

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Draft Minutes
Wednesday March 8, 2017
VFW Post 4265
419 E Victory Way Craig, CO 81625
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chair Mary Brown.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See attached sign in sheet.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Mary Brown asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda. The meeting proceeded without modifications.
4. **Review and Approval of January 11, 2017 Minutes:** Geoff Blakeslee motioned to approve the January draft minutes. Doug Monger seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Budget Report (CWCB)/ SWSI update:** Craig Godbout reported that according to the February 2017 summary there is \$818,949 in the Basin account and \$590,743 in the State account. In regards to SWSI, consultants and the CWCB Staff met last week. There will be limited public input. They will be using technical platform review methods used in previous SWSI's. To expand the scope they will be using data compiled from BIPs. Craig explained that the Technical Advisory Groups will be made up of people that are knowledgeable in the TAGs specific area. With one representative from each Basin. Doug Monger asked what the objective was. Craig explained that it is to look at gaps in M&I, ag and recreation, and supply and demand. Several members expressed concern that the gaps would be driven by IPPs, without input from the Roundtables. Jay Gallagher said that he would take the Roundtables concerns back to the board. Jackie Brown made a motion to send a letter to the CWCB, formally airing the concerns on how TAGs are being set up. Doug Monger seconded. The group agreed to send a letter.
6. **Public Hearings/ Public Input and Comment:** Jackie Brown was asked to read a letter from Todd Asbury on an ongoing algae problem on the White River (see attached). David Graf said that the problem has come to their attention and sampling has been done. They will be holding a meeting at White River Electric on April 4th at 1:00pm.
7. **Review At-Large Application:** Charles Whiteman (Chuck) gave a brief talk on his background and experience in water, and his interest to join the Roundtable. Alden Vanden-Brink spoke on Chucks behalf. Alden pointed out the difficulty in finding people to represent the White River, especially someone as experienced as Chuck. Jackie Brown

motioned to ask Mr. Whiteman to join the Roundtable, Alden seconded, all were in favor. Mr. Whiteman was welcomed to the Roundtable.

- 8. Update from Wilson Water:** Erin Wilson and Lisa Wade updated the Roundtable on the BIP. Currently they are looking at certain IPPs, both existing and future, that could be used to meet consumptive needs. It is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather a way to be creative to meet needs. Erin took the model for the BIP and met with IPPs to find out how they see it operating. They are checking to see what demands the Roundtable wants to use. They were able to get through most consumptive needs, but did not get through non-consumptive needs, and will be holding a second workshop.
- 9. Reports of Each Standing or Special Committee: (10 min. each) BIP Sub-committee**
 - a. BIP Sub-Committee-** was discussed during the update from Wilson Water.
 - b. IBCC Update-** has not met recently, but will be meeting April 20th.
 - c. West Slope Technical Committee-** has not met recently, however discussion of Phase II is ongoing.
 - d. PEPO/ Education Committee Update –** Kelly Romero Heaney directed members to the PEPO Update included in the packet. The PEPO Committee had a meeting prior to the Roundtable meeting to discuss starting the website. If any members have an opinion or would like to give input on how the website should look, please attend the next PEPO meeting.
 - e. Grant Committee Update (20min) -** Steve Hinkemeyer updated the Roundtable on changes to the grant procedures and updates approved by the Roundtable in May 2016. Steve was recently notified by Craig Godbout that more changes needed to be made per changes with the CWCB. Steve changed the guidelines to adopt match changes from the Basin Account, and to adopt match changes to the Statewide Account. Steve asked if the Roundtable would approve these changes. Doug Monger made a motion to accept the changes, seconded by Geoff Blakeslee. Motion carried. Geoff expressed his gratitude for all of the hard work, and time, Steve has put into updating the procedures and application.
 - f. DWR Update -** Erin Light spoke to the group about the St Jude's case. As a result there is a House Bill 17-1190 that, if passed, will add new language to protect existing water rights, and will only apply to direct flow appropriations. Erin spoke about the difference in beneficial use verses aesthetic and recreational purposes, when water is being diverted from a river or stream, to private property.
- 10. New business:**
 - a. Risk Study:** Mary Brown gave an update and summary of events leading up to the changes in scope of work to the Risk Study. Last year four West Slope Roundtables with participation from some Front Range Roundtables, joined together to complete Phase I. The group wanted to proceed to Phase II by integrating information from Phase I, with the Sate mod and CRSS to create a better modeling effort to assess risk and future curtailment. The Yampa White Green Roundtable gave \$10,000 to help fund the project,

