



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS

June 8, 2022

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

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

Voting Members In Attendance: (12 in-person, 14 by zoom, 3 excused)

Jim Broderick	Tim Canterbury	Seth Clayton	Jeris Danielson
Jeffrey DeHerrera	Paul Fanning	Greg Felt	Jack Goble
Gracy Goodwin	Tom Grasmick	Bob Hamel	Keith Hood
Steve Kastner	Scott King	Dwayne McFall	Kevin Niles
Dan Richards	Kent Ricken	Terry Scanga	Amber Shanklin
Mark Shea	Greg Teter	Al Tucker	Amber Weber
Sandy White	Chris Wiseman		

Approval of Agenda

The June agenda has been circulated for review. *Agenda was approved by consensus.*

Approval of Prior Meeting Notes

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

Public Comment – none

REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Mark Shea

The Executive Committee discussed program topics and other items that will be covered later in the meeting.

CWCB Report – Sam Stein, Russ Sands, Greg Felt – engagecwcb.org – gfelt@chaffeeconomy.org; 719-530-1118

The Colorado Water Plan will be available for the 90-day public comment period on June 30th. The Engage CWCB website will be used to collect comments. Four listening sessions will be held on zoom and recorded: On July 27 will be the session Thriving Watersheds, August 10 will be Resilient Planning, September 1 will be Thriving Communities, and September 28 will be Robust Agriculture. Details are available on the CWCB website calendar. CWCB will be collecting stories around state to show off the good work that is already being done.

Reporting access for the Municipal Water Use and Conservation Database (The HB1051 Database) is now live. The deadline for reporting has been postponed until September 1st. To set up an account go to the [engagecwcb](http://engagecwcb.org) website.

The next IBCC meeting will be held on June 30th, location TBD. IBCC is interested in discussing how to support project advancement for the various basins. There will be a Water Plan celebration lunch after the IBCC meeting. Sam issued a thanks to all of the PEPO coordinators and chairs for getting their applications in.

Greg Felt: The May meeting included a workshop of the Water Plan, and discussion around the resiliency toolbox concept. At the close of the workshop there was lot of discussion about prioritization in a time when there may be



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one or more crisis situations emerging for Colorado. The board discussed what steps to take to prioritize projects and funding, and what projects address multiple crises? There was also discussion about how to communicate to the public and the west that there are actions being taken. In addition to having an Executive Summary there was also discussion on adding a letter to the final draft from the board that helps frame this point in time.

As a result of these discussions, last Tuesday evening there was a 5-8pm board workshop on the water plan to discuss these issues further. The Water Plan will be coming out June 30th in conjunction with the IBCC meeting. Greg led a panel on the Water Plan in during the Spring Conference.

Mark question: are there other actions that the directors contemplated?

The plan references other actions that other agencies will be taking. There was an effort to connect the dots between state agencies. The plan highlights the challenges of each of the basins. There is great focus on what CWCB can do within its statutory limits.

Mark: Most of the energy is now running through the state water plan funding, rather than WSRF funding. It is important to use the tools that we have developed as a roundtable. There is a need for focus on water supply projects and protection of water supplies. There is interest in stream management, but storage, and efficiency projects will address the challenge of water demands.

Greg: It is very important to prioritize projects that address the crises we are facing. The board can influence the kind of projects that get prioritized and improve projects.

A pleasant surprise is that severance tax revenues have increased a lot, and there are phenomenal revenues coming in at the moment, which will help CWCB's revenue stream.

Terry reminded the Roundtable that the primary water plan is the Prior Appropriation System.

Greg agreed and added that the Water Plan is a second system that will help understanding move forward.

IBCC- Jeris Danielson

The IBCC meets again on June 30th in Summit County. The draft agenda will come out next week.

Needs Assessment Committee

No news today.

Ag/Muni Committee – Matt Heimerich

They are putting together an interim action plan and will post that on the website when it is finished. Matt's hope is to get everyone back together in November.

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

Bob --Did hear the Dawson Gold Mine has withdrawn their permit, which is good news for the watershed.

Southeast has an additional 10,000 acre-feet for the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP), which is great.

Rena reported that a big thunderstorm rolled over John Martin Reservoir yesterday, and it added 500 acre-feet to the reservoir.



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ARWC – Jonathan Paklaian, Mark Shea

Had a board meeting last week during which they refreshed the bylaws. There may be opportunities to add board members to the ARWC board.

Also discussed a sponsorship program, which will rely on folks that are here today. ARWC is looking for sustainable funding, in addition to the grant funding that is supporting the organization right now. ARWC needs to figure out a way to grow capacity, so that they can respond to needs and grants available. Much of the grant projects are subject to reimbursement, which means that ARWC needs money to front those projects. ARWC would like to come to your county boards and present the case for funding.

Summer work:

- Lake County forestry projects
- COSWAP is happening – 2 SWIFT crews running as of July 5th.
- Applied for the PEPO basin coordinator grant through CWCB as ARWC. Paul will get into more detail on that.
- Will apply for PEPO basin coordinator grant.

Next board meeting will be virtual, on June 2nd. Any roundtable members that would like to attend are welcome.

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

With Jonathan Paklaian's help the PEPO grant application was submitted on time. The June PEPO meeting has been postponed.

