

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
- American Legion's Shadow Mt. Clubhouse –
(0.9 mile North of Holiday Inn on Right Side)
6:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.**

Attendees:

Bruce Lindahl	Dan Birch	Dan Craig
Don Jones	Doug Monger	Doug Wellman
Erin Light	Forrest Luke	Geoff Blakeslee
Jacob Bornstein	Jeff Comstock	Jeffrey Devere
Kai Turner	Ken Brenner	Kent Vertrees
Mary Brown	Mike Brennan	Nicole Rowan
Russell George	Shannon McNeeley	T. Wright Dickinson
Tom Gray	Trina Zagar-Brown	David Graf
John Sanderson		

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Tom Gray called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Introductions of Members and Audience: Introductions of all in attendance occurred. Included in attendance was Russell George is again joining the Roundtable and Mr. Gray introduced the new secretary for the Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable, Ms. Susan Bengston.

Approve/Modify Agenda: There were a few changes and or additions to the agenda. Marsha Daughenbaugh was unable to be present to discuss the Roundtable Education Forum; 6(d) the Yampa Social Values Update was to be read as the Yampa Drought Vulnerability Study; The date for the last meeting was January 19, 2011 not January 20, 2011; and the 7(3) Transbasin Project Analysis should have been read as Projects and Methods Analysis. These changes have been made and attached is the newest rendition of the Agenda from the April 20, 2011 meeting.

Review and Approval of January 19, 2011 Minutes: There was a Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 19, 2011; Doug Monger and Geoff Blakeslee motioned the approval of the Minutes and Mary Brown and Geoff Blakeslee voted to approve the Agenda.

Presentations:

Basin Roundtable Report Discussion (draft attached) – Jacob Bornstein and Nicole Rowan
Nicole Rowan and Jacob Bornstein presented a draft of the Yampa-White Basin Needs Assessment Report. Jacob wanted feedback about what needs to be added to the Report, the introductions, conclusions and most importantly what the Report is about and where this Roundtable is going. T.

Wright Dickinson believed that everything that has been commissioned by the Roundtable should be in the Report. Jeff Comstock stated education and Dam projects should be included also. Tom Gray suggested subcommittee meetings should happen within the next month to add this information to the Report. T. Wright Dickinson moved to reform committees. Doug Monger stated that we needed to be the authors of our Report. Geoff Blakeslee and Kent Vertress volunteered to put together a Non-consumptive Committee meeting; Jeff Comstock volunteered to put together an AG Committee and Jeff Devereere volunteered to put together the EMI Committee. It was agreed by all that there will be a scheduled meeting on June 15, 2011 to help make sure that Jacob has enough time to put all the information from the subcommittees into the upcoming Report. It was agreed that Mary Brown, Jeff Devereere and Dan Birch will write the introduction to the Report and the conclusion should be the project and methods grant.

Non-Consumptive Committee Update – Stream Channel Boundary Discussion and Whitewater Survey Update – Geoff Blakeslee.

Geoff Blakeslee introduced Nathan Faye from American Whitewater to talk about a survey of the Yampa River water flows. Attached is the Power Point that Nathan used and introduced to the committee. In the survey 27 States participated and there were 2 parts to the survey. 292 people participated in the survey which consisted of “user days” people who were on the river rafting, kayaking and canoeing, and “usable river days” when you can be on the river. T. Wright Dickinson questioned the flows on the Green River stating they were not right. The survey went from 1954 to 2010. He stated that he very rarely sees flows that high on the Green River. Doug Monger stated that he liked the survey and concluded it was a good baseline for the committee. Tom Gray wanted to accept the survey for part of the Report.

Geoff Blakeslee next introduced John Sanderson regarding the riparian issues happening in Browns Park. John Sanderson showed a slide with 4 bullets the NCNA (Non-Consumptive Needs Association) regarding their stance on issues. T. Wright Dickinson posed the questions “How much water is acceptable to leave in the river?” John Sanderson stated that the report states 1.5 acre feet for the Yampa river with be acceptable for endangered fish and riparian. Doug Monger questioned “Why don’t we go with the PBO?” Jeff Comstock asked how was this going to affect land use issues and wanted to discuss this more. Jeff Comstock makes a Motion to keep existing position to keeping the current status of the riparian and to discuss this more in the future and if they understand the position put to the group. John Sanderson wants to go forward with the riparian study outside the banks. It is put to a vote by hands; 6 hands were in favor of keeping with the current status and 7 opposed the current status. Jeff Comstock’s Motion fails. Kent Vertress made a motion to let the water flow evaluation to go forward and Geoff Blakeslee seconded the Motion. Motion is carried.

Roundtable Education Forum Discussion –Tom Gray – Tom Gray spoke on behalf of Marsha Daughenbaugh regarding education. Tom stated that Ren Martyn would like to be the Roundtable Education Liaison. There is approximately \$3800 to \$4000 in a fund for the Roundtable for education. Doug Wellman moves for getting the education funds to Marsha for education purposes and see how far the money can go. Jeff Devereere seconded the Motion and the Motion is passed. Dan Craig would like to add Fracking into the education.

