

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Website: www.arkansasbsin.com

Email: arkbasinrt@gmail.com

Wednesday January 12, 2022

Start Time: 12:30 pm

This meeting will be virtual.

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339826655?pwd=YzY0eWhmb3Bsc1VFNDhjYWWhOT1JHZz09>

- 12:30-12:35** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Mark Shea [5 min]**
Establish quorum
Approval of agenda
Approval of minutes – December 2021
Public Comment
- 12:35 – 1:35** **Reports – [60 min]**
Executive Committee – Mark Shea (5 min)
CWCB Report – Russ Sands, Sam Stein, Greg Felt (10 min)
IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga (15 min)
Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega (5 min)
Agricultural/Municipal Committee – Matt Heimerich (5 min)
Environment/Recreation – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, and Rena Griggs (5 min)
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian (5 min)
PEPO – Paul Fanning, Alli Schuch (10 min)
- 1:35 – 1:45** **Break [10 min]**
- 1:45 – 2:05** **Program – Beaver Park Water Inc. – Canal System Improvements under Roundtable/CWCB Grants Presentation [20 min]**
- ADJOURN**

Upcoming Meetings

Arkansas Basin Roundtable – February 9, 2022

- Executive Committee – 10:30am
- Roundtable – 12:30pm

ABRT Committees

- PEPO Workgroup – January 19, 1:30pm
- Environmental/Recreation Committee – January 31, 2022 10:00am
- Agriculture/Municipal Committee – TBD

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Q1 Meeting – February 17, 2022 (virtual)

IBCC Meeting – February 23

CWCB Board Meeting – January 24-25 Aurora

Colorado Water Congress – January 26-28 Aurora

Four States Irrigation Council – January 12-13 Fort Collins

Additional Zoom Meeting Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339826655?pwd=YzY0eWhmb3Bsc1VFNDhjYWwhOT1JHgz09>

Meeting ID: 833 3982 6655

Passcode: 971863

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcMxMhy1Pp>

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda

Wednesday January 12, 2022

Start Time: 10:30 am

The meeting will be virtual

Zoom Meeting Link:

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1. Greetings and necessary introductions
2. Minutes/Notes of the previous meeting
3. ARWC Matters
 - Executive Director Update
4. Reoccurring Matters
 - Chair Comments – Mark Shea
 - Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members
5. Roundtable Business
 - ABRT BIP Update – Lindsey Griffith (Brown & Caldwell) – Received Public Comments Discussion
 - 2022 Roundtable Program Ideas & Discussion – Steve Kastner

Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – February 9, 2022
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
 - PEPOW – January 19, 2022, 1:30pm
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – January 31, 2022
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee - TBD
- ARWC – February 17, 2022 – First Quarter Meeting (virtual)
- IBCC – February 23, 2022
- CWCB Board Meeting – January 24-25 Aurora
- Colorado Water Congress January 26-28 Aurora

Adjourn

Committee membership: Mark Shea (Ch), Bob Hamel (VCh-NonC), Steve Kastner (VCh-Cons), Al Tucker (Rec), Sandy White (Past-Ch), Greg Felt (CWCB), Jeris Danielson (IBCC), Terry Scanga (IBCC), Tim Canterbury (IBCC Alternate), Abby Ortega (Needs Assessment), Paul Fanning (Legislative Rep), Amber Shanklin (ARWC Board Member), Sara Mudge (ARWC Board Member)

Additional distribution: Sam Stein (CWCB Staff), Elise Bergsten (Secretary), Jonathan Palkaian (ARWC Director)

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Additional distribution: Sam Stein (CWCB Staff), Elise Bergsten (Secretary), Jonathan Palkaian (ARWC Director)



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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

January 12, 2022

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339826655?pwd=YzY0eWhmb3Bsc1VFNDhjYWWh0T1JHZz09>

More information and presentations may be found at: www.arkansasbasin.com

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

December meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Public Comment - none

Ann Warner introduced herself. She works for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) as Environmental Water Quality Planner. She may be reached at: awerner@ppacg.org. (719) 471-7080.

Bethany Howell introduced herself as well. She is the Deputy Director of Communications & Outreach for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. She may be reached at: Bethany.howell@state.co.us.

Amy Mitchell introduced herself later in the meeting. She is a Park County Commissioner. She may be reached at: amitchell@parkco.us. PO Box 1373, 856 Castello Ave, Fairplay, CO 80440, 719-836-4210, Cell 719-838-0340.

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

- Steve Kastner is now serving as vice-chair for consumptive use. Steve has volunteered to prepare agendas and arrange for programming at our monthly meetings. Please contact Steve directly with your suggestions.
- The committee met with Lindsey Griffith on the Basin Implementation Plan.
- Mike Fink will be stepping down as the representative for El Paso County. He has been a member of the Executive Committee as the Recorder for some time. Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority is making a recommendation to El Paso County Commissioners for his replacement.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein – engagecwcb.org

Public Education Public Outreach got a big boost from the state. \$25,000 per basin is now available each year.