with the Colorado River District being the fiscal sponsor of Phase II. However, Phase II was put on hold when the Front Range Water Council sent a letter to the CWCB encouraging them to not approve the request. The CWCB Director then reached out to members from all Roundtables, and worked towards changing the scope of work in a manner that would pacify all parties. A small tech committee was formed to work through varied stages. Phase II will now not be used in an effort to address interstate issues, but it will still give the Roundtable 90% of what was hoped for. It will be going before the CWCB for approval at the next meeting. There was a request that the results could never be used, but was denied. Therefore, the Roundtable could use the model to address scenarios in the future. Kevin McBride expressed his concern with another Roundtable trying to determine what is and what is not appropriate for this Roundtable to study. Stating "there is a real risk that a compact could be issued and we deserve to know how it would affect us".

b. CWCB PEPO Update (20 min): Mara Mackillop informed the Roundtable that she enjoyed a tour of the Basin this last winter. The CWCB has been sending out newsletters, to sign up for them please visit their website. Many other PEPO Committees are making similar strides as the YWG PEPO Committee. Mara spoke about getting all of the PEPO committees together recently, so that they could share what they are doing. YWG PEPO Committee members said it was a valuable experience. Mara continues to be a great resource for the Roundtables.

11. Announcements: There were no announcements.

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

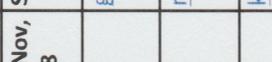
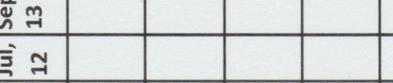
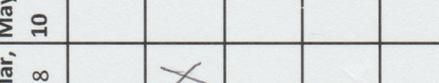
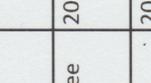
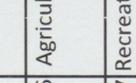
Next Meeting date is May 10, 2017 at 6pm

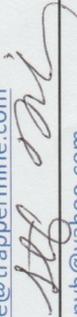
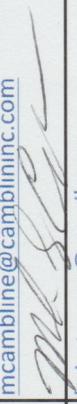
13. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

April McIntyre

YWG Basin Roundtable Recorder

	House/Senate Appointment:		2018	Jan, 11	Mar, 8	May, 10	Jul, 12	Sep, 13	Nov, 8	Signature/email
14	House/Senate Appointment:		2018							
	At-large Appointments from above members									
15	Environmental Appointment:	Geoff Blakeslee	2018	X						gblakeslee@tnc.org 
16	Agricultural Appointment: (Chair through 2017)	Mary Brown	2018	X	X					marytaylorbrown@gmail.com 
17	Recreation:	Kent Vertrees	2017							kent@steamboatpowdercats.com 
18	Domestic Water Provider:	Steve Colby	2017	X						scolby@mcwater.org 
19	Industrial Water Interest:	Rich Thompson	2017	X						rthompson@tristategt.org 
20	At-Large Representative:	Chris McCourt	2017							cmccourt@tristategt.org
21	At-Large Representative: (vice Chair #1 through 2017)	Jackie Brown	2017		X					jbrown@tristategt.org 
22	At-Large Representative:	Jeff Comstock	2017	X						jcomstock@moffatcounty.net
23	At-Large Representative:	Burt Clements	2017	X						burtclements@gmail.com
24	At-Large Representative:		2021							
25	At-Large Representative: (IBCC Rep through 2017)	Jeff Devere	2021	X						jeffery.devere@cncc.edu 
26	At-Large Representative:	Chuck G. Grobe	2021	X						cgrobe@moffatcounty.net 
27	At-Large Representative:	Travis Day	2021		X					wpss1999@gmail.com 

