



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECEISIONS

Start Time: 12:30pm

November 9, 2022

Pueblo Community College, Student Center Building

Members in Attendance;

Mark Shea	Sam Stein	Tim Canterbury	Tom Verquer
Bob Hamel	Al Tucker	Seth Clayton	Chris Wiseman
Gracy Goodwin	Abby Aahmed	Tom Grasmick	Ariel Hacker
Steve Kastner	Jeff Rodriguez	Dwayne McFall	Gilbert Ramiez
Greg Felt	Matt Heimrich	Kevin Niles	Rena Griggs
Jeris Danielson	Dan Williams	Kent Ricken	Mannie Colon
Sandy White	(excused)	Terry Scanga	Amy Mitchell
Joshua Godwin	Spike Ausmus	Jonathaian Paklaian	

• Guests and Presenters Present;

James Eccher	Lisa Pace
Jean Van Pelt	Gaye Davis
Chelsea Nutter	

• Greetings and Introductions;

- Establish Quorum
 - Quorum Present

• Approval of Agenda;

- Agenda approved by consensus

• Approval of Minutes/Notes of Previous Meeting;

- Minutes approved by consensus with no changes

• Public Comment

- None

• Reports;

• Executive Committee – Mark Shea

- Mark welcomed Ariel Hacker representing El Paso County to the Roundtable. Ariel introduced herself she as a county rep and is replacing Mike Fink on the Roundtable.

• CWCB Report – Jeff Rodriguez and Russ Sands

- Mark called on Greg Felt Director CWCB for his report. Greg provided his contact info for individuals to reach out to him regarding the hurdles navigating the new Grant Portal that is in the process of development. (gfelt@chaffeeconomy.org) Greg announced that the new Water Plan Grant Coordinator is coming on board, Lauren Dunkin. She will serve the Ark Basin as her focus. She is planning on joining the Roundtable at our December meeting and will be open for questions. Mark asked Greg to keep us updated on the Colorado River Compacs and the impact regarding the Ark Basin water's need.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

Greg said a new element he brought up was evaporation from the area where Colorado's supply the water and downstream where its finally develed to the Lower Basins hasn't been accounted for and its becoming more of an issues. He's been assured this is a topic of future discussions which looks promising. Terry asked about the changing leadership positions within CWCB. Greg replied that the governor has appointed new commissioner positions due to the new pressues with water demands. It will be up to the legislature in the coming year to approve these positions and associated costs.

- **IBCC – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga**
 - Jeris reported that IBCC met October 24th at the meeting Jeris brought up the support for the Ark Basin Conduit. Water related activity funding was discussused with regard to the \$17 million infusion with each Roundtable receiving a million and PEPO getting a million. The Colorado River situation was discussed and still indicsive as to resolve the issue. The Governor has appointed Chris Mountain of the Ute Tribe to sit on the IBCC this is a first for any tribal member to sit on the IBCC or CWCB. Everyone is excited. We're looking for an IBCC and all Roundtable joint meeting coming up. Terry brought up the continuing shared risk with the Colorado River water and the IBCC's central role in bringing this to the forefront.
- **Needs Assessment – Gracy Goodwin**
 - Gracy discussed the funds analysis and the four applications for the Water Plan Grant where we'll need to supply a letter of support if they're move ahead. Next will be four presentations for the Water Supply Reserve Funds Grant. Currently the funds are for \$1 million bumped up from the \$750K that will be reverted back in July 2023. Steve Kastner inquired regarding when will the funds for the current level need to be allocated. Gracy felt the we need to apportion the funds by the first part of 2023. Mark again felt we need to have our constituents brought on board for any projects that may qualify for the funds and benefit their communities.
- **Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich and Kent Ricken**
 - Mark called on Matt and Kent to report on whether an Ag meeting has been scheduled yet. Kent reported that to date one hasn't been scheduled, but will be soon.
- **Enviro Rec – Bob Hamel and Rena Griggs**
 - Bob reported they met on October 31st. Two items came forward one on the Griffin Park channel being reactivated. Another was the Minequa Dam below Canon City and allowing access around the dam which could affect some of the fish species. Bob also update on the Water Forum Planning committee coming together to formulate the 2023 Water Forum event scheduled to Colorado Springs in April 25th & 26th 2023. There will also be a VIP Dinner scheduled for the 24th preceding the Forum scheduled events and presentations. Bob also pointed out that they're still looking for someone to fill Amber Shanklin's position on the Enviro/Rec Committee there are some interest expressed they're looking at these individuals which need to be nominated by a conservation organization to qualify.
- **Arkansas River Waterhed Collaborative – Jonathan Paklaian**
 - Jonathan reported on attending the Colorado's Watershed Conference. ARWC is working on some watershed projects and still looking for grant funding. Investigatin funding sources has used up staff funds as it's time consuming and to date ARWC has



