



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE



Public Education, Participation & Outreach, Arkansas Basin Roundtable

Workgroup Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026, 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89265066852?pwd=V3R4SHNPRWNCdnpJd2xTYkswS3MxZz09>

Attendees:

- Chris Woodka
- Jean Van Pelt
- Cecilia Timberg
- Mark Shea
- Mary Wilson
- Greg Peterson
- Jeris Danielson

The Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Woodka.

The minutes of the January 15 meeting were distributed and no changes were made

New Business

- 1) There was an extended discussion about creating a platform to share news and events among organizations in the Arkansas Valley. A quarterly or monthly newsletter was suggested as a vehicle and Chris and Jean volunteered to help coordinate the effort. Several organizations already have newsletters, and we would try to build content on that. Mailing lists within individual organizations could be used to aid distribution, including the Roundtable, the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, cities and water districts. Municipal, agricultural and youth events were suggested as categories.

Chris agreed to make some preliminary contacts and develop a framework for this project.

- 2) Greg Peterson of the Colorado Ag Water Alliance came to the meeting to discuss a plan to assist ditch companies. Here is the CAWA concept:

“We’d like to do a series of outreach events and creating a set of materials that will be publicly available for ditch companies around the state. In each basin, we’d like to host a public meeting that focuses on incorporating a ditch company, ditch easements, bookkeeping, long-term planning, and best practices in order to receive loans. The goal of the meeting will be to share this information, but also ‘recruit’ several ditch companies (number to be determined) to meet again in a workshop style format to assist the ditch companies with either incorporating, getting them connected to a bookkeeper, beginning a process or connecting them to resources for long-term planning, etc. The end goal of this project is to be able to say that a specific number of ditches either incorporated, began a long-term planning process, applied for a CWCB loan or other funding program.

“In each basin, we’re hoping to have a local champion that can help implement this work and be boots on the ground. These may be an individual or organization.

“If you have the time, we’re hoping to do a virtual meeting later this month to talk about this project. We think we are going to only focus on three basins (Rio Grande, Arkansas, and Gunnison) at the moment. We’ll have the PEPO rep and hopefully the local champion for each basin in the meeting to talk about this idea.”

The PEPO Work Group thinks this is a good idea and offered to help in any way we can. No details have been decided.

Old Business

- 1) The 2026 Fiscal Year (FY) Grant proposal was updated in November 2025. There are four main items in the scope of work:
 - a) Update and maintain ABRT website – Cecelia and Jean will put a proposal together. Chris agreed to work on this. Jean said the web site may shift platforms
 - b) Develop print materials – Chris will work on these.
 - c) Representation at public events – Jean, Cecelia and Chris, along with Joe Stone, are working on a flyer on the “Fire-Water Nexus” for the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum and reached out to Mark Shea, Alan Ward and Jonathan Paklaian at the February Roundtable meeting to develop some information for the flyer.
 - d) Cooperation with other Roundtables. The roundtable will reach out to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable for a tour in the late summer of 2026 (September timeline). Cecelia has contacted Sandra Mcuen to begin setting this up.

Next Meetings:

Arkansas Basin RoundTable, March 11, 2026
PEPO Working Group, March 19, 2026

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.