

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013  
- American Legion's Shadow Mt. Clubhouse –  
(0.9 mile North of Holiday Inn on Right Side)  
6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Tom Gray	Jeff Comstock	Jeff Devere
Geoff Blakeslee	Jon Hill	T.Wright Dickinson
Jacob Bornstein	Mark McCluskey	Dan Birch
Steve Colby	Jackie Brown	Don Jones
David Graf	Peg Rector	Doug Monger
Ren Martyn	Jay Gallagher	Kent Vertrees
Christine Brasfield	Dan Craig	Kelly Beal
Kevin McBride	Ben Beall	Laura Chartrand
Katie Bower	Hal Simpson	Jana Mohrman
Tom Sharp	Alden Vanden Brink	Angela Kantola
Erin Light	Diane Mitch-Bush	Chuck Grobe
Ray Owens	Mike Morgan	Forrest Luke
Kate McIntyre	Chris McCourt	Mike Sorensen
Brad McCloud	Larry Hoover	Lynda Cozzens
Jeff Drust	Elizabeth Koebele	Leslee Hurst
	Jon Snyder	Andy Brew
Erick Carlson	Jennifer Ashworth	Steve Jamieson
Bart Miller	Wane Haerle	Jerry Nettleton

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

**Introductions of Members and Audience:** Introductions of all in attendance occurred. 15 Voting members attended the meeting this evening.

**Approve/Modify Agenda:** Tom Gray added one item, letter “I” on the agenda. Jacob provided an update of the IBCC’s “no regrets” policy.

Review and Approval of July 17, 2013 Minutes. There was a motion to adopt the Minutes for July, 2013. The motion also approved the August 28, 2013 Minutes with no changes Tom Sharp/Steve Colby/Unanimous.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Roundtable Elections –**

**Pothook Water Conservancy District Appointment**

**Colorado River Water Conservation District Appointment**

**House/Senate Appointment**

**Environmental Appointment**

**None Appointed**

Dan Birch (needs letter)

Jean Stetson (needs letter)

Geoff Blakeslee (Tom Sharp/Ren Martyn/Unanimous)

**Agricultural Appointment**

Mary Brown (Tom Sharp/Geoff Blakeslee/Unanimous)

**At Large Representative**

Jackie Brown (ballot votes) Jeff Devere would like the Bylaws

looked at and requested additional At Large Representatives be brought into the Round table.

**Vacant Non-Voting Seat that lives outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin**

Mike Sorenson-Tri-State Tom Sharp/Geoff Blakeslee/Unanimous

**Two non-voting IBCC Representatives (2 year terms)**

Kevin McBride with Doug Monger as Alternate

\_ "intentionally blank" \_\_\_\_\_ with Tom Gray as Alternate

**Chairman**

Jon Hill (T.Wright Dickinson/Al Vanden Brink/Unanimous)(2 year term)

**Vice Chair #1 Yampa**

Mary Brown (Dan Birch/Alden Vanden Brink/Unanimous)(2 year term)

**Vice Chair #2 White**

Alden Vanden Brink (Kevin McBride/Dan Craig /Unanimous)(2 year

term)

**Budget Update – Jacob Bornstein –** \$915,000 in basin account. There will be another disbursement in January, 2014.**Rio Blanco Water Conservancy – Second Reading Project Update EIS Solutions – Brad McCloud**

A power point was presented to the group for the second reading. This is a water storage proposal on the White River. W.W. Wheeler is a partner on this project.. The proponents have done a lot of outreach to other groups regarding this project. There has been 4 meetings to the public and CWCB about this water storage project. This project will replace Kenny Reservoir due to problems there. Steve identified alternatives for water sites for this project. They showed many rivers and what the damming would look like from the draws they identified. They looked at other potential alternatives instead of dredging Kenny Reservoir. The group looked into water rights of people around the area and the river district. Steve stated that there are water rights available to help with this project. Three phases to this project. Course screening, May, 2014, Fine Screening, August 2014 and Field Assessments, August, 2015. Rio Blanco district is willing to put up 10% of the money for this project. Doug Monger asked what the Mill Levy was and how much of the mill levy was applied to this project. Alden Vanden Brink was not able to give this information at the meeting. They are asking for the money for two of the three phases right now. Tom Gray can see the group giving interest in phase one and having the group come back and presenting phase two for more money. Dan Birch is leaning toward funding phase I and then see what it looks like later. Tom Gray says he would favor phase one at 50% from Basin grant funds with the State giving 50% Kent Vertrees seconds. The Basin gives the group \$67,500 from the basin. Tom Gray/Kent Vertrees\_, Majority Vote passes. Kent Vertrees opposed.

**White River Management Plan – Jana Mohrman and Angela Kantola:** Angela presented first with a power point presentation. Spoke about several water projects and recovery programs. She spoke about the fish (endangered) and the health of the fish. The pikeminnow and the razorback suckers were spoke about most. The other fish are flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub that are becoming endangered. Jana talked about the natural hydrology of the river from Colorado to Utah. They are still trying to have a conversation with the Ute tribe in Utah. They believe that the current hydrology is suitable to protect the endangered and native fish in the White River. Tom Sharp asked if there will be a cfs minimum with the USFWS flow recommendations reserved for fish. Jana stated that they have a range between 200 to 300 cfs. This group would like to revisit the roundtable in the Summer of 2014. There is interest to work together with this group. There is a benefit to this recovery program. T.Wright gave a talk about a study going on now regarding flows for fish with the minimum flows. He spoke about there being an issue to get rid of the tamarisk and Russian olives and replenish the willows to natural habitat for the native fish. Dave Graff talked some on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife.

