

## **ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE**

Website: [www.arkansasbsin.com](http://www.arkansasbsin.com)

Email: [arkbasinrt@gmail.com](mailto:arkbasinrt@gmail.com)

**Wednesday April 14, 2021**

**Start Time: 12:30 pm**

**Zoom Meeting link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/96910122199?pwd=b0F1YUIxNDdQd2M4bjM5ZDNkM1Q3UT09>

<b>12:30-12:35</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Mark Shea [5 min]</b> Establish quorum Approval of agenda Approval of minutes – March 2021 Public Comment
<b>12:35 – 1:40</b>	<b>Reports [65 min]</b> Executive Committee – Mark Shea (5 min) CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Becky Mitchell, Greg Felt (25 min) IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson and Terry Scanga (5 min) Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega (5 min) Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich (5 min) Enviro/Rec – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, and Rena Griggs (5 min) Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative – Carol Ekarius (5 min) PEPO – Paul Fanning, Alli Schuch (5 min) BIP Update – Brown & Caldwell (5 min)
<b>1:40 – 1:45</b>	<b>Break [5 min]</b>
<b>1:45 – 2:30</b>	<b>Program [45 min]</b> The Importance of Supplemental Water to Agricultural Interests in the Arkansas Basin – Bill Tyner, Division Engineer

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

#### **Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 12, 2021**

- **Exec. Committee – 10:30am**
- **Roundtable – 12:30pm**

#### **ABRT Committees**

- PEPO Workgroup – April 21, 1:30pm
- Enviro/Rec Comm. – April 26, 10:00am

CWCB – Board meeting: May 19 & 20

Statewide PEPO Meeting – June 22, 1-3pm

IBCC Meeting – June 23, 8am-12

## **Additional Zoom Meeting Information:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96910122199?pwd=b0F1YUlxDQd2M4bjM5ZDNkM1Q3UT09>

Meeting ID: 969 1012 2199

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# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

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## ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

April 14, 2021

GoToMeeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631824957>

More information and presentations may be found at: [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

### Roundtable Business

Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. There are 18 active members as of March 31, 2021; quorum is a simple majority of active members, therefore 10 is a quorum. Mark welcomed CWCB Director Becky Mitchell, who visited the meeting today.

#### Voting Members Present:

Jim Broderick	Tim Canterbury	Seth Clayton
Jeris Danielson	Paul Fanning	Greg Felt
Mike Fink	Bob Hamel	Terry Hart
Bob Hartzman	Matt Heimerich	Rick Kidd
Scott King	Dwayne McFall	Sarah Mudge
Rego Omergic	Abby Ortega	Terry Scanga
Tom Seaba	Mark Shea	Greg Teter
Tom Verquer	Amber Weber	Mike Weber
Sandy White		

#### Non-Voting Members Present:

Rick Kienitz

### Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

March meeting notes have been circulated for review. *Meeting notes were approved by consensus.*

### Public Comment - none

### REPORTS:

#### Executive Committee – Mark Shea

The Executive Committee had a robust discussion regarding the Code of Conduct provided by CWCB. We do have several seats available on the roundtable, including two at-large seats. There was an all-chairs meeting this week. Mark participated in a couple of the CWCB workshops that have been held recently. Both workshops were about the focus area mapping tool that Jojo La has been working on.

#### CWCB Report – Becky Mitchell – engagecwcb.org

Becky Mitchell visited the roundtable meeting today and talked about the Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado Water Plan Updates. She thanked everyone for their work on them. There is a possibility of stimulus funds coming in. How do we optimize possible stimulus money as we build back better? The more specific information we have, the better, as we move forward. She acknowledged the complexity of the BIP update process, due to be complete by June 30<sup>th</sup>.



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Becky gave the roundtable updates on other things happening.

The Colorado River discussion regarding demand management has been progressing. The CWCB board adopted Step 2 of the DM Work Plan. It focuses on the framework and is a tool for the continuing discussion. Greg Johnson will be getting on our agenda to discuss that at a roundtable meeting. It's going to get more difficult, and it will be crucial to stand together as a state.

