

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Draft Minutes
Wednesday July 12, 2017
VFW Post 4265
419 E Victory Way Craig, CO 81625
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Mary Brown called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.
2. **Introductions of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See the attached sign in sheet.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Mary Brown asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda. There were not, the meeting proceeded.
4. **Review and Approval of May 10, 2017 Minutes:** Remove "as SWSI is not a technical platform", and add the Climate Change and Conservation names to the TAGS under item 5. Doug Monger motioned to approve the May Minutes as corrected, Jackie Brown seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Budget Report (CWCB)/ SWSI update:** Craig Godbout reported that there was \$87,198 in the State account and \$723,949 in the Basin account. New Templates, Instructions and Documents for WSRF Applications have been available on the CWCB website since April. Colorado Water Plan Grants will have \$10,000,000 available. These Grants will be received and approved by the board. The Grants are expected to be highly competitive. This is a two reading process that does not have to come before the Roundtables but presenting to and receiving support from the Roundtable is helpful. The process is similar to the WSRF process. Craig also reported that the Roundtables concerns regarding SWSI were heard. Slowing the process down will be a topic at next weeks board meeting. They have also expanded the Climate Change and Conservation TAGS to include members from each Roundtable. Jay Gallagher reported that Greg Johnson has offered to come and speak about SWSI at the next meeting. Doug Monger thanked both Jay and Craig for passing on the concerns of the Roundtable.
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) BIP Sub-committee**
 - a. **BIP Sub-Committee** Dan Birch reported that they are currently looking at modeling and how projects can meet new and existing consumptive needs. At the modeling workshop held today, they discussed the upper Yampa and the White

River, the lower Yampa will be discussed in August. The process is set up to be highly interactive. There will be another workshop in August and an update at the September meeting may be possible. Everyone is welcome to come and participate. More participation from residents in Moffat County would be helpful. During the workshop Nicole Seltzer spoke about stream management funding that is available through the CWCB's Watershed Restoration Grant program, with support from the Gates Family Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and the River Network. It is a two year program focused on groups that are interested, ready and capable of planning and initiating a stream management plan during the next two grant cycles. In addition the River Network is offering up to \$5,000 in financial support for expert assistance in applying for the grant. Dan stated that the deadline for the application for assistance from the River Network is 5:00pm next Friday. Members from the BIP committee would like to apply for the assistance, so that if awarded, they may ask Nicole to help put together a grant application for a stream management plan. Kelly Romero-Heaney is currently working on a stream management plan for the City of Steamboat, she informed the group it is a very time consuming project. There was much discussion on the stream management plan itself and how this group would be able to take on a project of this magnitude effectively, without having a paid full time employee to work on it. It was asked if an outside group should instead take on the project and then bring it to the Roundtable. Doug Monger voiced concern with a special interest group heading up the project, going back to prior appropriations. Mary Brown stated that she is not against the idea of a stream management plan, she thinks a stream management plan would be good, but she would like clarity on who the applicant is and how the project would be managed. Kevin McBride stated that they believed the applicant should be the Roundtable. It gives the Roundtable an avenue to go further to meet consumptive needs, and essentially all they are asking for in this meeting is to apply for assistance in getting a grant writer. Geoff Blakeslee stated that a Stream Management plan could be an avenue to utilize all of the work that the Roundtable has done to date, with modeling and study's. Mary called for a motion. Dan Birch motioned that any interested members of the BIP Committee and Nicole, put forth an application of interest by the deadline, to apply for assistance from the River Network. Kevin McBride seconded the motion. Doug Monger asked that that the Roundtable see and sign off on the grant application. Steve Hinkemeyer was opposed, all others were in favor, the motion passed.

- b. IBCC Update** - Has not recently met, no update.
- c. West Slope Technical Committee –Jeff Devere/ Kevin McBride:** Kevin McBride announced that there was a Risk Study webinar earlier in the day. They spoke on potential water banking that could help stave off low Powell levels during some drought periods. Kevin said banking for the Yampa could also be

helpful during drought periods, but even then, significant plan management is needed. What happens during worst case scenario? There will be another call in the coming weeks.

