

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable Meeting
Draft Minutes
Wednesday September 14, 2016
-American Legion's Shadow
Mt. Clubhouse–1055 CR7,
Craig, CO 81625**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Called to order by Chair Mary Brown at 6:24 p.m.
- 2. Introductions of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See attached sign in sheet.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Doug Monger made a motion to approve agenda as is, Geoff Blakeslee seconded. Approved.
- 4. Review and Approval of July 13, 2016 Minutes:** Jay Gallagher has revisions for the draft minutes that he will email to April McIntyre. Geoff Blakeslee made a motion to approve with Jay's corrections included, Steve Hinkemeyer seconded. Motion passed.
- 5. Budget Report (CWCB):** Craig Godbout reported that the Basin account balance is \$864,624. If the proposed grants that are before the state are approved the State balance is approximately \$775,000.
- 6. Public hearings/public input and comment:** Public comment was asked for. There was no public comment.
- 7. Reports of each standing or special committee (10 min. each)**
 - a. BIP Sub-committee –Dan Birch: Dan was not present, Geoff Blakeslee reported that there was no report.
 - b. IBCC update - Jeff Devere reported that financing was the topic of the latest IBCC meeting. They also heard from Eric Kuhn, who went over the structural deficit in the Colorado River. Kevin McBride informed the Roundtable that the IBCC voted to receive the funding plan. They were shown a PowerPoint on how the funding gap will be filled.
 - c. West Slope Caucus – Kevin McBride spoke of a new memorandum from Eric Kuhn, that he will share with the Roundtable. The message needs to continue that water is short in the Colorado River Basin.

- d. PEPO/ Education Committee update – Kelly Romero Heaney reported that the PEPO Committee met before the Roundtable meeting, and would like to continue to do so if possible. The action plan is updated and will need to continuously be kept up to date for the CWCB. Kelly went over the notable changes and asked if any other modifications needed to be made. Jeff Devere made a motion to approve the updates to the action plan, Alden Vanden Brink seconded, motion passes.
- e. Grant Committee update - Steve Hinkemeyer reported that the Committee has been helping with the Rio Blanco Phase 2 application. Steve also reported that there was some confusion with the Maybell Irrigation project and the appropriate paperwork did not get turned in to the CWCB in time for approval in September. The requirements are in the guidelines, but Steve suggested the Roundtable remind applicants that aren't as familiar with the process. He also asked Craig Godbout if he could look into getting the new forms uploaded on the website, in order to help with the grant process.
- f. Bylaws Committee – Jeff Devere let the Roundtable know that he had been elected onto the board as an at-large with water rights. He has since sold the property along with the water rights, and in an effort to stay transparent he would like to request that Bill Badaracca and himself be allowed to switch seats. Geoff Blakeslee moved to approve the request. Both seats have the same term year, the only change will be in their seat number. Chair Mary Brown thanked Jeff for his transparency. Steve Hinkemeyer inquired about the changes to the bylaws that will affect the upcoming election. The at-large seats will be affected by limiting each county to 6 seats. These changes will be summarized and emailed out to the group. PEPO will advertise the election, members will also pass along election information to interested parties.
- g. Update from Erin Light - the Executive Committee has asked Erin to update the Roundtable on behalf of the DWR's Division 6. Erin let the board know there was a call on Elk River for 65cfs, and reducing the Maybell ditch from 75cfs to 35cfs. All calls are listed on the cdss website and are available anytime. They may be releasing from reservoirs to help with white fish migration. Erin told the group if they ever have any questions on why they are doing what they are doing please call herself or Bryan Romig.

8. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects: (15 minutes each)

- a. Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District Phase 2 White River Storage Project 1st reading grant proposal. Brad McCloud presented to the YWG

Roundtable on behalf of the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District. Phase one was completed in March 2015, the 2nd phase is tentatively set to begin 12/2017 and finish 3/2018. Phase 2 will continue community outreach, look at preferred alternative refinement, do preliminary reservoir sedimentation studies, modeling coordination, hold public meetings, and produce the phase 2 report. The project is seeking \$175,000 from the YWG BRT. Brad was asked why testing is listed specifically, it is because the sediment will be tested to find out what is in it. Several comments were made on the belief that this project will lead to an economic boost in the area. It is estimated that the project will provide more than \$1.5 million in annual tax revenue. This report is necessary to move forward with permitting for the reservoir. Brad will provide a copy of the initial feasibility study to anyone who would like it. It was suggested that the project also look into state funding. Doug Monger made a motion to approve the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District Phase 2 White River Storage Project come back for a second reading. Chuck Grobe, along with two other members seconded the motion simultaneously. Motion passed. See attached for more information on the grant request.

9. New business (15 min. each)

- a. Colorado's Water Plan/Water Plan Funding Policy- covered in committee updates.
- b. WSRA Criteria & Guidelines Revision and Update: Craig Godbout discussed changes to WSRA Criteria & Guidelines. The Basin match requirement has been changed to 25%, however the board can waive that requirement IF the applicant can prove significant hardship. The Roundtable then is required to provide justification of their waiver to the CWCBC. When requesting Statewide funds an applicant must provide a 50% match. The CWCBC can approve waivers for 25% of the requirement, but the first 25% cannot be waived. No match needed for Basin implementation plans, 66% can come from the Basin account, 33% from the State. When working on the Basins own projects, the Roundtable needs to create some sort of selection process for contractors (if project is \$100,000 or more). There is also a new conflict of interest policy. A member should recuse themselves when voting, if they stand to benefit financially.
- c. Meeting Location: The American legion has terminated their lease of the shadow Mountain club house and will not be able to use it for the November meeting. It was decided to have the next meeting at the Clarion Inn in Craig, due to its convenience and low cost.

Chuck Grobe offered to assist in researching new venues. The Roundtable will discuss a permanent venue at the next meeting.

10. Old Business

- a. Joint West Slope Roundtable Risk Study: Item was skipped as Dan Birch was not present.

11. **Announcements:** Mike Camblin reported that the Maybell Irrigation District was able to secure the additional \$62,000 from the Fish recovery program. The Roundtable asked Craig Godbout for an update on the South Metro Study. Craig said he will check with Dara Johnson in finance, and try to find something out. Craig reported that the CWCB recently received the contract from the State Morgan Bottom project and it should be on the ground next fall. The CWCB will be enforcing the 6 month progress report requirement. Once received Craig will forward them on to the Roundtable for distribution. This will keep the Roundtable up to date on current projects. Craig also reported that there has been some changes in positions at the CWCB, some new hires and a few job openings. If members know anyone that would be interested please let him know. Kelly Romero-Heaney reported that the Stream Management Plan should be wrapped up by March/April 2018.

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next meeting date is November 9, 2016 at 6PM

13. Adjournment: 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

April McIntyre

YWG Basin Roundtable Recorder