Regarding the lively discussions of the Code of Conduct - this has not changed much from what DWR already had internally, but needs to be extended to the roundtable level. It's not meant to be a policing, but it is a reminder of who we are and what we stand for. We're asking the roundtables to hold the standard that we hold ourselves too.

The water equity taskforce is about opening up conversations between roundtables and all water users, not about water rights issues or demand management. You are welcome to form your own taskforce. We're not trying to re-look at prior appropriation doctrine, the attention is on how we broaden the conversation. Everyone deserves access to clean water and a voice at the table. We are going to be looking at equity, diversity and inclusion through a broad lens. You can adopt this policy or not, but it has been adopted by the state and applies to all of the roundtables.

It is possible that federal stimulus funding will become available. This funding will come through the Water Plan program. Please be prepared with grant applications in case there is a big influx of funds into the basins. There may be some strings attached about how quickly it must be spent. Water projects are a good aspect of economic recovery.

Re Zoom Meetings – so much of the passion is generated by face-to-face conversations. We know that you are missing that. Staff is missing that as well. Please hang in there with us.

We are pushing to add funds to WSRF every chance we get, but it still holds true that the severance tax fund is expected to be very low for the next three years. The Water Plan grant fund does have \$16 million at this time. Remember that you are the stewards of the money that comes in, and you are shaping how that money is spent. The budget is uncertain, but please do NOT put projects on hold because of that. If/when stimulus funds come in, there will be a level of urgency with that, and projects will need to be ready for funding, so that funds are stimulating the economy as quickly as possible. For instance, forest and watershed health projects are labor intensive, and if funded, start feeding local economies immediately.

Sandy asked about funding for forest management projects. There has been an issue as to who should be responsible for that. CWCB is eager to fund this further, so please raise your voice as to that need.

The first Colorado Water Plan, in Chapter 9, focused on the federal component and the NEPA process. One of the things that we thought about was this question, about how to make project permitting efficient. When things take so long that work must be re-done, that's not efficient at all. We need to clean up our own house first. That was part of the goal of the water plan and BIP updates. What has been achieved is our blue book on how best to get projects done. That was a collaborative project with federal partners and some of the large water utilities.

Link to the HANDBOOK – Colorado Water Supply Planning and Permitting:

<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/cwcb/0/doc/204742/Electronic.aspx?searchid=6a096399-9602-4dad-953f-32e94af10fe6>



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Greg Felt echoed comments regarding forest health, which is such an integral part of our water infrastructure that it is really present in nearly every project.

Greg introduced Robert Sakata, the newest CWCB board member.

## Upcoming Workshops ([engagecwcb.org](http://engagecwcb.org)):

Apr 21	Resilient Food Systems Workshop
May 5	Climate Change and Agriculture Workshop
May 6	Water Plan Update Education Scoping Workshop
May 26	Irrigation Innovation Workshop
Jun 2	Water Plan Update Water Sharing & Drought Scoping Workshop
Jun 8	Riverside Chat II

## **IBCC Report – Jeris Danielson & Terry Scanga**

The next IBCC meeting will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Yampa/White/Green basin made a Demand Management Statement. Jeris thinks we should review, discuss, and write our own statement. Mark will share the statement with the roundtable. Exec committee can take a first crack at developing our own statement. Will discuss this in May.

Link to Yampa White Green Roundtable-Demand Management Document:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t-BJ-ZO5wESfVoxcgUegNAdvBYZb-gFj/view>

## **Needs Assessment Committee – Abby Ortega**

The next round of WSRF Grant Applications is due to Abby by April 30<sup>th</sup> for a Needs Assessment Committee meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and presentation at the May 12<sup>th</sup> roundtable meeting. There is \$427,000 available in basin funds and \$5,400,000 in statewide funds available. Abby is expecting two at this time.

If anyone is available and would like to participate in the Needs Assessment Committee, they are welcome to do so. It would be helpful to have more folks review applications.