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE

spent around \$17,000 researching these funding opportunities developing these grant requests. They have also lost Carrie Adair from ARWC and need to fill this position.
223:00

- **PEPO – Jonathan Paklaian**
 - Jonathan asked Maria Brandt the ARWC PEPO Representative to report. She reported that CWCB has been very helpful with all the new responsibilities coming up with ARWC and funding issues. One of the issues has been access to funding which only now has become available to ARWC. Until now outreach and education has been limited but with access to funding it will now become more effective. With this new access for funding they’re looking for more active participation with these other statewide programs along with networking. Sandy asked about a BIP Coordinator being funded through PEPO available funds. At this time not a definitive answer has arisen.
- **Needs Assessment Committee: Presentation of Water Plan and WSRF Grant Applications**
 - Gracy opened the WSRF grants for moving forward. These following applications were approved to move forward with a letter of support unanimously.

Water Plan Grant Applications (ABRT Letters of Support Only)

Item	Description	Organization	Presenter
1	Next Generation Water Leaders	River Science Center	Chelsea Nutter Approved to move forward.
2	Southmoor Drive Channel & Floodplain Restoration	Fountain Creek Watershed District	Alli Schuch Approved to move forward.
3	2023 Education & Outreach Event	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum	Jean Van Pelt Approved to move forward
4	NRCS Planning Assistance Support	HCWCD	Carol Dunn Sandy presented in place of Carol. Approved to move forward

- **Water Supply & Reserve Fund Grant Applications (ABRT Funding & Letters of Support)**
 - **First Grant Application:** Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project Presented by Jonathan Paklaian, ARWC
The presentation reviewed four components of this project.
 - Task 1: Upland watershed protection - ARWC
 - Task 2: Crossings, Habitat, Infrastructure – Team Lake County
 - Task 3: Overarching – Team ARWC
 - Task 4: Mines and Habitat – Team Trout Unlimited
Basin Benefits: Arkansas River Watershed, Fish and Wildlife, Fire risk, Flooding, Watershed resiliency, Water Supply & Infrastructure, 100 mile of Gold Medal Fishery, Most rafted in the world
Gracy asked if there were any concerns or issues none were expressed, and approval for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- **Second Grant Application:** Upper Canal Automated Diversion Headgate Replacement Beaver Park Water Inc.

The presentation reviewed by Steve Kastner

The project presented was the Replacement of the Beaver Park Headgate. The objective is to replace the aged and failing headgate which requires manual operation with a new automated headgate.

Basin Benefits: New headgate features increase efficiency and maximizes water supplies. Reduces staff and cost to operate and increases staff safety accessing diversion site sometimes due to inclement weather. Mannie Colon asked a few questions due to the operation of the new gate and was informed of its operation requirements.

Gracy asked if there were any more questions or concerns there were none and was approved for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.

- **Third Grant Application:** Coler Ditch Diversion Project for the City of Walsenburg

The presentation reviewed by Gaye Davis

Project Needs; The City of Walsenburg owns and operates Walsenburg Reservoir (City Lake) that supplies their treatment plant. The reservoir is filled with raw water diverted near the town of La Veta through eleven miles of pipelines. The reservoir is able to store 410AF but currently is storing 150AF a 45% loss due to pipeline degradation due to multiple breaks resulting in continuing shut downs for repairs. This has resulted in suspended solids in the treatment plant and turbidity violations due to algae growth and stage 2 water restrictions for Walsenburg residents.

The solution is to utilize the seasonal water right available through the Coler Ditch decree and divert water into Walsenburg Reservoir. This provides a new water source for Walsenburg while introducing redundancy to maintain storage.

Gracy asked if there were any questions it was approved for Grant funding and a Letter of Support from the Roundtable.

- **Fourth Grant Application:** Lake Beckwith Dam Rehab Colorado City Metropolitan District
James Eccher waived today's presentation.

- **Fifth Grant Application:** Landscape Transformation Colorado Springs Utilities
Presentation reviewed by Lisa Pace

Project overview is to transform new landscapes by incentivizing home builders to install drought resilient plant material, low –water lawn alternatives, and efficient irrigation equipment ensuring landscape resiliency through water scarcity and climate change.

Benefits is reducing watering use in new subdivisions.

Gracy asked if there were questions consensus to move forward.

