

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Draft Minutes
Wednesday May 10, 2017
VFW Post 4265
419 E Victory Way Craig, CO 81625
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jackie Brown called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See attached sign in sheet
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Jackie Brown asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda. There were not. Burt Clements motioned to approve the Agenda Geoff Blakeslee seconded, motion passed.
4. **Review and Approval of March 8, 2017 Minutes:** Geoff Blakeslee motioned to approve the March draft minutes, Burt Clements seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Budget Report (CWCB)/ SWSI update:** Craig Godbout reported that the current Basin balance is \$723,949 and the current State balance is \$35,379. Craig reported that the project bill passed both the House and the Senate for a total of 164 million dollars. Ten million of which is ear marked for WSRF supplemental funding, he will know more in July. Craig also updated the Roundtable on SWSI. They are currently looking at their methodology. TAG representation for this Basin is as follows: Planning Scenarios-Kevin McBride, Environmental Recreation- Kent Vertrees, Municipal- Jackie Brown, Agriculture- T Wright Dickinson, there are not members from the YWG Basin on the Climate change or Conservation TAGs. Craig stated that they have both been in existence for a long time and neither are slated to change. Jackie Brown voiced concern that this Basin is not being represented on two of the TAGs. Doug Monger voiced concern with the way the TAGs are being formed and the inevitability of the silo effect, as a result. Geoff Blakeslee asked how it would be used, as SWSI is not a technical platform. Some other concerns included; not using a grass roots approach and the potential that this Basin will not be represented under the current timeline, that the larger picture has not been accounted for, and whether or not the Basins Implementation Plan will be incorporated. During the last meeting it was decided that a letter would be sent to the CWCB addressing the Basins concerns with the SWSI TAGs, however a letter was not necessary. Jackie asked if relaying these concerns to Craig was sufficient for now, and she will get in contact with Becky Mitchell. Craig announced that the Board is vetting applicants for the CWCB Director, and the 3 CWCB Board Members will most likely be post session appointments.

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:**

- a. **BIP Sub-Committee-** no update
- b. **IBCC Update-** Kevin McBride reported that the bulk of discussion at the most recent IBCC meeting surrounded funding and SWSI. He stated that he has never seen so much agreement on funding. They wanted to know where funding was going before supporting something like the Bottle Bill. In regards to SWSI no one seems to know what it means, or where it is going. The IBCC had similar concerns as the YWG Roundtable. Can it be done in a worth while way, in such a short period of time?
- c. **West Slope Technical Committee-** Jeff Devere spoke about the West Slope Risk Study, and stated that the revised scope of work is a fairly good compromise. It went in front of the CWCBB Board in March. Jay Gallagher added that there is a disclaimer that this represents the West Slope and is not a State project.
- d. **PEPO/ Education Committee Update-** Jackie Brown announced that Kelly had a healthy baby boy. Jeff Devere reported that the Committee met tonight and discussed the Website. They are currently developing the site and it will be up in a few weeks. They will improve it as they go. Marsha Daughenbaugh asked if anyone knew of events where they needed a keynote speaker, and announced that the Basin Recorder is going to contract to maintain the website and help with grants.
- e. **Grant Committee Update-** Steve Hinkemeyer reported that the Committee has received one grant application that will be heard later this evening. The application that was sent was a PDF instead of a workable document. Steve is going to fix that and send it to the Recorder. Geoff Blakeslee asked if a line could be added for the applicants name. Steve agreed that it could.
- f. **DWR Update Erin Light-** Erin let the group know that if there was a topic they would like covered she would gladly cover it, just let her know. Currently they are short handed with 4 of their 9 water Commissioners retiring. They have 2 new Water Commissioners hired that will start next week, and will hopefully hire two more soon. The reservoirs are getting full, Fish Creek is at about 70 percent. The Guide to Water Waste is a work in progress. Erin also announced that the State Engineer, Dick Wolfe is retiring July 1st.

8. **New business:**

- a. **John McConnell Math and Science Center 1st reading:** Jenn Moore the Executive Director of the John McConnell Math and Science Center presented a 1st reading to the Roundtable. The Center has been a Science Museum since 1999. They provide hands on Science to kids through their exhibits and also through kits that they send to schools K-5 across their school district. In 2016 they had 97 students from this Basin visit their center on field trips. They give a one hour science lesson paired with what the kids are learning

in their classroom. They have 150 hands on exhibits in the museum and take 3 field trip groups a day. Typically booking up by February. They are in the process of building a 14,000 square ft addition to the Colorado Mesa College, where they will be relocating. They are adding more exhibits, more programs, and more education offerings. One of the new additions is a 400 sq ft hydrology exhibit, with a price tag of \$233,000. It will be installed in December of this year and open February 2018. Currently they will be getting contributions for this exhibit from Ute Water, Clifton Water, The Colorado River District, both the Colorado and Gunnison Roundtables, and have a second reading with the Southwest Basin. They are asking the YWG Roundtable for \$15,000, and will be seeking State funding in September. Geoff Blakeslee mentioned that it would be interesting to cater the program to specific Basins, Jenn said with help from a member that could be possible through the exhibits signage. Doug Monger motioned to waive the second reading and approve the \$15,000 ask, contingent on the Center securing the remaining \$110,000 needed in funding. Geoff seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion passed. Jackie Brown discussed the importance of getting the word out to schools in this Basin. Jenn informed the Roundtable that the Gunnison PEPO Committee is going to start busing kids to the center from Montrose. The group discussed the possibility of doing the same in the YWG.

9. **Maybell Ditch Update:** Mike Camblin announced that the Maybell Ditch project has everything in and was able to turn the water on, on Monday. They ran into a hiccup trying to install communication at the gate. Originally it was supposed to run on cell service, but the service proved to be inadequate. Steve Hinkemeyer asked if they tried using a booster, Mike said they did and it did not help. They are now upgrading solar panels. The Ditch is still in need of an additional \$2,500 to offset the additional cost. Everything else has come in at, or under budget, and on time. The largest difficulty they faced was putting the 10,000 lb flume into place. The Ditch road had to be widened in order for the machine hauling the flume, to access the area the flume was being placed.
10. **Crosho Lake Update:** A letter updating the Roundtable on the projects status was provided in the packet. Members read before coming to the meeting. Doug Monger said the project is still moving forward. They are re-bidding and construction could start mid July. See attached.
11. **Announcements:** Jackie Brown announced that John Hill is no longer representing Rio Blanco County. Alden Vanden Brink is looking into who will be replacing him on the board. Amy Willhite has also stepped down from her Out of Basin seat. Kevin McBride announced that the Colorado Foundation for Water Education is holding a major fundraising event this Friday at the Denver Art Museum. Eric Kuhn is retiring and will be presented the Diane Hoppe Leadership Award. Kevin encouraged those that could, come and show their support. Craig Godbout announced that a new WSRF app is nearly ready to go live on the CWCB website. There will be a new template for exhibit A and Craig

asked that the Roundtable let potential applicants know that it will be posted under the banner "we have new criteria".

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

Next Meeting date is July 12, 2017 at 6pm

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April McIntyre
YWG Basin Roundtable Recorder