

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
- American Legion's Shadow Mt. Clubhouse –
(0.9 mile North of Holiday Inn on Right Side)
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Doug Monger	Forrest Luke	Geoff Blakeslee
Jacob Bornstein	Jeff Comstock	Jeffrey Devere
Kai Turner	Kevin McBride	Mary Brown
Nicole Rowan	Ren Martyn	Tom Gray
Tom Sharp	Steve Colby	Burt Clements
John Sanderson	Jeff Drust	Kristin Maharg
Philo Shelton		

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Tom Gray called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Introductions of Members and Audience: Introductions of all in attendance occurred. 12 Voting members attended the meeting this evening.

Approve/Modify Agenda: There were no changes and or additions to the agenda. Sharp/Blakeslee approved the Agenda for this meeting.

Review and Approval of April 20, 2011 Minutes: There was a Motion to approve the Minutes from the October 19, 2011; Tom Sharp/Mary Brown/unanimous.

Presentations:

Portfolio Tool/Drought Plan – Jacob Bornstein– There was much discussion about the Portfolio Tool. There was a concern from Tom Sharp about the Roundtable “adopting” the two scenarios; Worst Case Scenario and The Good Neighbor Scenario. This discussion is recapping the YWG Roundtable’s Portfolio Tool so that it can be discussed at the, March 1st Summit. Jeff Devere stated that more water storage is necessary in this area and would help the area with a contingent supply down the road. Jeff also talked about building Wolf Creek as a storage facility. Kevin McBride voiced many concerns about this tool and how we make sure we have a high demand and high supply, what is the high flow at the end and can the tool say our SWSI needs? There was a small discussion about 1177 process from Tom Gray. It was discussed that the tools be amended to be labeled High Demand and Low Demand. In the end Jeff Comstock made a motion to bring forward both scenarios to the March meeting. Mary Brown seconded the Motion. The Motion went to a vote of 11-1. Motion carried.

Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool – Nicole Rowan – Nicole introduced a Power Point demonstration about the Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool. She also gave a hand out regarding the same. This Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool is phase two and is in the beginning stages of the study. This phase is the non-consumptive phase of the study. There were 4 stages that were discussed: 1) Study Objective, 2) Overview of Work Products & Summary Results, 3) Recreational Flow Ranges (16 segments) and 4) Range of Flow Summary. Nicole stated she would like comments regarding this in the next month or so and would like to meet with the group again before the April meeting.

Ag Fallowing in Mountain Meadows for Water Conservation – Geoff Blakeslee – Geoff spoke about this ongoing program that is administered through the Colorado Department of Agriculture called the Alternative to Ag Water Transfer Methods. The study shows that there will be a gap in the water needs by 2050. The way that the gap will be filled is through 1) New Water Supply, 2) Conservation and 3) Ag Transfer. Nature Conservancy recently applied for a Grant for \$132,000 and matched that with \$36,000 and was awarded this Grant last July. The Conservancy is ready to go to work on investigating this potential for Ag Transfers on the Western Slope. Geoff invited the participation of the Roundtable and made the Roundtable aware that this Grant is out there. Geoff offered to have Sue Morea come to the April meeting and give a presentation regarding this. Doug Monger and the Roundtable all agreed that the Roundtable needs to be involved and support this study.

1. Reports:

- a. **Flaming Gorge Task Force Update – Kai Turner/Kevin McBride** – Kai stated that at the last meeting Goals and Bylaws on how to conduct business were established. Wyoming water users will show at the next meeting along with the project components. Kevin McBride stated that these discussions are “Surrogate”. Kevin gave out copies of documents regarding the letter sent two years ago and a list of some of the issue statements that the Flaming Gorge group is putting on. Jeff Comstock asked if all of the Task Force seats have been completely filled. The Group decided that the Ag section was represented well. Kevin did bring up T. Wright’s name.
- b. **IBCC Update – Doug Monger/Jeff Devere/T.Wright Dickinson**– Jeff Devere stated that IBCC went over the Portfolio tool. Denver Water asked if the IBCC would support the “Toilet Discussion” IBCC stated they were in favor of conservation options but not any single stance would they endorse. Risk Assessment – North West Water Support wondered how to move forward with water availability study Phase II. Jacob Bornstein stated that there are scholarships to the March 1st Summit Meeting available to Roundtable Members.
- c. **Non-Consumptive Committee Update – Geoff Blakeslee/Kent Vertress** – there was much discussion in the meeting prior to this Roundtable Meeting about the Non-Consumptive Committee.
- d. **Roundtable Education Forum-Public Education Outreach Program – Ren Martyn** – Tonight was the first official committee meeting. Ren Martyn introduced the committee members – Doug Monger, Jeff Devere and Ren Martyn. Ren also asked Kevin McBride and Mary Brown to join. All agreed. Kristin Maharg was also available to assist Ren with question and clarification of topics. It was stated that this is the “Year of Water”. Ms. Maharg wanted the RT to think about the level of outreach and education they want out to

the public. There is a display of posters that can be sent to other areas in Colorado that can help education the community about water. Steamboat Springs Library has the display for 2 weeks. You can email or go to Water2012.org to look and reserve the displays. It was discussed to invite other RT to our group for discussions. There was discussion about more funding for education. Ren asked if they can apply for and write a yearly grant for funding. Jacob Bornstein stated yes they RT can do so. There was a discussion about the additional account with funding in it, can we use it for education. Tom Sharp cautioned the RT in doing so. Kristin Maharg stated that other RT is allocating approximately \$10,000 per year for education. Kai Turner stated Rio Blanco came up with small additional amount of money for their education program. Kevin McBride asked about a school program. Going to schools and educating children.

2. Status Reports SB-179 Grants and Studies:

1. **Yellow Jacket Conservancy District – Trina Brown;** Trina was unable to be present but sent an e-mail outlining the progress of the project. Tom Sharp and Jeff Devere stated that before a final decision is made the RT should make comments. Tom Gray was going to place a call to Trina to speak to her about this issue.
2. **Yampa River Structures – Kent Vertress -** Kent was not present but Geoff Blakeslee stated that the project was in the contract phase.
3. **Walker Ditch River Restoration Project –Doug Monger-** Doug Monger stated that there was a huge setback to the project as the land actually was a flood plain and that new drawings and plans are needed.
4. **Projects and Methods Analysis- Sue Morea/T. Wright Dickinson-** T.Wright and Sue were not available. Doug Monger talked about prioritizing dates and looking at water rights prioritization. What affects will this project(s) have on property owner's water rights?

Other Action Items:

Forrest Luke talked about a Public Trust ballot issue that is coming up this year. He talked about putting this topic on the April Agenda.

Announcements: None presented

Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: April 18, 2012 Yampa White Roundtable meeting- American Legion Hall Craig

Adjournment: No other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Susan R. Bengston, Secretary.