BREAK

PROGRAM 2:29:30

Airborne Snow Observatories – Jeffrey S. Deems, Co-founder

Steve Kastner introduced Jeff Deems, with the Airborne Snow Observatory.

- Need for improved snow measurement
- Airborne Snow Observatories (ASO) – how it works
- Examples & applications
- CO Airborne Snow Measurement program (CASM)
- ASO in the Arkansas Basin

SNOTEL: Decision-making with uncertainty – Showed examples of forecasting and actuals being quite different. In recent years, flow has become more variable. There are few stations, for example there are only two stations above Salida, in the Upper Ark. So, SNOTEL is vulnerable regarding where the snow accumulates.

Operational forecast models are vulnerable to changing conditions, and conditions are changing.

Assumptions that worked in the past no longer apply, due to warming temperatures, snow season duration, rain/snow fraction, mid-winter melt, rain-on-snow, wildfire, beetle-kill, and dust on snow. These factors change the variables that need to be considered.

We now can measure with much greater accuracy, by mapping the two most critical snow properties to forecast runoff volume and timing.

- Snow water equivalent
 - Snow depth with lidar elevation
 - Snow water equivalent (SWE) from coupling with obs & modeled density



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- Snow Albedo
 - HySpex VSWIR Spectrometers
 - Albedo & surface properties
- Physical Modeling
 - Coupled lidar & spectrometer
 - Physical snowpack & runoff modeling
- Operations
 - Unique high-altitude operations
 - Unique rapid product turnaround

Jeff asked about the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's priorities. What funding partners can we bring to the table?

Discussion:

The three major importers are Twin Lakes, Homestake and Fry-Ark. It's a matter of what you're doing with the data. If you capture those import areas, it increases the vital data.

Every operation stands to benefit from better accounting and better opportunity for management of the resource.

Soil moisture is a key component. This doesn't get measured by ASO. The runoff model that is used does take soil moisture into account, but is still an uncertain component.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 pm.

Roundtable Email: ARKBASINRT@GMAIL.COM

MEETINGS/LINKS:

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable, July 13, 12:30 pm www.arkansasbasin.com
- PEPOW: June meeting canceled, 1:30 pm (3rd Wednesday monthly) www.pepoarkbasin.com
- Enviro/Rec: June 27, 10:00 am
- Ag/Muni: TBD
- IBCC: June 30th
- CWCB: June 17-18 <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Pages/CWCBHome.aspx>
- PEPO Statewide: June 29th (virtual)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum: April 2023, Colorado Springs <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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ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Wednesday June 8, 2022 10:30 am

Meeting via hybrid &

Pueblo Community College

900 W Orman Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

Executive Committee/Guests Present:

Mark Shea – Chair

Steve Kastner

Avid Ahmed – Aurora Water

Bob Hamel – Vice Chair Env/Rec

Amber Shaklin

Jeris Danielson - IBCC

Paul Fanning – PEPO

Gracy Goodwin

Al Tucker - Recorder

Terry Scanga – UAWCD

Sam Stein - CWCB

Tim Canterbury - IBCC

Russ Sands

Greg Felt - CWCB

Sandy White – Past Chair

Brett Gracely

Jonathan Paklaian - ARWC

1. Greetings & Necessary Introductions;

Mark called the meeting to order @ 10:30 noting a quorum present

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes;

Mark called for comments or corrections to the May 11, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes hearing none minutes approved through motion and vote.

3. Reoccurring Matters:

- **Chair Comments;** Mark passed on Chair comments and moved to outstanding reports.
- **Outstanding Reports;** Paul Fanning discussed current proposals with PEPO one being the Letter of Support for ARWC funding as well as other funding tasks pointing out there seems to be some organizations though out our communities that are currently unaware of our funding opportunities. Other topics were meetings and tracking, Facebook page. Another topic discussed was video productions with water festivals as a learning technique. Jeris inquired about other basin PEPO groups regarding funding and projects. Paul responded that he'll mention this at the next statewide PEPO meeting coming up June 30th. Paul mentioned a new effort being looked into is a Roundtable Handbook for new members etc.

4. Roundtable Business:

- **ARWC/PEPO Grant request;** Jonathan Paklaian again stating a letter of support has been sent to Roundtable members for input.
- **ARWC Sponsorship request;** Jonathan Paklaian reported on reaching out to Roundtable members to inquire if the organizations they represent would contribute to ARWC funding needs. Stating ARWC has grants but there needs to be an infusion of cash for operating capital. Terry Scanga suggested having a budget to this request showing ARWC's current spending levels. Terry proposed doing some of the fundraising could be accomplished via video conferencing. Sandy suggested when soliciting funds from these different

organizations ensure that a Roundtable representative be part of the presentation giving these funding requests local support.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- Arkansas Basin Roundtable –
 - Executive Committee – July 13, 2022 - 10:30am
 - Roundtable – July 13, 2022 - 12:30
- Committees
 - PEPO – TBD
 - Environmental/Recreation – June 30, 2022
 - Agricultural/Municipal Committee – TBD, next likely November 2022
- ARWC – TBD
- IBCC – June 30, 2022
- CWCB Board Meeting – July 20-21 Denver Metro
- Stata Wide Roundtable - TBD

6. Adjourn