**Projects and Methods –Mark McCluskey and Hal Simpson:** Mark started the discussion by saying that the goal tonight is to give an update on the Projects and Methods. Two meetings have been held since the last August meeting. They want to finish these projects by the end of the year to make sure the study gets into the Implementation Plan. The Wisconsin Ditch/Fortification Creek, Milk Creek and Rampart Creek are specific examples the committee asked be ground truthed CDM found a 25% error on the Wisconsin Ditch. The modelers used the 1993 aerial photos which has changed since then and need to be relooked at. Hal stated that he thought the big difference was that one of the irrigated areas was not marked on the map but clearly was green on the satellite image. Hal was not sure why this was missed. The Milk Creek project consists of Milk Creek Reservoir and Yampa River. The reservoir has a 1975 storage right and so does the pipeline diversion. These rights are for industrial purposes only. Rampart Reservoir has a first fill and second fill water right with a 1962 and 1981 storage right respectively. This reservoir is used to meet shortages in the Fortification Creek. Mark gave projects and methods 6 study scenarios and stated that they have been run and what each scenario would look like. He showed several slides that showed all the scenarios. Mark stated that he would like to set up another meeting with the sub-committee to go over all these results and speak again to the round table. We have to get this project finished by December 31, 2013. T.Wright Dickinson made a motion to the basin for an additional \$20,000 for the projects and methods to do additional modeling work related to conversion to sprinkler irrigation. T.Wright/McBride/Unanimous

**Basin Implementation Plan Grant Discussion (Second Reading) – Dan Birch:** Dan gave a brief of what he did to begin the Basin Implementation Plan and get a consultant on board for the project. CDM, AMEC and Leonard Rice. Dan's suggestion was to give the subcommittee authority to select the consultant. The deadline for the applicants was the 15<sup>th</sup>. Dan thinks that a consultant will cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000 for this project. T.Wright wants to make sure that there is money set aside for deficiencies and return flows into the Yampa. Kevin McBride asked what the State water plan will be for the intrabasin water plan as opposed to interbasin water plan. Jacob stated that the State is trying to move basins from the planning phase into the implementation phase. Doug Monger stated he would like to be a part of the meetings for this implementation plan consultant. At the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting the basin approved \$75,000 for the consultant to be disbursed at \$10,000 for the initial hiring of the consultant and the remaining to be used for the drafting of the Implementation Plan. Dan thinks that a consultant will be on board in the next 30 days and then develop a scope of work and this time line will depend on the committee. He believes that this can be accomplished in the next 60 days.

**Basin Implementation Plan Consultant Recommendation – Dan Birch:** Discussed above.

**Energy Study Grant (Second Read) – Dan Birch and Jeff Devere:** SGM conducted the first phase years ago and there is an interview scheduled later this month. The oil shale issue is going to have to be reexamined since the leaving of Shell from the basin. Tom Sharp asked why would we want to redo the study to take out or reduce the oil shale demand? In addition he asked what if oil shale development doesn't happen which in turn will provide a growing availability to other areas? Jeff Devere talked about the possibility of a new oil shale company coming in whose needs are more than Shell's estimates. The motion was made to allocate \$25,000 for an update of the energy study. Doug Monger/Dan Craig/Unanimous

Jacob introduced Kate McIntyre to the round table. Her job is to enhance communications and provide education for the Colorado Water Plan. Kate works with the Education Outreach Program and is assisting with a two way dialog with the State and the Basin to help shape the message.

[COWaterplan@state.co.us](mailto:COWaterplan@state.co.us) is where you can find the handouts that Kate and Jacob sent out tonight.

## **REPORTS**

### **IBCC Update –“No Regrets” Jacob Bornstein, Kevin McBride, Jeff Devere, and T.Wright**

**Dickinson:** Jeff Devere talked about the “no regrets” plan that was talked about at the last IBCC meeting. Jeff thinks the IBCC will focus on the areas of consensus to create a water plan. Jeff believes that we are not talking about new water supply but actually the reallocation of water. Kevin stated that a firm basis does not exist on the West Slope. There was an acknowledgement that the next IBCC meeting needs to talk about the risks. T.Wright believes that we need to have the conversation about what is new supply? . Jacob stated that people at the IBCC table stated they could live with the IPP’s already listed. 80% of the panel seemed happy with the results. However some were concerned about how do we actually get to our firm deliveries? Questions and information is at the Roundtable page on the CWCW website.

### **Non-Consumptive Committee Update – Geoff Blakeslee and Kent Vertrees:**

No Update.

**Roundtable Education Forum – Public Education Outreach Program – Ren Martyn:** Ren gave a talk about the last education meeting, and described the water forum that the roundtable partnered with the Community Ag Alliance to put on in Craig. Three roundtable members attended along with dozens of participants. He talked about the World Monitor forum and water monitoring program that the high school students implemented. Ren penned an article 3 weeks ago in the Steamboat Pilot regarding the State Plan and what came out of the CWCW. Ren believes that there will be a huge outreach from the basin for the Implementation Plan.

## **STATUS UPDATES on SB-179 GRANTS AND STUDIES**

**Yampa River Structures Project – Kent Vertrees:** Kent talked about his penning his letters that supports this project and an additional letter to Jacob asking for the year extension that was discussed at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Other Action Items:**

**Announcements:** Susan gave her resignation as the secretary for the basin. She also stated that she will be happy to help anyone in the future to get them familiar with this process.

**Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: December 11, 2013** Armstong Creek; Jackie Brown: Bylaws changes, possibly through emails. Jeff Comstock talked about considering a different date for the meetings due to conflicts. Jeff Devere talked about the basin meeting every other month. No decisions were made regarding these items. The new Chairman will consider the input.

**Adjournment:** No other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Susan R. Bengston, Secretary.