Yampa River Structures Project Grant –Kent Vertress – (This is the first reading of this grant proposal) Kent is a member of the Friends of the Yampa group in Steamboat Springs. Kent came before the committee to ask the Roundtable for a \$50,000 Grant to rebuild the Yampa River structures from the 13th Street Bridge down to help with fish and recreation. The Friends of the Yampa was established in 1980. Kent put on a PowerPoint slide show which is attached to this document. The Friends of the Yampa have already raised \$12,000 for this project. The DOW raised concerns about mortar used to hold the structures together. Dan Birch had concerns that these structures may cause resid to Soda Creek. Doug Monger wants to limit the Grant to match what the Friends of the Yampa can raise up to the \$50,000 amount they are asking for. Second reading with be at the June 15, 2011 meeting.

Catamount Metropolitan District Grant –Gates Gooding – (This is the first reading of the grant proposal) Gates had a PowerPoint slide show for his proposal to the Roundtable. Catamount Metropolitan District is proposing a Hydro Dam off of Lake Catamount. There was much discussion of the benefits to the Yampa River. Trina Zagar-Brown wanted to know why Catamount went with Xcel Energy and not Yampa Valley Electric Association. Doug Monger wanted more details on the money side of the issue (costs). Dan Birch didn't see Catamount as a good water supply for a Hydro Dam and wanted more information for the second reading on June 15, 2011. The DOW chimed in regarding the Pike in Catamount getting into the Yampa River; they wanted more information on the recreation and supply for the next meeting.

Election of IBCC Representative (fill Dan Birch's seat) –Tom Gray – There was much discussion as to whether Kevin McBride is a Roundtable member and if he could sit as the IBCC Representative. Bruce Lindahl looked up the requirements and stated that the Representative for the IBCC needs to be a member of the Roundtable. Kent Vertress and Dan Craig stated that they wanted a member of the Roundtable to be the IBCC Representative. Doug Monger was the candidate from the Roundtable who put forth his name to be the next IBCC Representative. Dan Craig Motioned to have Doug Monger as the next IBCC Representative and T. Wright Dickinson seconded the Motion. Motion passed and Doug Monger is elected as the next IBCC Representative for the Roundtable.

1. Reports

- a. **River District proposal update on White River PBO** (Dan Birch) Exposures.
- b. **USGS Report on Upper Yampa Water Quality Survey** – Jen Moore-Jen Moore showed the Roundtable the Water Quality Survey PowerPoint slides. The USGS commended the Roundtable for their proactive approach to water quality in the basin. The report is 107 pages. The data in the report goes back to 1975. Mr. Zoph is asking for \$10,000 additional money in the future for a total of \$40,000 for the year to fund additional studies in the area for continued water quality monitoring.
- c. **IBCC Update-** (Dan Birch/Jeff Devere/Jacob Bornstein) Jacob Bornstein has documentation from the Summit. 300 people attended the Summit. He stated that the upcoming Four Basin meeting is going to be held in Grand Junction this year is April 29th. Dan Birch asked if there could be a more crafted document for all Roundtables to use in the future.

- d. **Yampa Social Values Update** – Shannon McNeeley; National Integrated Drought System. Is writing the paper now regarding the drought effects. NIDIS (National Drought Integrated Information System) Shannon is hoping to have information to the committee by the next meeting.
- e. **Non-Consumptive Committee Update** – Geoff Blakeslee/Kent Vertress -

2. Status Reports SB-179 Grants and Studies:

- 1. **Yellow Jacket Conservancy District** – Trina Brown; Trina told the group that Phase 1 of the study will hopefully be complete in July. She anticipated that the study would take 12 to 15 months.
- 2. **Walker Ditch River Restoration Project** –Doug Monger/Geoff Blakeslee: Doug Monger stated that \$40,000 was awarded to this project from the CWCB. \$20,000 was from the State and \$20,000 was from the basin fund and was also successful in getting \$20,000 from the Water Shed Protection Group and another 25,000 from the Insurance District. The Project Committee will be meeting soon to figure out what the project will be.
- 3. **Projects and Methods Analysis**- Sue Morea/T. Wright Dickinson; T. Wright Dickinson stated that the Grant has been awarded. T. Wright wanted a couple of agenda items for the next meeting; He stated that on the 28th there will be an announcement of a Global Settlement with the Roundtable and Denver and IBCC what does this mean regarding the effects on the Yampa; and wants to know what the WISE Project means to the Yampa.

Other Action Items: None presented

Announcements: None presented

Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: June15, 2011 Yampa White Roundtable meeting-
American Legion Hall Craig

Adjournment: No other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Susan R. Bengston, Secretary.