

MRT Colorado River Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

October 9, 2023
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

In Attendance:

Alex Davis, Lisa Darling, Rick Marsicek, Shaden Musleh, Breanna Gonzalez, Julia Gallucci, Andy Nye, Devon Buckels, Casey Davenport

1:30 pm

1. **Agenda additions**
2. **Homework** – (list of topics that will provide building blocks towards creating broader and deeper understanding of the Colorado, and implications/impacts to the South Platte.)

Topics

- How does this committee want to create scope for the committee for covering the CO River information to be of maximum benefit to the MRT membership?
 - **Historic and future use of the resource**
 - Bureau accounting - tracking basin use
 - Action:** Shaden Musleh will research
 - Here is a link to some Upper Basin information. <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/DocLibrary/reports.html>
 - About ½ way down the page is this heading that contains historical upper basin uses

○ Colorado River System/Basin – Consumptive Uses and Losses Reports

- For the lower basin – this link should take you to the annual “water accounting reports” dating back to 1964.
- <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtracct.html>
- Explanation of the Upper and Lower River compacts
 - How do the compacts fit together?
 - UCRC – Upper Colorado River Commission monitoring (standing agenda item?)
 - What are UCRC roles and responsibilities? Eric Kuhn
 - What are the building blocks to curtailment?
 - What are the implications for the South Platte Basin?

- Colorado River Task Force – recommendations and legislation, monitor this Task Force as a standing meeting item. Task force – 2 focus groups. 1) in-state drought resilience, and 2) out of state resilience and compact resiliency
 - Coal powered plants with water rights. They are in transition and it’s not clear what their water rights will be (Tri-State and Xcel)
 - Stored water rights flexibility
 - Export Statute
- State is hiring new people for a “Colorado River Group.”
 - Split between agencies – coordination. How might this be relevant to MRT?
 - What is the vision for this new team?
- SPBRT interests

3. Speakers

- a. David Kamin – MRT Member, Xcel energy
- b. Eric Kuhn
- c. John McCloud
- d. Brian McPherson
- e. Robert Sakata

4. Reporting out

- **The South Platte Forum -[November 30th, 2023. South Platte Forum](#).** Aims Community College Welcome Center, Greeley, CO. Early registration is now open! The South Platte Forum is proud to host a conversation about the 1923 South Platte River Compact between Colorado’s State Engineer and Nebraska DNR.

5. Action items

- a. **Upcoming meeting topics** – identify committee leads for speakers. (These need to be prioritized)
 - i. **Data: modeling** – Brian McPherson (Casey Davenhill)
 - ii. **Compacts in general** – Eric Kuhn
 - iii. **UCRC- role & responsibilities; other states interests and activities** – John McCloud
 - iv. **Implications to the SPB** – Robert Sakata (Casey Davenhill)
 - v. **LB interests & activities** -
 - vi. **O7 Guidelines** (Karen Kwon &/or David Robbins)
 - vii. **Vision of the new State Colorado River Team** - (Laurin Riff)
 - viii. **CR Drought Task Force recommendations** – Alex Davis & Rick Marsic

6. Next meeting

- a. Doodle Poll Coming

2:36 pm - Adjourn.