

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2014
- American Legion's Shadow Mt. Clubhouse –
(0.9 mile North of Holiday Inn on Right Side)
6:00 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.**

Attendees:

Steve Colby	Jeff Comstock	Jeff Devere
Geoff Blakeslee	Jon Hill	T.Wright Dickinson
Ren Martyn	Chuck Grobe	Dan Birch
Steve Colby	Jackie Brown	Don Jones
Kent Vertrees	Tom Gray	Doug Monger
Dan Craig	Jay Gallagher	Jeff Drust
Mary Brown	Burt Clements	Kelly Beal
Kevin McBride	Bill Green	Laura Chartrand
Rebecca Bowland	Rebecca Mitchell	Darryl Steele
Tom Sharp	Alden Vanden Brink	Jean Stetson
Erin Light	Hanna Sloan	Richard Van Gytenbeek
Patrick Stanko	Dan Eddy	Forrest Luke
Jo Stanko	Courtney Black	Mike Sorenson
Jack Lewis	Rick Henderson	Liz Schnackenberg
Daivd Graf	Miles Morgan	Brent Newman
Jon Snyder	Kelly Heaney	Dave Miller
Mark Foust	Tom Soos	Steve Jamieson
Brad McCloud		

Jackie Brown was acting Secretary for the meeting as Susan was absent on a family matter.

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Jon Hill called the meeting to order at 6:25p.m.

Introductions of Members and Audience: Introductions of all in attendance occurred. 19 Voting members attended the meeting this evening.

Approve/Modify Agenda: The BIP discussion and Green River pipeline was moved to the end of the agenda.

Review and Approval of January 15, 2014 and the Special March 16, 2014 Minutes. Dan Craig asked to be added to the January minutes but please remove Jeff Drust from March minutes. Geoff motioned to approve the January and March minutes with noted changes, Dan Craig seconded. Unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS:

Budget Update: Brent Newman – There is \$777,000.00 in the account.

Public Comments: None.

Grant Request; Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (Second Reading): EIS Solutions and WW Wheeler presented Phase I findings and requested \$230K. There was heavy discussion around the match provided by the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (RBWCD) and confusion around exactly how much had been spent and what the match from the RBWCD was; 10% match seemed to be the figure used. A member of the audience asked if the RBWCD would be seeking funding from oil shale partners. Geoff Blakeslee is concerned about the small amount of match. Tom Sharp asked how the water for oil shale would be supplied, thought a pipeline or via augmentation; is this a “if you build it they will come” scenario? T. Wright reiterated with Becky Mitchell’s support that there is no need for a project to be listed in the BIP in order to be considered in the future. Doug Monger is concerned that there was no phase I report and that this project seemed like it could be speculation that would sit upon a shelf. Erin Light suggested the Yellow Jacket plan be used for comparison since so much money and effort was put into that one. Becky Mitchell said she could possibly get this on the agenda for May but that it may be better as an item on the July CWCB meeting.

Tom Gray motioned for RBWCD to come back in May with a final report and a better accounting of funding and monies spent. T. Wright seconded. Approved with no opposition. Kevin McBride suggested we look at prioritizing project types for funding. Jackie Brown suggested we look at our funding request stipulations to outline consistency, possibly with a sub-committee in the near future.

Grant Request; First Reading; Understanding Water Resources, Highland Ditch Headgate

Revision (Caroline Bradford): *See attachment 1.* T. Wright asked how much the NGO’s are contributing- what is the match for the project, from who and how much. Tom Sharp expressed concern that by funding this project the RT is providing a mechanism for the ditch company to put a call on the river- similar to the 1990’s Morgan Bottom headgate replacement project that did not get completed through the UYWCD/ CWCB. T. Wright respectfully disagreed. Tom Gray motioned that the Request come back for a Second Reading in May. T. Wright seconded. Tom Sharp was in opposition.

Trout Unlimited (Richard Vangytenbeek): Dan Birch motioned to decline participation in the “Our Colorado River” pledge. T. Wright seconded. Kent Vertrees was in opposition.

REPORTS:

IBCC Update (Kevin McBride): *see attachment 2.*

Non-Consumptive Committee Update (Geoff Blakeslee/Kent Vertrees): NC has been meeting as part of the BIP process.

Roundtable Education Forum – Public Education Outreach Program (Ren Martyn): Hosted a Water 101 in Meeker. Would like a process to get outreach to the roundtable. If there are comments specific to our basin in the CWCB Water Plan website Becky Mitchell will answer them personally. Those comments will get forwarded to Jon Hill. Jackie gave Ren the watercomments@gmail.com login information. Ren will get information out regarding the new appointments to the RT- what potential applications need and dates due. Sue will circulate.

STATUS UPDATES ON SB-179 GRANTS AND STUDIES:

Yampa River Structures Project (Kent Vertrees): They are online for an Army Corp of Engineers permit.

Armstrong Creek Project (Jackie Brown): \$15k from RT has been utilized; project is on schedule for completion fall of 2015. Handout will be circulated via Sue.

Green River Pipeline/Preserving Options for a New Trans Mountain Diversion: N/A?

Basin Implementation Plan Discussion (Dan Birch)

After much discussion, Geoff motioned to accept Alternative Two with the below strike out: *Of foremost concern to the Basin is how a Colorado River compact curtailment would be administered. If it is done on the basis of the prior appropriation system, the YWG basin suffers a disproportionate burden because their uses are relatively junior to the uses in the Colorado, Gunnison, and SW basins and including the transmountain diversion to the Front Range. Further development of Colorado River supplies, particularly a potentially large transmountain diversion poses a threat to existing and new uses in the YWG Basins and would undermine the very essence of this Basin Implementation Plan. The Basin therefore seeks to protect and provide a greater level of certainty for its existing and new uses of water identified herein. The Basin recognizes that their uses are not solely at risk - other uses in the other West Slope basins are as well, including a transmountain diversion.*

Doug seconded. Jean Stetson, Tom Sharp, Jeff Comstock, Daryl Steele were opposed. Motion carried.

Other Action Items:

Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: May 14, 2014, June 18, 2014 (Special BIP Meetings), July 16, 2014 and October 15, 2014 (Regular Meetings).

Adjournment: No other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully, and hopefully not inaccurately, Jackie Brown for Susan Bengston.