## **Enviro/Rec – Bob Hamel, Amber Shanklin, Rena Griggs**

Did have a workshop with Jojo La regarding the focus area maps. Gives us the task of how to move on with that in the future. This will be on our agenda. Rena saw it as super-valuable and having a lot of potential. What additional GIS layers could be added in to make it even more useful? More recent environmental projects need to be added and people are eager to do that. It would be good to know what the current layers are. Carol suggested adding fire scar layers and other possible layers that show projects funded outside of CWCB. Mark reminded members that the first BIP was developed without a Decision Support System, something that is still in progress for the Arkansas Basin RT.

CDPHE has put out a request for proposals, after the Newmont USA settlement regarding the California Gulch Superfund Site: Upper Arkansas River-California Gulch Natural Resources Damages – Solicitation for Project Proposals

[https://mcusercontent.com/30f0231e9e83e1d491fb461b2/files/70c4756d-780a-47c4-b8c7-ff1b983ab7d9/CDPHERM\\_HAZ\\_NRD\\_Restoration\\_Upper\\_Arkansas\\_River\\_California\\_Gulch\\_NRD\\_Solicitation\\_for\\_Project\\_Proposal.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/30f0231e9e83e1d491fb461b2/files/70c4756d-780a-47c4-b8c7-ff1b983ab7d9/CDPHERM_HAZ_NRD_Restoration_Upper_Arkansas_River_California_Gulch_NRD_Solicitation_for_Project_Proposal.pdf)



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USFS/NRCS federal funds may be coming. It does exclude funding for roadless areas. Mark Shea provide a link.

## ARWC – Carol Ekarius

We have a grant contract in place for last year's forest and fire related issues, including planning. Looking at critical watersheds for water supply to feed the forest atlas in the future. We're also making an agreement with CDPHE for additional funds for Spring Creek Fire mitigation.

The board is now meeting regularly outside of the RT day. The board changed the language in the ARWC bylaws to allow the board to nominate additional board members outside of the RT executive committee. Allows us to look for members that can bring specific skills and knowledge. At least 51% of the ARWC board must be RT exec comm members and the entire roundtable will need to approve new member appointments. In May, the ARWC board will discuss the process to add new members.

On the Monarch steep slope pilot project, we are getting to work. The forest service came up with extra money which needs to be matched, which will expand the project to the NW side of Monarch Pass, adding 125 additional acres. Keeping that contractor here for another field season is really important. Around half of the original scope is left, and we are hoping to make it attractive for them to possibly add a hub in Colorado.

## PEPO – Paul Fanning, Alli Schuch (meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, at 1:30 pm)

PEPOW met last month. We are putting together what our revitalized outreach will look like. They have come up with an initial task list for Alli, beginning with website updates. They are also working on the Education Action Plan, which is due in June.

Paul and Alli both attended the statewide PEPO meeting. The Education Action Plan is a two-year plan, which is now due in June. Expectations were discussed regarding the development of metrics for PEPO that are integrated with the Basin Implementation Plan.

## BIP Update – Brett Gracely, Will Koger, Lindsay Griffith

We are making revisions to basin goals, including tweaking language that just came out of the exec comm meeting this morning. This kicked off a strategy discussion around the focus of the content for Volume 1. The strategies are the bridge between basin goals and the projects; telling the story of how the projects will meet the goals. Will develop four or five strategies and bring that back to the roundtable when it is more fleshed out.

Then we will be talking about the development of Volume 2, which is more of a refinement of what was done in 2015, deciding what needs an update, and what is no longer applicable. The goal is to have a draft completed by end of June. There will be an internal review before it's submitted to the roundtable, and those review processes will begin in July.

## **BREAK**

## The Importance of Supplemental Water to Agricultural Interests in the Arkansas Basin – Bill Tyner, Division Engineer

- Value of additional water supply to mainstem ditches below Pueblo Reservoir
  - Examples:
    - Bessemer Ditch
    - Catlin Canal
    - Rocky Ford Highline Canal



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- Fort Lyon Canal
- Economic Aspect of Supplemental Supplies
  - Estimating gross revenue per acre for four project area ditches
  - Estimating acreage value of water supply components
  - Estimating revenue enhancement from supplemental supplies

Looked at types of crops grown, and estimated crop yield-crop prices per acre. This resulted in estimated acres irrigated/revenue by source of water.