- **Adjourn**

- Mark called for the meeting to adjourn at 3:00pm



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- **Upcoming Meetings**
 - **Arkansas Basin Roundtable**
 - Executive Committee – 10:30am
 - General Session – 12:30pm
 - **Committees**
 - Needs Assessment – December 2022
 - Environmental/Recreation Committee – None in December back 2023
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee – November 8,9,10 or 15 2022?
 - IBCC - TBD
 - **ARWC – Q4 December XX TBD**
 - **IBCC – February 15, 2023, Oct 2023**
 - **CWCB Board Meeting – November 16-17 – Denver Water**



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
Wednesday November 9, 2022 10:30 am
Pueblo Community College
900 W Orman Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/Guests Present

Mark Shea – Chair	Sandy White – Past Chair	Jeff Rodriguez – CWCB
Bob Hamel – Vch Env/Rec	Jonathan Paklaian	Tim Canterbury - IBCC
Gracy Godwin – NAC	Sam Stein – CWCB	Matt Heimrich – AG @ Large
Steve Kastner – Vch Cons	Al Tucker – Recorder	Dan Williams - CC
Greg Felt – CWCB	Abby Aahmed – Aurora	
Jeris Danielson – IBCC	Water	

- **Greetings and Introductions;**
 - Mark called the meeting to order at 10:30 noting a quorum was present.
- **Minutes/Notes of Previous Meeting;**
 - The minutes were approved by consensus
- **Reoccurring Matters:**
 - Chair Comments - Mark Shea opened the conversation about sharing the duties vacated when Elise retired. Mark noted that so far everyone was picking up these extra duties. Mark also discussed the need for filling some of the Roundtable vacant seats due to recent turnovers. Aerial Hacker from El Paso County will be joining us at today's meeting. Commissioner Gerald Baldwin has appointed to represent Otero County, this still leaves us some vacancies in Chaffee and other counties. Mark requested Roundtable members seek out through their constituents projects and interested individuals who may wish to become members. Mark also pointed out that he and Jonathan attended a water summit in Frisco the focus was on watershed health in the prevention of fires with several organizations.
 - Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members - Mark inquired if there is any other executive committee members who wish to report out. Jeris inquired regarding news on the Water Plan Grant Coordinator position that's to be filled. Mark asked Jeff if there are any updates to this. Jeff replied that the Water Plan Grant Regional Coordinators have been hired. Jeff stated that Loren Dunkin will be assigned the Ark Basin position. She will start November 14th. Mark said nothing has been reported out to date. Matt Heimrich updated everyone on the Conduit project going on, the project coordinators were grateful for the Executive Committee's support being offered. Greg Felt also reported that the meeting with Southeastern produced their intentions that they don't intend to come and negatively impact funding to our basin. Importantly, funding needs not negatively impact communities. Mark opened the discussion on Project Data Base vs Roundtable Data Base or Spreadsheet and how we use these two resources differently. One is updated and



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

- **Reoccurring Matters Con't:**

current while the other is updated annually creating an issue of collaboration. Sandy felt this necessitates a BIP Coordinator position.

- **Roundtable Business;**

AWRC/PEPO WSRF grant contract amendment - Jonathan inquired regarding grant program support. Is this support only for water plan grants or do other projects qualify? Jeff responded that these positions were hired to specifically work on water plan grants. Even with the additional funding there isn't any staff increase to assist in administering these grants projects. The work still will rely on the Roundtable and PEPO individuals. There will be a contractor brought on board to assist with the federal grant programs to assist in guiding these grants to the proper portal. Greg added that these Regional Coordinators would be helpful if they could be one person per basin for individuals to go to for help would be valuable assets instead of those seeking grant assistance being told that's out of their scope of work. Greg said he will continue to pursue this going forward. Jeff offered to assist us with navigating this grant program. Sandy iterated that the less affluent counties need more than just an individual to assist with rural counties needing grant funds. We need someone who can come to these counties and help assist with the actual needs from identifying who and where to get assistance. Jeff pointed that there may be funds available for an individual such as a BIP Coordinator to do the type of assistance that Sandy is requesting. Gracy pointed out its not cut and dried that a grant for BIP Coordinator was turned away because of the matching funds didn't qualify. This process is still very unclear at this time.

- **Upcoming Meetings**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – December 9, 2022
 - Executive Committee – 10:30 AM
 - Roundtable – 12:30 PM
- Committees
 - Needs Assessment – December 2022
 - PEPO – TBD
 - Environmental/Recreation
 - Agriculture/Municipal Committee –
 - ARWC – 4th QTR Board December
 - IBCC – TBD
 - CWCB Board Meeting –

- **Adjourn;**

- Mark called for adjournment

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), Gracy Goodwin (Needs Assessment), (Legislative Rep), Amber Shanklin (ARWC Board Member), Sara Mudge (ARWC Board Member)

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