Membership of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable 2017		Name	Term Exp.	Jan, 11	Mar, 8	May, 10	Jul, 12	Sep, 13	Nov, 8	Signature/email
1	Routt County Commissioners Appointment: (Alt. IBCC Rep through 2015)	Doug Monger	2018	X						dmonger@rcc.wy.gov 
2	Moffat County Commissioners Appointment: (Alt. IBCC Rep through 2015)	Tom Gray	2018							tgray7@gmail.com 
3	Rio Blanco County Commissioners Appointment: (Chair through 2015)	Jon Hill	2018							jon.hill@rbc.us
4	Garfield County Commissioners Appointment: (Vacant Never filled)									
5	Routt County Municipality Appointment:	Kelly Romero-Heaney	2018	X	X					kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net
6	Moffat County Municipality Appointment:	Stephen Hinkemeyer	2018	X	X					steve@trappermine.com 
7	Rio Blanco County Municipality Appointment: (vice Chair #2 through 2017)	Alden Vanden Brink	2018	X						aldenvb@yahoo.com 
8	Upper Yampa Conservancy District Appointment: (IBCC Rep through 2016)	Kevin McBride	2018		X					kmcbride@upperyampawater.com 
9	Juniper Water Conservancy District Appointment:	Mike Camblin	2018	X	X					mcamblin@camblininc.com 
10	Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District Appointment:	Kai Turner	2018							kaimturner@gmail.com
11	Poohook Water Conservancy District Appointment:		2017							
12	Rio Blanco Conservancy District	Tim Winkler	2020	X						tim420@centurytel.net
13	Colorado River Water Conservation District Appointment:	Dan Birch	2018		X					dbirch@crwcd.org 

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Water Supply Reserve Fund - Balance Summary
February 2017

2/1/2007

Fund Appropriation and Receipts				
Fiscal Year	Legislative Appropriation	Funds Received	Statewide Account	Basin Account
2006/2007	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$5,500,000	\$4,500,000
2007/2008	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,200,000	\$1,800,000
2008/2009	\$10,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$4,300,000	\$2,700,000
2009/2010	\$5,775,000	\$5,775,000	\$4,215,750	\$1,559,250
2010/2011	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,380,000	\$1,620,000
2011/2012	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$4,732,000	\$2,268,000
2012/2013	\$10,000,000	\$7,157,724	\$4,580,943	\$2,576,781
2013/2014	\$10,000,000	\$10,091,639	\$6,458,649	\$3,632,990
2014/2015	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$6,400,000	\$3,600,000
2015/2016	\$10,000,000	\$9,103,590	\$5,826,298	\$3,277,292
2016/2017	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest	N/A	\$2,857,935	\$1,829,078	\$0
Prior Years Interest Adjustment			\$1,028,856	\$0
2014/2015 Interest	N/A	\$ 240,216	\$240,216	\$0
2015/2016 Interest	N/A	\$ 219,458	\$219,458	\$0
2016/2017 Interest	N/A	\$ 116,750	\$116,750	\$0
TOTAL	\$84,775,000	\$81,562,311	\$54,027,998	\$27,534,313

Interest diverted to SW per
DNR reconciliation

Note: The WSRF is a Severance Tax "Tier II" program with 40% of funds distributed on July 1, 30% on January 1, and the final 30% on April 1.

In FY 2008/2009 the final 30% installment of \$3,000,000 was not received due to the State's budgetary shortfall.

In January 2012 interest for the program from its inception to date was credited directly to the Statewide Account.

Interest from January 2012 on is regularly calculated by the Treasury and credited to the Statewide Account.