- Examples of Cooperative FryArk/Municipal/Agricultural Successes in the Arkansas Basin with Well Associations
  - Arkansas Groundwater Users' Association – FryArk/Municipal Contributions for Replacement Water
  - Colorado Water Protective & Development Association – FryArk/Municipal Contributions
  - Lower Arkansas Water Management Association - FryArk/Municipal Contributions

The Frying Pan/Arkansas Project and municipal leases have played a major role in the operation of the three large well associations in the Ark River basin. Numerous municipalities have provided water to the associations. Leases of municipal water have also been critically important as a supply for Compact Compliance to the Offset Account in John Martin Reservoir.

Members asked questions and discussed the benefits of increased storage higher up in the system, alluvial aquifer storage, the benefits and cost of transit loss, enviro/rec benefits, and more. All were agreed as to the value of supplemental supplies.

Bill Tyner also commented on the loss of storage due to sedimentation after fire. If you can use pre-fire mitigation forest health measures to avoid that loss of storage, that is huge.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.

**Admin Email:** ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

**MEETINGS/LINKS: (all meetings in 2021 will be virtual)**

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable Meeting: May 12, 12:30 pm [www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)
- PEPOW: April 21, 1:30 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly) [www.pepoarkbasin.com](http://www.pepoarkbasin.com)
- Enviro/Rec: April 26, 10:00 am
- CWCB: May 19 & 20 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: June 22, 1-3 pm
- IBCC: June 23, 8-12
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: <http://www.arbwf.org/>
- Colorado Water Plan: <http://coloradowaterplan.com/>
- Colorado Flood Threat Bulletin: [www.coloradofloodthreat.com](http://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/>

**ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Agenda

**Wednesday April 14, 2021**

**Start Time: 10:30 am**

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

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Greetings and necessary introductions

Minutes/Notes of the previous meeting

ARWC Matters

- Executive Director Update

Reoccurring matters

- Chair Comments – Mark Shea
- Outstanding Reports – Executive Committee Members

ABRT BIP Update

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies – Brown & Caldwell

Roundtable Business

- Draft policy re Letters of Support for Stream Restoration Projects

Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 12, 2021
  - Executive Committee – 10:30am
  - Roundtable – 12:30pm
- Committees
  - PEPOW – April 21, 1:30pm
  - Enviro/Rec Comm. – April 26, 10 am
- CWCB Board Meeting – May 19 & 20
- Statewide PEPO – June 22, 2021
- IBCC – June 23, 2021

**Adjourn**

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Committee membership: Mark Shea (Ch), Bob Hamel (VCh-NonC), Matt Heimerich (VCh-Cons), Mike Fink (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), Carol Ekarius (ARWC Director)

## **Additional Zoom Meeting Information:**

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 969 1012 2199

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Additional distribution: Sam Stein (CWCB Staff), Elise Bergsten (Secretary), Carol Ekarius (ARWC Director)



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Executive Committee Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – Zoom Meeting  
[www.arkansasbasin.com](http://www.arkansasbasin.com)

**Executive Committee Present:** Mark Shea – Chair; Mike Fink – Secretary; Paul Fanning, Al Tucker, Tim Canterbury, Jeris Danielson - IBCC, Sandy White- Past Chair; Matt Lindburg, Sam Stein-CWCB; Alli Schuch, Bob Hamel – Vice Chair (Recreational and Environmental Committee); Brett Gracely Consultant; Sarah Mudge, Lindsay Griffith, Matt Heimerich-Vice Chair, Abby Ortega, Russ Sands, Kate , Gracy; Greg Felt, Carol Ekarius-ARWC.

**Call to order:**

Chairman Mark Shea called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Greetings and introductions were performed.

**Minutes:**

Consensus approval for March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

**ARWC Board Meeting:**

- Executive Director Update- the CWCB grant has been approved.
- Carol Ekarius (Interim Executive Director) stated the ARWC team will start the hiring process in the next couple of months and by summer there will be a new Executive Director.

