

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE YAMPA-WHITE ROUNDTABLE
HELD IN CRAIG, OCTOBER 20, 2010**

Tom Gray called the meeting to order.

In attendance were Tom Gray, Bruce Lindahl, T. Wright Dickinson, Tom Sharp, Steve Colby, Mary Brown, Don Jones, Kai Turner, Jeff Comstock, Kevin McBride, Peter Barkman, David Graf, Ken Brenner, Doug Monger, Dan Birch, Philo Shelton, Kent Vertrees, Geoff Blakeslee, Jay Fetcher, bob Woodmanser, Kelly Sheridan, Trina Zagar-Brown, Shannon McNeeley, Nicole Rowan, Jacob Bornstein, Hal Simpson, Matt Bliss, Erin Light, Kathy Bower and Paul Strong.

The Members from Moffat County, Rio Blanco County and Routt County were reappointed by their respective bodies. The Routt Municipal seat is still under discussion.

Presentations

Matt Bliss from CDM presented the Agricultural Needs Assessment. Adjustments for altitude have increased the water demands by 65%. Critical shortages mainly happen on tributaries, not on the main stem. 37% of the shortage comes from significant tributaries and 55% from smaller tributaries.

There is a slight warming trend from 1920 to the present. There is no trend when the peak flows occur. The shortage is currently 11% and increases to 14% in the wet scenarios and 21% in the dry scenarios.

In the White basin, 23% of water rights are junior to 1955. There are 370cfs of conditional energy water rights.

A reservoir on Fortification Creek would decrease shortages by 90% in July and 80% in August. Storage on small tributaries could result in an aggregate shortage reduction of 25%.

Switching to sprinkler irrigation from flood irrigation would result in smaller late season return flows when shortages are greatest and higher flows during the runoff.

Peter Barkman from the Colorado Geographic Survey presented the Sand Wash Basin Study. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is trapped in rock strata by water pressure. When water is pumped out, the pressure is reduced releasing the gas. The study was to determine the water flow between the aquifer and the surface.

There is an estimated 24 trillion cubic feet of CBM in the Sand Wash Basin of which 1.7 to 2 billion have been recovered. One operating field with 11 wells (Slater Dome) is near Baggs and has produced roughly 4000 af of water with about 235 af per year.

Dan Birch recapped the July Energy presentation. The study shows energy needs of 140,000 af down from the previous estimate of 400,000 af. This is primarily due to the expectation of energy for extraction

being provided by combined cycle gas turbines on site or from out of the basin instead of in-basin coal-fired power plants. For every barrel of oil produced, .8 barrels of water is produced. There was a motion and second to approve Phase I of the Energy Needs Assessment. It passed unanimously.

Kevin McBride presented the Morrison Creek Reservoir Feasibility Study. The proposed site can store 5000 af and the anticipated drainage in dry years is 25,000 af. There are 50 acres of wetlands that would need to be mitigated. Remaining questions are what size the dam should be and issues of sedimentation. The Upper Yampa WCD matched the Roundtable grant 3:1. There was a motion and second to approve the study and it passed unanimously.

T. Wright Dickinson presented the Sparks Reservoir Study. Nine test holes were drilled; six at the dam site and three on the embankment. There were no flaws detected showing that dam was not possible. Further study will be need to be made regarding seismic stability, soil deformation and seepage. There was a motion and second to approve the study and it passed unanimously.

Doug Monger said that there will be a report on the Water Quality Study in January and that the USGS will continue monitoring through next year.

The Headwaters magazine has been produced and distributed and here was a motion and second to approve the results and it passed unanimously.

Kent Vertrees asked for a Non-consumptive Needs subcommittee meeting in late November.

Other Discussion Items

Tom Gray asked if we should be holding back some funds from the grants until the reports are provided. The CWCB holds back 10% of the grant until they receive the report. Further discussion said that we need to revisit this issue.

Reports

Jacob Bornstein of the CWCB reported on the Municipal and Industrial Needs. The 2050 water needs are estimated and compared to the Identified Projects and Processes (IPP) and the difference is the gap that needs to be addressed. Strategies to address the gap include conservation, agricultural transfers, new supplies, Colorado River availability and alternative transfer methods.

The State has made Non-consumptive allotments for the basins and there was concern that the State has moved ahead of the Roundtables' Non-consumptive assessments. There was a motion and second for the State not to include Non-consumptive information for this Roundtable. The motion passed unanimously.

The medium scenario assumes 90% of IPP will be completed leaving a gap of 10,600 af for Moffat County, 12,200 af for Rio Blanco and 13,900 for Routt. It is believed that the Moffat County number is too high due to inclusion of needs for the power plant which have already been addressed.

Shannon McNeeley gave a review of her project. She currently is reviewing her research and interviews. The analysis of the data will result in determining the focus of the research.

Other Business

Tom Gray reported that the Metro and Arkansas Roundtables have hired the Keystone Center to assess interest in a collaborative process on the Flaming Gorge project. Tom Sharp pointed out that the Roundtable has passed a resolution on the project and should be presented. The main points were the date of the water right, effect on a compact call and the Programmatic Biological Opinion.

Dan Birch reported on the IBCC. After four years the IBCC is finally dealing with substantive issues: how to allocate the million af gap, among the possible sources of conservation, IPP, trans-basin diversions, agricultural transfers. The West Slope feels that trans-basin diversions should be fourth on the list while the Front Range feels that the "waters of Colorado" belong to all of Colorado. Conservation will help fill the gap but will also be needed to provide reserves for drought.

T. Wright Dickinson proposed asking that statewide grant funds be used to study the Yampa Pumpback so it can be compared side-by-side to the Flaming Gorge proposal. Tom Sharp said we already have a feasibility study on the Yampa Pumpback. A committee will examine the issue.

Mary Brown said the last of the Water Forums will be held on November 5th.

The minutes from July 21, 2010 were approved.

The next regular meeting is December 15, 2010 in Craig.

The meeting was adjourned.