- d. **PEPO/ Education Committee Update** – Marsha Daughenbaugh gave the update and congratulated Kelly Romero Heaney on the arrival of her baby. Currently Jeff Devere is in charge of the new website. They are hoping to have the website ready to review by the September meeting. They are also working on a 4 piece add for projects in the Basin, that will run in the newspapers. There was recently an article printed in the newspaper from Kelly on the City of Steamboats Stream Management Plan.
- e. **Grant Committee Update** - Steve Hinkemeyer reported that there has been no new grant requests. He also announced that the Recorder will be a contact for new grant applicants.
- f. **DWR Update** - Erin Light reported that they filled their vacant positions and the new Engineers are doing great. Erin has finished the Guide to Waste Water, Dick Wolfe was able to sign off on it on his last day. They will be using it internally as a guide for their field staff. Jackie Brown asked that Erin send it to the Recorder to be circulated to the Roundtable. The new DNR Director will be appointed by the Governor as it is a contracted position, that announcement should be today or tomorrow. Erin also announced an opportunity to tour a state of the art irrigation system in Meeker on July 19th. There are a couple of spots open for this if you would like to attend RSVP to the contact provided in the email announcement that went out earlier.

8. Old Business:

a. **White River Management Plan Update** - Alden Vanden-Brink reported that they had received their notice to proceed. The project is now moving forward aggressively because of the time lack. On August 22nd there will be a public meeting at the CNCC campus in Rangely. Alden will have the meeting specifics circulated to the Roundtable. They are also meeting in Denver to come up with flow recommendations.

- 9. **Yampa River Structures Project:** Kent Vertrees reported that this project first started in 2012 . The first several years were spent identifying the goals of the project and designing and re-designing plans to meet all of the specific criteria required by all agencies involved. In 2015 the Grant came before the Roundtable and was approved. Kent said Craig Godbout and the CWCB were very helpful during the project. As was Johnathan Stauffer with Eco Hydro, who passed away earlier this year, Kent said they could not have gotten the project done without him. Kent also announced that the annual clean up held by the Parrot Heads and Friends of the Yampa River had their best clean up yet, this year. They cleaned up 135 miles of the river with 120 volunteers.

10. Craig Diversion Structure Project: Dave Pike the Recreation Director in Moffat County presented. A few years ago a friend got hurt on rebar where repairs need to be made at the Craig Diversion, the Parrot Heads then started a project to replace the diversion and add recreational features in the process. After the conceptual design Parrot Heads partnered with the City of Craig. The project is going to cost an estimated 1.2 million. They will be applying for DOLA and GOCO grants, and would like to come in front of the Roundtable in September for a first reading. Presently they are asking for suggestions and questions from the Roundtable. Doug Monger asked if it will affect the flood plane, Dave said it will not because they will be replacing the current diversion. Chuck Grobe asked if they could bring a budget when they come back. Alden Vanden-Brink asked if they have 404 permits? Dave said they have permits on the existing structure. He also said the City owns the adjacent property and would like to make it a nice attraction, the Diversion Structure project is just the 1st feature in a larger master plan. Jeff Devere commented that the Roundtable encourages multi use projects. Dan Birch asked how much of the cost of the project is to replace the Diversion itself and how much is to add recreational features? Dave is working with River Wise on the project, and will ask them to answer these questions before they come back.

11. Announcements: Jay Gallagher announced that the CWCB has selected Becky Mitchel as the new CWCB Director. She is a good leader and team player. The three vacant CWCB Board member seats have been filled. By Heather Dutton as the Rio Grande Basin Representative, Jack Goble as the Arkansas Basin Representative and Celene Hawkins as the Southwest Basin Representative.

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

Next Meeting date is September 13, 2017 at 6pm

13. Adjournment: Jackie Brown motioned to end the meeting, Steve Hinkemeyer seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April McIntyre
YWG Basin Roundtable Recorder