

## CWCB Board meeting: May 17-18, 2023 Highlights

Tue. May 16: optional tour provided by Northern Water

Day 1 Wed. May 17

- I. Election of Officers: Greg Felt Chair, Paul Bruchez Vice Chair
- II. Directors' Reports
  - a. Director Gibbs
    - i. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program changes
      1. Helps the Republican River South Fork Zone dry up to meet Compact obligations
    - ii. Review of legislative session
    - iii. Last meeting for Director Mitchell as CWCB Director
      1. Search for her replacement would be started soon
  - b. Director Mitchell
    - i. Announce new staff members
  - c. Commissioner Greenberg
    - i. Hiring a new Ag Water Advisor and Climate Market Specialist
  - d. State Engineer Rein
    - i. CREP changes important
    - ii. Division 6 measurement rules in court
    - iii. Rio Grande has 7 approved plans
  - e. Director Harris
    - i. New Parks and Wildlife Director: Jeff Davis
    - ii. Approved wolf plan
  - f. Director McLaughlin
    - i. Lots of activities for Water and wastewater programs
    - ii. Special program for communities facing issues with PFAS
- III. Operational Planning Discussion
  - a. Lauren Ris introduced Greg Bellomo with Government Performance Solutions who has been put under contract to help develop an operational plan for CWCB

- b. Timeline starts now leading to interviews, draft plan release leading to discussion at a retreat in August
- IV. Chatfield Reallocation Project Environmental Pool Agreement
  - a. Sale approved: essentially like a conservation easement on 500 AF of storage space to be used for water to be used for environmental purposes. The funds came from The Greenway Foundation and Denver Water (\$3,050,000). CWCB would still be responsible for O&M cost of that storage space.
- V. Fish & Wildlife Resources Fund-Criteria Update
  - a. New version of guidelines approved
- VI. Colorado River Update
  - a. 2023 Drought Response Operations Plan approved and focused on recovery of Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge: no additional releases planned
  - b. Implementation of the SCPP by the UCRC
    - i. Because of Congressional approval was in Dec of 2022 there was not much time to administer
    - ii. Confusion on the application process
  - c. Main focus is centered on the fact that the upper basin states are limited each water year on the weather. The current shortages in Lakes Mead and Powell are because of the continual over use of the lower basin states.
    - i. Continued push for the lower basin states to be held accountable for evaporative and system losses just like Colorado does.
  - d. Colorado will continue to do more to conserve and protect all of it's water resources

Day 2 Thu. May 18

- I. Basin Director's reports
- II. 2023 Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Appropriations: approved
- III. Proposed Acquisition for Instream Flow Use

- a. Ute Water Conservancy and Garfield County to lease Ruedi water for use in the 15 mile reach: approved
- IV. WECO Annual Allocation Scope: approved
- V. General Public Comment: none

**Upcoming water/ag related meetings;**

- I. University Council on Water Resources Annual Conference
  - a. June 13-15
  - b. CSU Campus
  - c. <https://ucowr.org/conference/>
- II. Weeding Automation Demo
  - a. June 16, 2023
  - b. CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center, Rocky Ford, CO
  - c. <https://coloradoproduce.org/labor-june-16-demo/>
- III. American Water Resources Association Summer Conference
  - a. July 17-19
  - b. Denver, CO
  - c. [https://www.awra.org/Members/Events\\_and\\_Education/Events/2023\\_Summer\\_Conference/2023\\_Summer\\_Conference.aspx](https://www.awra.org/Members/Events_and_Education/Events/2023_Summer_Conference/2023_Summer_Conference.aspx)
- IV. American Phytopathology Society Plant Health 2023 Conference
  - a. August 12-16
  - b. Denver, CO
  - c. <https://www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/PH2023/Pages/default.aspx>
- V. Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Annual Conference
  - a. October 3-5,
  - b. Avon, CO
  - c. <https://www.coloradowater.org/scw-conference-2023>

· Drought Summit Recap - Thank you to all of you who could attend the Drought Summit and help make the event a success. For those that were unable to attend the videos of the sessions and the final program will be posted online on the [Drought Summit page](#) on engageCWCB.org.

· CWCB Board Survey - CWCB has created a short survey for roundtable members to provide feedback to the board and assist with ongoing CWCB Board planning efforts associated with action 5.10 in the Colorado Water Plan. [Survey Link](#).

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out to me anytime! Also if there are any water related meetings, conferences or other events that could be relevant to my work on the CWCB please feel free to pass that information along to me as well.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Sakata

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