**Reoccurring Matters:**

- Chair Comments- Mark shares that there are open Roundtable seats ready to be filled specifically at large water right holders; the 2021 roster is on the Roundtable website.
- Other Outstanding Reports- the CWCB Code of Conduct document dated 3.25.2021 was presented and discussed; this discussion will continue but won't be addressed at the Roundtable level for action on today's meeting.

**ABRT BIP Update/ Local Expert:**

- Status update; Goals, Actions and Strategies- the local experts went over the revised goals, actions and strategies document with the Executive Committee Lindsey outlined the following categories/goals:
  - Storage
  - Municipal and Industrial
  - Agricultural
  - Environmental Recreational
  - Watershed Health (combined with Environment Recreational goals)
- Mark made some corrections to the ATM (alternative transfer methods) goals and instead of using (ATM) he suggests replacing it with “water sharing”.
- Terry agrees with Lindsay we should make a definition area to define terms provided in the document he isn’t comfortable using the terms “water sharing” or “water trading”.
- Sandy White states when he saw “water sharing” he immediately assumed that we were talking about rotation practices.



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- Abby states she doesn't want us to make a definition section that conflicts with what the state is trying to define. Abby suggests Lindsay locate the definition of (ATM) in the state plan and reference that.
  - Tim states we need to clearly define "water sharing" or leave it as (ATM).
  - During the 3.10.2021 Executive Meeting Jeris had some issues regarding Storage Goals (3A) he objected the language that stated if the project included Environmental and Recreational attributes there are rehabilitation efforts that might be excluded from including that kind of thing; Jeris just suggested putting a period after funds. The final discussion is to keep the wording how it is currently.
  - Lindsay mentions that there will be a couple more opportunities to go over the strategies document before its final. Lindsay and Matt developed a document on the discussion strategies to develop IP&P they have a renewed focus on strategies; there will be an entire section under volume 1 (one) The strategies content:
    - Support the implementation of projects
    - Conduct vulnerability assessments; to identify needs
    - Targeted funding to meet Basin goals
    - Maximizing economic impact within the Basin
    - Develop "water sharing" partnerships
  - Matt mentions that adding an augmentation cap in the strategies content was talked about; there were several comments about maximizing the economic for the water available for augmentation. The point of this strategy is to bring goals from prior BIP's into a specific section and bring things all together and provide focus toward future Roundtable activities.
- Q:** Paul would like to know what the local experts' time frame is for getting some more information into the goals; reason being PEPO is scrambling around getting the Education Action Plan ready to submit, which aligns with the strategy goals? How would you like the PEPO workgroup to submit a basic outline of the Education Action Plan?
- A:** Section one volume 1 (one) is dedicated to PEPO; the local experts are working actively on volume 1 (one) the intent is to have 90% of that draft completed by June 1, 2021 and then by June 30, 2021 to have 100% done.
- The fifth strategy could be more defined in "partnership approaches" to projects in the Arkansas Basin; which can still include your ATM work but it also extends to all other projects.
  - Lindsey states the Local Experts dove into volume 1 (one) within all the Basins and for volume 2 (two) their ultimate plan is to do a light touch up and re-organization while getting feedback where needed.

## **Roundtable Business:**

- Draft policy re letters of support for Stream Restoration Projects- Mark wants to continue to take time and effort on this project. Mark would like Jeris to put together a small group of Roundtable members to discuss this topic's further.
- Jeris feels the document is well written and the Roundtable should move forward on a vote; Sandy agrees; Mark would like Jeris to send out a rough draft.



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## Upcoming Meetings:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable – May 12, 2021
  - Executive Committee- 10:30am
  - Roundtable- 12:30pm
- committees
  - Enviro/Rec Comm.- April 26, 2021: 10:00am
  - PEPOW- April 21, 2021, 1:30am
- Statewide PEPO- June 22, 2021
- CWCB Board Meeting- May 19 & 20, 2021
- IBCC- June 23, 2021

## Adjourn:

Mark Shea adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting at 11:30 AM.