Fund Distribution					
Basin	Approved Basin Grants	Total Basin Funds	Basin Account Balance	Approved State Grants	Statewide Account Balance
Arkansas	\$3,036,932	\$3,059,368	\$22,436	\$9,372,551	
Colorado	\$2,685,291	\$3,059,368	\$374,077	\$5,964,274	
Southwest *	\$2,744,563	\$3,059,368	\$314,805	\$7,259,911	
Gunnison *	\$2,614,514	\$3,059,368	\$444,854	\$4,619,681	
Metro	\$2,725,031	\$3,059,368	\$334,337	\$7,501,732	
North Platte	\$2,134,668	\$3,059,368	\$924,700	540,942	
Rio Grande	\$2,755,712	\$3,059,368	\$303,656	\$10,385,323	
South Platte *	\$2,635,562	\$3,059,368	\$423,806	\$7,061,094	
Yampa/White	\$2,240,419	\$3,059,368	\$818,949	\$731,747	
TOTAL	\$23,572,692	\$27,534,313	\$3,961,621	\$53,437,255	\$590,743
TOTAL APPROVED GRANTS				\$77,009,947	

Note: Only includes grants approved by CWCB

To: YWG Basin Roundtable
RE: Algae Bloom in White River

I would like to bring to the attention of the YWG Basin Roundtable an ongoing problem with water quality in the White River. For the last 3 or 4 summers a major algae bloom has been present on the North Fork of the White River from around mile marker 22.5 through the confluence with the South Fork and on the White River downstream through Rangley. (This observance is visual and not scientific) At about mile marker 18 the South Fork of the White River joins the North Fork of the White River to become the White River. Above the confluence of the two branches the South Fork of the White River is a clear and healthy water shed. Logic would appear to dictate that some harmful nutrients are entering the North Fork of the White River and encouraging this unhealthy algae bloom both on the North Fork and the White River below the confluence.

“Nutrients promote and support the growth of algae and Cyanobacteria. The eutrophication (nutrient enrichment) of waterways is considered a major factor. The main nutrients contributing to eutrophication are phosphorus and nitrogen.” Center for Earth and Environmental Science/ University of Indiana.

This algae bloom covers the river floor, is probably killing the entomology and therefore harming or killing the fish. It is clearly impacting the aesthetics of the river corridor. Last July and August the two branches of the river had dramatically different conditions. The North Fork was not showing any signs of rising fish and there was no apparent hatch of insects. Conversely the South Fork had healthy PMD and Caddis hatches with fish actively feeding. The visible condition of the two forks was dramatic – the South Fork was clear and vibrant while the North Fork and the White River below the confluence was a green algae bloom and rocks were covered with green slime.

We are coming to this group and others in hopes that something can be done to save this valuable asset. It was only a few years ago that both forks of the river and the White River below the confluence were the same; clean and vibrant throughout the summer. Since temperature, light, stability, and turbidity conditions would either be similar or have remained the same on both branches; that leads one to think that perhaps some new fertilizer or major modification of grazing management has caused an excess of nitrogen to get into the river and create this problem.

We hope that recent tests and studies by the DNR can call for a plan of action to correct the nutrients entering the water shed. An asset like the White River is so special and can only take so much abuse before it suffers irreparable damage. Any assistance or referral of this situation to an appropriate authority is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Asbury

Yampa/White Green Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)
Building on Goals and Measurable Outcomes

With no preference implied the Basin Roundtable (BRT) identified the following core goals and associated measurable outcomes for the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) for the State Water Plan. The BIP is constructed to support and implement programs to meet the goals and measure outcomes.

Protect the YWG Basin from compact curtailment of existing decreed water uses and some increment of future uses.

- Secure an equitable allocation of native flow in the Yampa, White, and Green rivers to meet existing and future in-basin water demands including PBO depletion allowances.
- Maintain existing and future PBO depletion allowances for in-basin needs.
- Minimize and mitigate the risk of a Colorado River Compact shortage.
- Prevent pre-Compact water rights from being abandoned or placed on the Division 6 abandonment list.