Please take the BIP Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6VFB6Y8>

There is a drought leadership training program through CSU Extension, February 4th, 11th, 18th, and March 4th, 8th, 9th, 16th.

IBCC- Jeris Danielson

In a discussion with Jeris, Dan Gibbs pointed out that 2022 will be the year of water. The Colorado River Compact will turn 50, and the Water Plan Update will hit the governor's desk in December. IBCC will continue to discuss demand management in February. Dan Gibbs also wants to look at the long-range evaluation of the privacies role and how to chart a path forward.

Jeris encouraged members to share input on what they would like to see IBCC work on.

Mark suggested that IBCC could work on the conceptual framework as it relates to new trans-mountain diversions and what that phrase means, and suggested discussion on the future of the Water Supply Reserve Fund.



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Needs Assessment Committee – Mark Shea

Reminder to think about current and potential projects.

Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich

Nothing new to report.

Enviro/Rec Committee – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, Rena Griggs

Bob requested that Roundtable Members suggest any potential agenda items for the Enviro/Rec committee to address.

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be in the Salida Steamplant Building, April 28-29. Mark your calendar!

ARWC – Jonathan Paklaian

The fuels mitigation specialist has been hired.

ARWC is planning for 2022, there will be lot of work in middle Arkansas Basin in the Wet Mountains.

The Monarch project is complete and ARWC had an after-action review with the Forest Service to discuss what could be improved.

ARWC received a small grant for a demonstration project for forestry and fuels work.

The Natural Resource Damages Trustee Council for California Gulch is looking to fund projects related to California Gulch and mining.

Jonathan is submitting a report to CDPHE for work following the Spring Creek Fire on Idlewild Creek.

Mark mentioned that the California Gulch projects include mitigating water quality issues from historic mining, road crossings over streets, forest management and wildfire risk reduction.

There will be a board meeting February 17th open to all Roundtable members.

PEPOW – Alli Schuch, Paul Fanning (meets on the 3rd Wednesday each month, at 1:30 pm)

There will be additional funding available for PEPO, and the team is looking at the new set of guidelines for PEPO grants.

Paul called for feedback on what PEPO could be working on.

The Water 22 kickoff will be happening soon, and the team is starting to look at the Water 22 mini tours.

Alli has continued work on the website, social media, and the Faces of the Watershed series.

Alli is also conducting the kickoff meeting to the Arkansas Basin Network involving folks across the basin to share resources and support one another.

Alli attended the Water Education Colorado Basin Brews meeting to involve Breweries in water education.

BREAK

PROGRAM – (see website for presentations)

BIP Update – Lindsey Griffith

Lindsey reviewed the updates on the BIP and then reviewed some of the changes that may need to be made to the BIP including:

A statement from the 2015 BIP that “The Arkansas BRT finds that the current rate of purchase and transfer of water rights from irrigated agriculture is unacceptable.” There was discussion on whether this is still the viewpoint of the Roundtable. Suggestions were made, including the removal of the sentence, taking more time to evaluate the statement, and a revised statement based on discussion of the Executive Committee: “The



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Arkansas BRT finds that the purchase and transfer of water rights out of basin from irrigated agriculture is unacceptable.” Alternatives were also suggested in the chat, “The Arkansas BRT is concerned that additional transfer of water rights from irrigated agriculture to other uses is undesirable and should be avoided if at all possible,” from Paul Fanning, and “The Arkansas BRT is concerned that additional transfer of water rights from irrigated agriculture to other uses that results in permanent dry-up of irrigated agriculture lands is undesirable and should be avoided if at all possible and further recommends mitigation efforts to protect local economies if permanent transfers occur,” from Jack Goble. Julie Knudson pointed out that a future statement could include economic *and* ecological impacts. Other suggestions include adding the context of the 2015 adoption of the statement.

The matter will be taken up for formal consensus in the February meeting.

Concerns were also raised about Appendix B, and whether the Arkansas Project List should be included in the BIP, since some of the projects are controversial. Language that expressed that the projects in the list are not necessarily endorsed by the Roundtable was suggested for addition.

PROGRAM

Beaver Park Water Inc. – Steve Kastner

This was a multi-year project to repair damages to the Beaver Park Water systems upper supply canal. The solution included replacing existing stream crossing flumes to increase canal capacity and removing and replacing 4,526 feet of failed canal lining. Thanks to the project going under budget another unlined section of the canal, “The Grand Canyon Cut,” was added to the project for removal of trees, course straightening, and pipeline installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Admin Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Annual Meeting: February 9, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: January 31
- CWCB: January 24-25 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: TBD
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: www.coloradofloodthreat.com
- Stream Management Plan Resource Library: <https://coloradosmp.org/>
- In-Stream Flow Rule Revisions: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/instream-flow-rules-revisions-hb-20-1157>
- DARCA - <https://www.darca.org/>



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ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING NOTES Wednesday January 12, 2022

Executive Committee/Guests Present:

Mark Shea – Chair	Tim Canterbury – IBCC Alt
Al Tucker – Rec	Terry Scanga - IBCC
Sandy White – Past Chair	Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec
Jeris Danielson – IBCC	Amber Shanklin - ARWC
Steve Kastner – Vch Cons	Jonathan Paklaian – ARWC EX Dir
Lindsey Griffith – Brown and Caldwell	Russ Sands - CWCB
Sam Stein - CWCB	

1. Greetings and necessary introductions:

Mark called the meeting to order at 10:30AM stating that we had a quorum.

