

- **In memory of Barbara Biggs. Thanks for your leadership, hard work, special insights, positivity, friendship and special laugh! We will miss you!**

CWCB Finance Committee held on Tuesday September 19, 2023 in Salida

- I. Members of the CWCB Board of Directors that were able to attend were briefed on the financial status of Funds that may be available for CWCB.
 - a. Levels of funding vary widely due to the portion coming from Severance Tax
 - b. Current projects show \$54.1 million will be available for the Project Bill
 - c. The Committee then heard presentations on some of the projects under consideration and gave staff input if more information should be presented at a formal CWCB meeting in November.
 - i. CWCB Drought Resiliency Toolkit
 1. Russ Sands and Kat Weismiller
 - ii. Shoshone Water Right purchase
 1. Colorado River District

CWCB Board Meeting Wed Sept 20-21, in Salida

Highlights

Welcoming remarks from Terry Scanga with Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District

- I. Election of a new Vice Chair
- II. Consent agenda approved with the removal of one item:
 - a. CA #3a: Corona Research: Landscape Transformation Public Survey Project
- III. Directors Reports
 - a. Director Gibbs
 - i. Congratulated Russ Sands for emerging leader award
 - ii. CPW recognized nationally for developing the Keep CO Wild program
 - iii. Gov Executive Order D 2023 018
 1. https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Dv6ILA3P3xwJfZ_MwRVWjM7oleXMMgE/view
 2. Part C: Developing Water Efficient Landscaping Policy for State Facilities

- b. CWCB Director Lauren Ris
 - i. First meeting as Director of the CWCB
 - ii. Noted that the March CWCB Board meeting has been moved up one week earlier than normal
 - iii. Wildfire Ready program has been national recognized
- c. Ag Commissioner Greenburg
 - i. State Fair: ½ million attendees over 11 days
 - 1. Centennial Farm Recognitions: 25 families
 - ii. Co leading 7 western states Soil Health project
 - iii. Brant Harrison former Ag Commission board member passed away
- d. Director Rein
 - i. Groundwater New York Times article
 - 1. Visited with the author for over an hour for the article, but only a short comment taken out of text was published making it sound like Colorado doesn't manage our groundwater supplies
 - ii. Manual Lopez formally with the Bureau of Reclamation passed away
- e. CO Parks and Wildlife: Rob Harris
 - i. Stressed the importance of the removal of the Mount Shavano low head dam: has actually claimed quite a few lives
- f. Director McLaughlin
 - i. Stressed the concern of reduced federal funding for the Wastewater base funds
- IV. Water Plan Grant Approvals
 - a. 18 grants approved
- V. Financial Matters
 - a. Proceeding with actions for the delinquency of Two Rivers Water & Farming Company
- VI. Water Project Loans
 - a. Two loans approved
- VII. Water Supply Reserve Fund Applications
 - a. 13 came before the board for approval of staff recommendations
- VIII. Operational Planning
 - a. Update on progress since special workshop held on Aug 30
 - b. Developing a CWCB guide
 - i. DNR has developed a broad guide for all DNR board and commissions

- IX. Basin Directors Reports
- X. Colorado River Hydrology and Other updates
- XI. CO River System Conservation Pilot Program Updates
 - a. At the time of the meeting the UCRC had not decided if they would continue the program. Since then they have decided to offer the program for the 2024 season with improvements from last year.
 - b. <http://www.ucrccommission.com/upper-colorado-river-basin-states-through-the-upper-colorado-river-commission-kickoff-system-conservation-pilot-program-scpp-in-2024/>

Upcoming water/ag related meetings;

- I. Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services Annual Meeting
 - a. October 17-19
 - b. Denver, CO
 - c. <https://naaan.csusystem.edu/2023-gam/>
- II. Central Colorado Water Conservancy District Walker Recharge Project Bus Tour
 - a. October 20, 2023
 - b. Orchard, CO.
 - c. <https://ccwcd.org/walker-recharge/>
- III. CSU Water in the West Symposium
 - a. November 8-9, 2023
 - b. CSU Spur
 - c. <https://csuspur.org/witw/>
- IV. Upper Colorado River Basin Forum
 - a. October 30-31, 2023
 - b. Grand Junction, CO
 - c. <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/water-center/2023-upper-colorado-river-basin-forum.html>
- V. DARCA Annual Conference
 - a. November 8-9, 2023
 - b. Loveland, CO
 - c. <https://www.darca.org/annualconference>
- VI. Northern Water Fall Water Symposium
 - a. November 15, 2023
 - b. Embassy Suites, Loveland, CO
 - c. <https://www.northernwater.org/NorthernWaterevents>
- VII. Colorado Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
 - a. November 16-19, 2023

- b. Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center
 - c. <https://www.coloradofarmbureau.com/event/2023annualmeeting/>
- VIII. Rocky Mountain Farmer 2023 Union Convention
- a. November 17-18, 2023
 - b. Greeley, Colorado
 - c. <https://rmfu.org/>
- IX. Colorado Ag Water Alliance Ag Water Summit
- a. November 29-30
 - b. Larimer County Fairgrounds Loveland, CO
 - c. www.coagwater.org/summit
- X. West Greeley Conservation District Ag Symposium
- a. November 29-30, 2023
 - b. Island Grove Park, Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://www.wgcd.org/>
- XI. South Platte Forum
- a. November 30, 2023
 - b. Aims Community College, 4901 West 20th Street, Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://www.southplatteforum.org/>
- XII. Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
- a. December 4-5, 2023
 - b. Colorado Springs
 - c. <https://cacdconference.org/>
- XIII. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
- a. December 5-6, 2023
 - b. Loveland, CO
 - c. <https://platteriverprogram.org/>
- XIV. CSU, Colorado Food Summit
- a. December 7-8, 2023
 - b. Stockyard Event Center, Denver, CO
 - c. <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/events/food-summit-2023/>
- XV. Colorado River Users Association Annual Conference
- a. December 13-15, 2023
 - b. Las Vegas, NV
 - c. <https://www.crwua.org/>
- XVI. CO Fruit & Veg Growers Association Produce Labor Conference
- a. Dec 14, 2023
 - b. Pueblo Convention Center
 - c. <https://coloradoproduce.org/23-labor-conference/>
- XVII. Western Colorado Horticultural Society Annual Conference

- a. January 15-18, 2024
 - b. Grand Junction Convention Center, Grand Junction, CO
 - c. <https://www.coloradofruits.org/>
- XVIII. Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting
- a. January 17-18, 2024
 - b. Hilton, Ft Collins Colorado
 - c. <https://www.4-states-irrigation.org/>
- XIX. Colorado Farm Show
- a. January 23-25, 2024
 - b. Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://coloradofarmshow.com/>
- XX. Western Colorado Soil Health, Food and Farm Forum
- a. January 26-27, 2024
 - b. Montrose, CO
 - c. <https://www.soilfoodfarm.org/>
- XXI. Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference
- a. February 6-8, 2024
 - b. Monte Vista, CO
 - c. <https://agconferencesrm.com/>
- XXII. Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting
- a. February 27-28, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO
 - c. <https://coloradoproduce.org/>
- XXIII. Colorado Ag Forum
- a. February 29, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO
 - c. <https://www.coloradoagforum.com/>
- XXIV. Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet
- a. February 29, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO

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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