

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE YAMPA-WHITE ROUNDTABLE
HELD IN CRAIG, JANUARY 21, 2009**

Tom Sharp called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Members in attendance were Jeff Devere, Kent Vertrees, Doug Monger, Douglas Wellman, Darryl Steele, David Smith, Mike Camblin, Jeff Comstock, Bruce Lindahl, Steve Colby, Mary Brown, Forrest Luke, Tom Sharp, Paul Strong, Dan Craig, Forrest Nelson, Dan Birch, and Don Jones. Also in attendance were Eric Hecox, Jacob Bornstein, Kevin McBride and Walter Magill.

Report from IBCC Representatives: Jeff Devere said the IBCC is working on visions and strategies for Colorado's water supply future. A major question was how to address land use issues and should they be part of a water vision. The discussions have been philosophical so far. Dan presented the Energy Assessment at the IBCC and it is getting a lot of attention on the Front Range.

Presentations:

Nancy Bauch from the USGS presented the Common Data Repository and Water Resource Assessment Project for the Upper Yampa Basin. The upper Yampa Basin is defined as being above Elkhead Creek. This will be a web accessible data repository. The project consists of three phases: assessment, monitoring and updating. There is increasing land and water development in the basin and it is important to have baseline data. She requested that anyone who has electronic data for the basin to add it to the depository. This is a two and one-half year project.

Eric updated the Roundtable on the Water Supply Reserve Account. We currently have \$545,000 left in the basin account.

Kevin McBride presented the Stillwater Reservoir upgrade request. The request is for \$189,000 and is to firm up 2000 acre feet yield. It was noted that it is nice to see a request that is "not just another dam study!" Doug Monger moved and Mary Brown seconded approval. A request was made to show public benefit downstream in the request to the CWCB. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan Birch continued the discussion of the Energy Assessment from October. Doug Monger moved and Doug Wellman seconded approval of Phase I. There was discussion over Shell's water application and scheduled presentation later on the agenda; will that change the Phase I assumptions? James Thurman from Shell said he did think the presentation will make a difference. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric Hecox and Jacob Bornstein discussed the Projects and Methods to Meet Identified Water Supply Needs. First the consumptive agricultural, municipal and industrial as well as non consumptive needs should be identified and quantified. Then the available water supplies should also be identified and quantified. Then projects necessary to meet the needs can be identified. SWSI did a good job on consumptive needs and this is being extended to 2050. We needed to add energy needs and update the agricultural needs. The

non-consumptive assessment is in the preliminary mapping stage. The Roundtable needs to identify Independent Provider Projects.

Eric spoke to the Visioning process at the IBCC. The Vision is in draft form but the Visioning and developing the strategies need to be parallel processes. Strategies are conservation, agricultural transfers and new supplies. Risk management strategies being considered are a West Slope water bank, compact delivery via Blue Mesa Reservoir, and timing phased development.

Dan Birch presented the conceptual Colorado River District Compact Water Bank. We are starting to reach the limit of water development in the Colorado River District. Over-appropriation of the Colorado could lead to a Compact Call. An alternative could be a water bank where willing lessors of pre-Compact water rights could enter into interruptible supply contracts. When we are nearing a Compact Call the contracts could be used to supply the pre-Compact water. Water providers could enter into subscriptions for use of the water. Issues to examine are the secondary economic impacts and should there be an in-basin preference.

James Sherman from Shell presented an overview of the in situ process of extracting oil from shale and the consequent water right Shell has filed on the Yampa. The filing is for 375cfs with a reservoir around 45,000af. Concerns about the Yampa Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) were expressed and that all of the water available is being used for the PBO. James said the Shell application was made broadly and they expect stipulations to narrow the scope will happen through the application process. They expect it to take years to resolve the application. Our Energy Assessment assumed coal being used for electricity production and it was asked had they looked at using natural gas. James said it was too early to know but was a distinct possibility. The Assessment also used a 5.3:1 ratio of water to oil and Shell expects it to be closer to 3:1.

Status of Grants and Studies:

The Agricultural committee met twice with the contractor. They were mapping the high flows and reservoirs. The high altitude grass needs more water than was used.

Morrison Creek will be working with the regulators.

Yampa has submitted the contract to the state.

Sandwash is processing the contract.

Other Business:

Mary Brown, Jeff Devere and Dan Birch attended the four West Slope Roundtables joint meeting where the Water Bank, Compact calls, water availability study and Energy Assessment were the main topics.

Jeff Devere suggested that the agenda should include a spot for philosophical strategy discussions.

Doug Wellman asked that the enlargement of Lake Avery be on the next agenda.

Paul Strong passed out the Education survey and asked all members to return it to him.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be April 15, 2009 in Craig.

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