2. Minutes/Notes of Previous meeting:

Mark called for any comments or changes to the December 8, 2021 Executive Committee Minutes hearing none approved the minutes by consensus.

3. ARWC Matters:

- **Executive Director Updates** - Jonathan reported that ARWC has hired Margaret Strozyk as the new Fuels Mitigation Specialist she will be focusing on the Wet Mountains initially having secured grants for this area. He is also working on our upcoming ARWC Board meeting on February 17th. He will pass it on to Mark for distribution an before long. He has also been meeting with the natural resources damages trustee council regarding the California Gulch proposal that has been submitted. A report is being submitted to the CHE regarding the Idlewild project which is now complete. Monarch is now complete and a final invoice is being submitted. Mark added that several items will be discussed at our upcoming ARWC Board meeting including sustainable funding and Bylaw’s review.

4. Reoccurring matters:

- **Chair Comments** – Mark Shea reported on previous meetings with water providers held in 2021 focusing on multiple year water quality initiatives that includes several of our Water Conservancy Districts in the Arkansas basin. The focus will be on water quality dashboards to better understand water quality issues. Mark asked if any questions regarding water quality issues with Steve Kastner commenting on the lower Ark presentation presented previous and Kansas concerns regarding water quality. Mark replied that several areas will be monitoring water quality with the most eastern several miles within the Kansas state line.



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Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members Bob Hamel opened the discussion regarding Nebraska’s funding several canal projects on the South Platt focusing on improving their water availability. The issue being compact flows required for Colorado’s delivery. Mark brought to Bob the Utah Railroad proposal and its effect on Brown’s Canyon. Bob responded that this appears to be an ongoing issue.

5. **ABRT BIP Update** – Public Comment period ended November 15. Lindsey Griffith reported on the Public comments received prior to November 15th. Her edits to Vol’s I & II should be completed by end of week. Her edits on the document should be ready by the scheduled Water Congress the end of January.

Lindsey has compiled BIP comments for other Basins to compare public reactions. Many of the comments received were observations and not necessarily changes to our BIP. One of the modifications to the BIP was Section 8 now referred to Education and Outreach for better clarity. Section 9 is changed to the BIP Executive Summary resulting from some of these comments. Many of these comments came from an organization called Water for Colorado. Bob Hamel asked for clarification regarding this organization. Jonathan posted that it appears to be a coalition of non-profits and community organizations.

Sandy White asked if this document and its modifications will be approved by the Roundtable and will that be a special meeting? Mark suggested that our next scheduled meeting February 9th may be a good date for approving. Terry Scanga agreed with Sandy’s earlier comments on how a few projects are being listed that have not gone through the Roundtable but are listed anyway. Terry has concerns on approving the entire document as it currently being presented. Mark suggested approving Vol’s 1 & 2 separately. Sandy suggested data base where these projects are listed should be separate from the state listed projects. Russ Sands suggested to add caveat language to clarify project not Roundtable projects.

Mark suggested we proceed to discuss Volume II. Lindsey stated this volume is developed mostly from our 2015 BIP. She has highlighted some of the statements that she felt could be updated for today’s issues and concerns e.g. “water sharing” being misleading to today’s environment. Other wording with how water used in agricultural areas as being not conducive for today. Several issues about agricultural water being transferred to non-ag use is penitent to some of today’s concerns. Lindsey wrapped up the discussion on basically wording and whether or not include current basin projects in volume 2.

6. Roundtable Business:

- Demand Management Discussion
- Mark opened the discussion on our 2022 Program topics that Steve Kastner will be providing in our upcoming Roundtable General Sessions. Steve Kastner shared his list of ideas for topics of discussion in these meetings for 2022. Steve asked if any of us knew any subject matter experts on any of these topics. Terry suggested we add the Colorado River as it affects other basins and would like to have a knowledgeable person discuss what is happening with the Colorado River and its effect on our Basin. Bob Hamel suggested having the Arkansas River Cooperative which is



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a funding organization created by the Arkansas River outfitters do a presentation at one of our upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basing Roundtable – February 9th.
 - Executive Committee – 10:30 AM
 - Roundtable – 12:30 PM
- Committees –
 - PEPOW
 - Enviro/Rec Comm. Last Monday of the Month January 22, 2022
 - Ag/Municipal Comm.
- IBCC –
- CWCB –
- Colorado Water Congress –

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:06