

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE YAMPA-WHITE ROUNDTABLE  
HELD IN CRAIG, APRIL 21, 2010**

Tom Gray called the meeting to order.

In attendance were Tom Gray, Bruce Lindahl, T. Wright Dickinson, Tom Sharp, Steve Colby, Dan Craig, Mary Brown, Don Jones, Forrest Nelson, Kai Turner, Jeff Comstock, Kevin McBride, Jon Hill, Doug Wellman, Andy Schaffner, Frank Schaffner, Peter Barkman, David Graf, Nolan Doesken, Audrey Danner, Ken Brenner, Kate Nowak, Emily Spencer, Jon Snyder, Doc, Livingston, Barbara Livingston, Jeff Drust, Pat O'toole and Paul Strong.

**Presentations**

Shannon McNeeley from the National Center for Atmospheric Research presented her plan for research into the "Water System Vulnerability and Adptation to Seasonality Shifts in the Yampa/White/Green Basins Region." The research will look into water sustainability and the threats to it from population growth, transbasin diversions, energy, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, invasive plants and fish, compact calls and drought. There is a correlation between temperature and stream flows and the research will look into who, what and where the impacts of climate change and drought will affect.

The Education Committee with the addition of Doug Monger, Kai Turner and David Graf will work with Shannon on coordinating her research needs.

The consultant was not available to make the energy presentation. Phase II is expected to show lower demands than Phase I projected.

Nolan Doesken from the Colorado State University's Colorado Climate Center gave a presentation on the CoAgMet Network and the use of lysimeters to track evapotranspiration. There are currently no stations in the Yampa/White/Green basins to track evapotranspiration. The North Platte basin added three stations through their Roundtable last year. There is the possibility of relocating a lysimeter to the Carpenter Ranch. He asked if adding additional stations would be beneficial to our basins. CoAgMet would ask for funding of \$7000 per station to operate it for three years.

There was discussion if the Carpenter Ranch was the correct location due to the proximity to the power plant. The number of stations was discussed and the ideal number would be three each for the Yampa and White basins. There is the possibility of asking for partial funding through the Statewide Roundtable account.

## **Other Discussion Items**

The Colorado Attorney General is writing a formal opinion on the Yampa Doctrine. It is not believed that the opinion will support the Doctrine. T. Wright said the studies we are doing should consider the Yampa Doctrine as a possible factor in our water availability. Doug Monger suggested that the Roundtable should develop a policy statement on how a compact call should be administered. There was discussion on the best timing to formally present the Yampa Doctrine.

Tom said that the Arkansas Roundtable has determined that the most likely place to secure more water would be from the Green River. The El Paso Water Authority has prepared a grant application to study the possibilities of this.

Colorado River Water Availability Study comments are due by July 22. T. Wright, Doug, Kai and Mary will form a committee to comment. There will be a presentation at the West Slope Roundtable meeting on May 10.

IBCC Report: T. Wright said there is a proposal to amend the criteria and guidelines for Roundtable grants. The CWCB might decide to not grant any basin fund if the basin has not completed the needs assessments. This Roundtable has passed a resolution that the roundtable process needs to be driven from the bottom up and not from the top down.

## **Reports**

Agricultural Needs Assessment; The assessment is almost complete and should be finished by mid-June. A significant number of flows is from the aggregate (unmetered) streams.

A draft report of the Town of Yampa Study has been received by the Town. It was sent back for finalization and should be complete in the fall.

It is proposed to drop the modeling section of the Sand Wash Basin Groundwater Study due to complexities of the modeling. Data is already available on the amount of coalbed methane and there will be a simple model of the drawdown around the coalbed wells.

Community Agricultural Alliance Education Grant. Marsha Daughenbaugh presented the results of the first educational forum. The bus tour will occur on July 21<sup>st</sup>, in conjunction with next Roundtable meeting.

**Other Business**

The next regular meeting is July 21, 2010 in Craig.

The meeting was adjourned.