

- **Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**

C9 Summit Tuesday Nov 14, 2023: Westminster

Thanks to CWCB staff for putting together a great program and thanks for everybody for taking the time to attend and to provide input. The CWCB staff is working on a report out from the meeting identifying potential actions items.

CWCB Board Meeting Nov 15-16, in Westminster and online

- I. Chairman Felt emphasized that the CWCB Board encourages public comment on any agenda item topic when the item is being considered by the board. And then the last agenda item at the end of the meeting is an open opportunity for anybody to address the board on any topic.
 - a. At the C9 summit the suggestion was made to include a dedicated opportunity for the Basin Roundtable Chairs to provide comment and the CWCB Board liked that idea and will incorporate that into future agendas and into the Operational plan that is being developed.
- II. Delta County Commissioner Wendell Koonz was in attendance and was invited to provide comment since he is the Chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable/
- III. Consent agenda approved with the removal of one item:
 - a. CA #6: revisions to CWCB Policy #4
 - i. This item was discussed during agenda item 15
- IV. Directors Reports
 - a. Director Gibbs
 - i. Staff update
 - ii. Proposed Governor's Budget released
 1. \$44.3 million transfer from Severance Tax Fund to General Fund due to Tabor restrictions
 - a. This will reduce the amount available for the Project Bill
 2. 3 FTE for SEO office: 2 for S. Platte and 1 for Rio Grande
 3. 1 FTE for CWCB for grants program administration
 - b. CWCB Director Lauren Ris
 - i. Staffing update
 1. Anna Maus: now the CWCB Deputy Director

2. Cole Bedford: will become the CWCB Chief Operation Officer
 3. Looking for staff for Finance Section and Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section
- ii. Update to Climate report should be released in January, 2024
 - iii. Water Availability Task Force being rebranded to Water Conditions Monitoring Committee
 - iv. 50th Anniversary of the Instream Flow Program will be celebrated in January, 2024
- c. IBCC Director Commissioner Becky Mitchell
- i. Director Dan Gibbs started by thanking Becky for taking on this new role and expressed how much he enjoyed Chairing the Committee
 - ii. Becky announced that she working with CWCB staff to put together a meeting schedule as well as developing agendas and would welcome anybody's input
- d. Director Rein
- i. This would be his final report to the CWCB as the State Engineer. His last day will be December 31, 2023
 - ii. He explained how his interest in water started with an Outward Bound experience when he was in High School.
 - iii. He expressed how much he appreciated all of the work that the CWCB is doing
- e. CO Parks and Wildlife: Rob Harris
- i. Highline Lake in Loma Colorado, still has Zebra Mussels and they have done another application of molluscicide and will keep the lake dry through 2024
 - ii. Mount Shavano dam has been removed
 - iii. Colorado River Connectivity Channel is now open!
 1. Flow started on Oct 25. 120 cfs took about 2 hours to make it through the new stream bed
 2. Have already seen fish passing through the area and are monitoring aquatic life to see how things progress.
- f. Director McLaughlin
- i. Stressed the concern of reduced federal funding for the Wastewater base funds
 - ii. He has been traveling, meeting with other states to garner support to revive funding for the program
- g. Commissioner Greenberg

- i. Staffing update
 - 1. Looking for:
 - a. Ag Water Policy Advisor
 - b. Director of Marketing
 - c. Brand Commissioner
 - d. 2 Climate Marketing Positions
 - e. 2 regional Ag Commissioners
 - ii. Proposed Budget
 - 1. Working to increase budget and staff
 - a. 3 FTE for Ag Emergency Management Program
 - 2. Re-alignment of Division of Animal Welfare
 - 3. Next Generation and Ag leadership programs
 - iii. Working on proposed legislation for next year
 - 1. Sustainable Ag Tax Credit
 - 2. Next Generation Ag lease Tax Credit
 - 3. Veterinarian shortage
 - 4. And others
- V. Shoshone Water Right informational Briefing
 - a. CWCB and Attorney General's office presented information on the major agreements in place currently that help protect flows when the power plant is not in operation and/or when flows are extremely low.
 - b. Very good presentation by water Commissioner Caleb Foy explaining how the river is administered currently and the potential changes if the Shoshone water right was abandon.
 - c. Peter Fleming with the Colorado River District reported that the purchase agreement that they are working on with Excel is not ready to be release yet but he felt like they were getting close and are targeting a December release date
- VI. Attorney General's report
 - a. A focus area for the staff is mental health and substance abuse
 - b. Rio Grande decision being heard by the Supreme Court even though all parties except the U.S. government are in agreement with an agreement that was developed.
- VII. WOTUS update
 - a. Amy Ostdiek provided an update on WOTUS
 - b. Director Brody suggested that the Board get an update at our next board meeting since we are planning to meet with the Water Quality Control Commission with a focus on State activities concerning Dredge and Fill.

