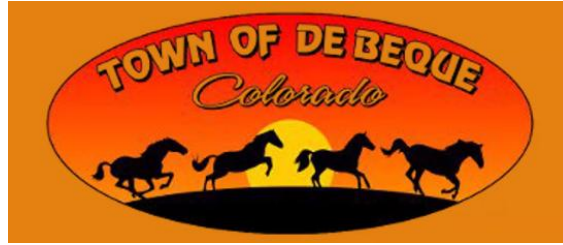
- i. Taylor.hawes@state.co.us, send inquiries a week before CWCB meetings to give her a heads-up.
19. CWCB Update Jeff Rodriguez. C9 Summit Registration is open, there's room for 150 participants.
- a. The 2025-26 WSRF grant to the CBRT will be \$334,000, an increase from the projected \$300,000 basin award.
20. **Fall 2025 grant requests, Nancy Johnson of Colorado Trout Unlimited, CBRT Grant Committee Chair.** Grant funding of \$399,100 is available, including \$65,100 carryover funding and \$334,000 additional funding provided by the CWCB on July 1. Six applicants are requesting funds; the grants committee decided to hold back approximately 50% of the \$400,000 available grant funding for the February 2026 grant cycle. **\$180,600 was awarded, leaving \$219,500 funding available for the Spring 2026 grant cycle.**
- a. **Jeff Perry with Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies in Silverton, Colorado, requested \$30,000 for a 4-year Dust on Snow data collection and cosmic ray evaluation project. All other roundtables have ponied up an equal amount. The CBRT Grants Committee recommended full funding of \$30,000.**
 - i. **The Center visits 11 sites in Colorado to collect dust-on-snow information. Dirty snow surfaces have a low albedo, and melt the snow much faster. If snowpack melts 4 weeks earlier, evapotranspiration starts 4 weeks earlier. As albedo goes down (the red line), stream flow goes up (the blue line).**



- ii. **The Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies shares dust-on-snow data** with CAIC Colorado Avalanche Information Center, the National Weather Service administered by NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and CASM, the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement association.
- iii. **The cosmic ray neutron CRN rover fits into a truck; cosmic rays produce high-energy neutrons in the atmosphere. When they interact with hydrogen, their**

energy is moderated. **The CRN Sensor passively counts these excited neutrons**, and the count is inversely proportional to the quantity of hydrogen near the sensor. It **provides SWE measurements over a large footprint (650' radius), equaling about 5% of a square mile**. It fills the gap between a stationary weather station data and airborne observations.

- iv. They can **estimate when the snow will melt based on the amount of dust on snow**.
- b. Kate Collins, **Middle Colorado Watershed Council**, grant request for **\$15,000 to replace the Grand Tunnel Ditch Flume for a Rifle Creek Restoration project**. The cost to replace the flume is expected to be **\$20,000**; the grants committee recommended full funding.
 - i. **Replace a 24" flume with a 36" flume**; it will **improve delivery efficiency for 19 downstream users**. The cost is \$15,000.
 - ii. This **meets multiple CBRT BIP objectives**: it will improve ecosystem health, agricultural sustainability, water quality, conservation and land use, and Basin administration and flow management.
 - iii. The project will be **completed by fall of 2026**.
 - iv. **Several other organizations have provided \$11,000 funding**.
 - v. Nate Bell recused himself from this vote.
- c. **Desert Rivers Collaborative, Rivers Edge West**, an NGO in Grand Junction, requested \$30,000 to **build a database of riparian river initiatives**. The grants committee **recommend funding it for \$20,000**. The DRC was formed in 2012 to share information to **improve riparian conditions along the Gunnison river up to Delta and the Colorado River up to Grand Junction** and other SW rivers.
 - i. They just completed a Strategic Plan, and their goal is to protect and restore healthy aquatic and riparian ecosystems.
 - ii. **Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation has provided funding for this project**.
 - iii. For more information, contact Sara Junca, sjurca@riversedgewest.org.
- d. **Debeque grant request for \$150,000 to develop engineering plans to build a river park**; the grants committee **recommended funding \$50,000**, with the stipulation that none of the funding be spent for the pavilion design so the **grant is devoted to water projects**. The project budget is **\$315,599 for engineering and permitting**.



- i. The grant will be used to move the project from conceptual design to completion. Planning is needed for **river bank stabilization, boat ramp construction, CDOT permitting, roadway safety, and pavilion design.**
 - ii. The unemployment rate in **Debeque** is 54.4% compared to 12.6% in Mesa County. Historically, they have been **dependent on oil and gas industry.**
 - iii. The project aligns with enhancing the quality of life for its residents, creating a **regional recreation destination**, and reducing reliance on the oil and gas industry. **It positions DeBeque to thrive through outdoor recreation and economic diversification.**
- e. **Blue River Watershed Group requested \$30,600 to create a database of water quality attributes throughout the watershed. The Grant Committee recommends full funding.**
- i. The project is designed to answer questions such as, “**Why is the Snake River white and why there are no fish in it?**”
 - ii. **Breckinridge, Frisco, Denver Water, USGS, USFS, TU are all partners.**
 - iii. They are **partnering with Lotic Engineering develop the monitoring tools and the database.** They want to **standardize data collection and data-sharing**, and present it on a **website that the public and interested stakeholders like Colorado Parks & Wildlife can access.**
 - iv. They plan to show a map of the watershed with **blue and red dots to indicate river temperatures**, for instance.
 - v. They also want to do **targeted monitoring of mine discharges, or incident response monitoring** in case there is a hazardous spill, **or recreational and commercial use mapping that fishing guides can use.**
 - vi. Peggy Bailey recused herself because she is on the Blue River Watershed Group.
- f. **The Eagle River Coalition** covers 75 miles on the Eagle River from Camp Hale through Eagle County; they **requested \$67,881 to replace culverts in various states of disrepair on Missouri Creek, Homestake Creek, and Upper Fancy Creek** to make them more fish-friendly. The **grants committee recommended funding \$35,000.** The total project cost is \$161,000.
- g. Carlyle Currier motioned to approve, and Randy Kim seconded. **The total funding requested is for \$180,600**, and the motion passed without objection.