Protect and encourage agriculture uses of water in the YWG Basin within the context of private property rights.

- Preserve current baseline of approximately 119,000 irrigated acres; expand by 12% by 2030.
- Encourage land use policies and community goals which enhance agriculture and agricultural water rights.

Improve agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages. The agricultural needs study of the YWG BRT identified an additional 14,805 acres of potential new agricultural production in the future.

- Reduce agricultural shortages basin-wide by 10 % by the year 2030.
- Preserve the current baseline of 119,000 irrigated acres and expand by 12% by 2030.

Identify and address municipal and industrial (M&I) water shortages.

- Reliably meet 100% of M&I demands in the YWG Basin through the year 2050 and beyond.

Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses at locations identified in the non-consumptive needs study of the YWG BRT.

- To the extent that non-consumptive needs can be specified and projects can be analyzed, there will be projects for non-consumptive attributes within the existing legal and water management context.
- Multi-purpose projects and methods will be researched and designed to meet the other goals enumerated here.
- The PBO and its depletion coverage for the Yampa River Basin for existing and future anticipated and unanticipated depletions will meet base flow targets in critical habitat areas and assist with endangered fish recovery.
- A new PBO is agreed upon for the White Basin that provides certainty for existing and future anticipated and unanticipated depletions and that assists with endangered fish recovery.
- The flow protection and any water leasing or re-operation of projects needed for native warm water fish, cottonwoods, and recreational boating on reaches with greater and overlapping flow alteration risks are integrated with the flow protection for endangered fish recovery and with projects to meet in-basin, consumptive needs. The flow needs of these non-consumptive attributes are otherwise met, including the avoidance or offset of the loss of minimum or

optimal boating days that are related to multi-purpose projects and unrelated to drier or wetter hydrology.

- The flow needs for all other non-consumptive attributes are quantified, integrated with projects to meet in-basin consumptive needs, and otherwise met through non-consumptive identified projects and processes (IPPs). Multi-purpose projects will be researched and designed to improve riparian or aquatic ecology and bank stability without changing the existing flow regime while voluntarily modernizing irrigation diversion systems and reducing bed load deposits.
- Similar projects will be researched and designed to improve recreational boating for existing flows while voluntarily modernizing irrigation systems.
- The economic values of the relatively natural flow regimes of the Yampa and White river systems are recognized and protected, along with the economic values of consumptive water use.
- Acres of restored riparian areas, degraded streams, and wetlands to restore natural water storage capacity and improve water quantity and quality for non-consumptive needs.
- Assess and quantify impact of IPP's on peak flows and ascertain whether further non-consumptive IPP's need to be identified.

Maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses.

- Consider and maintain the existing water quality necessary for current and future water uses when reviewing IPPs.
- Support the implementation of water quality monitoring programs to create quality-controlled baseline data for all sub-basins of the YWG Basin.

Restore, maintain, and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure.

- Increased percentage of operable head gates.
- Where applicable, monitor the reduction in the loss of water through less wastage or seepage of water through leaky ditches, head gates, and storage ponds.
- Increased agricultural water storage in combination with multi-purpose opportunities when possible.
- Implement at least one project every year in the YWG Basin focusing on the restoration, maintenance, and modernization of existing water infrastructure.

Develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs.

- Success in permitting and constructing in-basin storage projects.
- Reduction in consumptive shortages in drought scenarios.
- Reduction in identified non-consumptive shortages in drought scenarios.
- Administration and infrastructure improvements making decreed amounts of water available to diversion structures with less need for seasonal gravel dams in the river.
- Reduce the potential incidence of severe low flows in order for water users to exercise their water rights.

For Further info please see:

Webinar on Colorado's Water Plan, recorded July 21, 2015:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ItiwMkgIAv0&feature=youtu.be>

The webinar was hosted by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education.