- VIII. Colorado Conservation Designation
 - a. Amy Ostdiek presented information on this round of System Conservation Pilot Projects and UCRC Conservation programs funded from the IRA and asked for the Board to approve these programs as Conservation Programs so that reduced consumption use of water rights in these projects wouldn't threaten that right.
- IX. Colorado River Update
 - a. Amy Ostdiek provided the update focusing in on the three NEPA processed currently underway.
- X. Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs
 - a. Kara Scheel provided an update on these programs and the efforts to secure funding to make up the reduction of funds due to the reduction of electric generation from Lakes Mead and Powell
- XI. Notice of intent to file instream flow water rights
 - a. Several stream segments we identified that the CWCB intends to file a water right for. This meeting begins the process that provided opportunities for the public to provide comments.
- XII. Board approved submission of Non-reimbursable projects for the Projects Bill
- XIII. Northern Water Windy Gap Firming Project request for loan increase
 - a. Board approved
- XIV. Initial loan request be submitted to the Colorado Legislature for the Northern Integrated Supply Program
 - a. Board approved
- XV. CWCB Operational Planning update
 - a. Draft calendar will be sent out to the board
 - b. Starting in January, CWCB will begin to make the rounds to the BRT's and IBCC to present drafts and gather comments
- XVI. Water Loss Reporting
 - a. During the 2023 legislative session part of the land use proposal included requirements to have 3rd party audits of water loss reporting
 - b. CWCB reviewed their current requirements for 1051 reporting and felt like changing the portal where information to the State is done and providing a one year grace period for these submissions and not requiring 3rd party audits for now would be the best approach.
 - c. CWCB will continue to do outreach and monitor the progress of this approach.
 - d. The Board Approved that approach.

Upcoming water/ag related meetings;

- I. Colorado Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
 - a. November 16-19, 2023
 - b. Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center
 - c. <https://www.coloradofarmbureau.com/event/2023annualmeeting/>
- II. Rocky Mountain Farmer 2023 Union Convention
 - a. November 17-18, 2023
 - b. Greeley, Colorado
 - c. <https://rmfu.org/>
- III. Colorado Ag Water Alliance Ag Water Summit
 - a. November 29-30
 - b. Larimer County Fairgrounds Loveland, CO
 - c. www.coagwater.org/summit
- IV. West Greeley Conservation District Ag Symposium
 - a. November 29-30, 2023
 - b. Island Grove Park, Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://www.wgcd.org/>
- V. South Platte Forum
 - a. November 30, 2023
 - b. Aims Community College, 4901 West 20th Street, Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://www.southplatteforum.org/>
- VI. Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
 - a. December 4-5, 2023
 - b. Colorado Springs
 - c. <https://cacdconference.org/>
- VII. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
 - a. December 5-6, 2023
 - b. Loveland, CO
 - c. <https://platteriverprogram.org/>
- VIII. CSU, Colorado Food Summit
 - a. December 7-8, 2023
 - b. Stockyard Event Center, Denver, CO
 - c. <https://foodsystems.colostate.edu/events/food-summit-2023/>
- IX. Colorado River Users Association Annual Conference
 - a. December 13-15, 2023
 - b. Las Vegas, NV
 - c. <https://www.crwua.org/>
- X. CO Fruit & Veg Growers Association Produce Labor Conference

- a. Dec 14, 2023
 - b. Pueblo Convention Center
 - c. <https://coloradoproduce.org/23-labor-conference/>
- XI. Western Colorado Horticultural Society Annual Conference
- a. January 15-18, 2024
 - b. Grand Junction Convention Center, Grand Junction, CO
 - c. <https://www.coloradofruits.org/>
- XII. Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting
- a. January 17-18, 2024
 - b. Hilton, Ft Collins Colorado
 - c. <https://www.4-states-irrigation.org/>
- XIII. Colorado Farm Show
- a. January 23-25, 2024
 - b. Greeley, CO
 - c. <https://coloradofarmshow.com/>
- XIV. Western Colorado Soil Health, Food and Farm Forum
- a. January 26-27, 2024
 - b. Montrose, CO
 - c. <https://www.soilfoodfarm.org/>
- XV. Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference
- a. February 6-8, 2024
 - b. Monte Vista, CO
 - c. <https://agconferencesrm.com/>
- XVI. Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting
- a. February 27-28, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO
 - c. <https://coloradoproduce.org/>
- XVII. Colorado Ag Forum
- a. February 29, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO
 - c. <https://www.coloradoagforum.com/>
- XVIII. Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet
- a. February 29, 2024
 - b. Westminster, CO
- XIX. Arkansas River Basin Forum
- a. March 6-7, 2024
 - b. Otero College, La Junta, CO
 - c. <https://www.arbwf.org/>
- XX. Total Solar Eclipse

- a. April 8, 2024
- b. Across Texas (1:42 PM CDT), Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine (3:33 PM EDT)
- c. <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>

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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