

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Draft Minutes
Wednesday September 13, 2017
VFW Post 4265
419 E Victory Way Craig, CO 81625
6:00 pm. - 9:00 pm.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jackie Brown called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Jackie announced that she would be serving as chair for this meeting. She also gave an update on Mary Brown via Caring Bridge.
2. **Introductions of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See the attached sign in sheet. Dan Birch announced that he will be phasing out with the Colorado River District. He introduced Hunter Causey who will become his replacement by the end of the year. Dan considers this Basin his home and would like to stick around and continue to help with the Yampa Stream Management Plan.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Jackie Brown asked that the agenda be changed. Moving item 10 c out of Action Items to become stand alone item number 12, as this will no longer be a first reading. Kevin McBride motioned to approve the Agenda as modified, Burt Clements seconded, the motion passed.
4. **Review and Approval of July 12, 2017 Minutes:** Kelly Romero-Heaney made a motion to approve the July Minutes, Chuck Grobe seconded, motion passed.
5. **Budget Report (CWCB):** Craig Godbout reported that the current Basin balance is \$782,180, the current State Account balance is \$1,055,508. These numbers do not reflect the Project Bill/Construction Fund allocation as these funds have not yet posted to an account that the CWCB can make distributions from. When this happens, the Basins Balance will go up. Craig also reminded Roundtable members that the new Application, Guidelines, and Schedules are all online. He asked that the Roundtable continue to direct applicants to use these, as the CWCB will no longer be accepting old forms.
6. **SWSI Presentation:** Greg Johnson from the CWCB gave an update on SWSI. TAG's have been set up to add a member from each Basin. The project is in Phase 1 Methodology Review and Development, they are currently looking at integrating scenarios. Phase 2 is Technical Evaluations and Phase 3 will be Reporting. SWSI will be using planning

scenarios from the Colorado Water Plan. IPPs will not be evaluated in the SWSI update. When working on the population estimates they will be using five scenario-specific, county level population estimates for 2050. The M&SSI demand calculation process will take the 2050 populations and multiply it by gallons per capita per day. These calculations will be county-based. Methodology for Ag demands in each scenario will look at adjusting acreage, crops, groundwater sustainability, calculate scenario-specific IWR, adjust IWR by climate factor and divide IWR by system efficiency to develop diversion demands. Hydrologic Modeling will be performed for each scenario by pairing appropriate stream flow and demand conditions. Environment and Recreation Methodology will be developing two tools. The first is an E&R Database from an enhanced technical foundation, meaningful user experience, and Integration into Colorado water planning process. The second is a E&R Flow Tool which will assess variation across planning scenarios and aid in project refinement, categorization and prioritization. The CWCB is working with Wilson Water on the project. They are scheduled to finish by the end of July 2018. TAGs will begin meeting later this month. Greg asked if the Roundtable still had concerns with the diversity of the TAGs. Alden Vanden-Brink pointed out that the Yampa is adequately represented, but the White is not, and that NGO's have multiple representatives from different areas representing the same voice. Greg stated that while the TAGs are set, there is the opportunity that anyone can attend the TAG meetings. Kevin McBride asked what the plan was after the GAPs are identified. Greg said that the information will be given to the Roundtables and the decisions can be made by them, there is no agenda on how the GAPs will be filled. Greg also assured Kevin that each scenario will be fully analyzed. Jackie Brown asked Greg to make sure that the information gets passed along to the Roundtables Recorder so that it can be sent out to the Basin.

7. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** Public comment was asked for, there was none.
8. **Recovery Program:** Tom Pitt, Tom Chart, and Don Anderson from the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program gave a presentation on the history of the program, its current status, and the future possibilities with the program ending in 2023. The Upper Colorado River Recovery Program was established to eliminate conflicts among the Endangered Species Act, the state water law, interstate water compacts, and continued development and management of water. Endangered fish in the Colorado River Basin are the Colorado pikeminnow, Razorback sucker, Humpback chub, and the Bonytail. The Recovery program covers the Colorado River and its tributaries in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. In 1985 water users proposed that the Recovery Program could be a solution

to resolve the endangered fish problem. This was successfully accomplished in 1987. The Recovery program gained participants from many Federal agencies, and interest groups. Participants have benefited from the Recovery Programs guidance, no lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance for water projects under the Recovery Program. Great strides have been made towards the goal of delisting, however it is unlikely the goal will be met by 2023, as the projected downlisting dates have not been met for three of these species.. In the event that these fish were to be delisted, there are no plans in place that will ensure they stay off of the endangered list. To meet the current recovery goals these species need to have self-sustaining population levels, there needs to be established conditions that ensure the continuation of self-sustaining populations, and agreements must be made that will maintain these conditions after species are delisted. There have been no substantial conversations or agreements amongst participants regarding funding the program, after 2023. Dan Birch asked if it was reasonable to delist by 2023. Tom said it would not be possible. Long term agreements are missing and that is a problem. Kevin McBride suggested that the YWG BIP should evaluate these needs and provide mechanisms for these flows. It could be included in the Roundtable's modeling. T Wright Dickinson thanked the presenters for their optimism. T Wright stated that the Green is concerned with the flows that are being proposed, it is effecting fly fishing at Flaming Gorge and causing erosion of the banks. T Wright said he has already lost 30 feet of his bank, and it is pushing groundwater and/or salt up into fields. While T Wright is supportive of delisting these species he does not want the problems to be ignored. Tom stated that there are impacts in Reach 1 that will need to be worked through.

9. Reports of Each Standing or special Committee:

a. BIP Sub-Committee: Dan Birch announced that a Workshop has been scheduled for October 19th from 1:00-4:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch. All are welcome.

b. IBCC Update: Kevin McBride announced that there hasn't been a meeting. There was a call where they discussed what the IBCC should be doing and that they should be having inter basin discussions.

c. PEPO/Education Committee Update: Kelly Romero-Heaney announced that the website is almost ready to go live, it will be re-veiled in November. If anyone wants to take a peak at it go to www.yampawhitegreen.com. The PEPO committee is currently working on their second add in the paper, the first one went out last Friday. They are also working on radio adds. The Maybell Ditch Tour was well attended, there are talks of having similar presentations in other areas. All are

welcome to attend the PEPO meetings and share their ideas.

d. DWR Update: Erin Light announced that releases from Elkhead started on August 26th for the Recovery Program. It will be at 60cfs. Elk River went on call on the 31st. Erin announced several construction projects that are currently happening in the district.

10. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

a. The Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project 1st Reading: The group discovered an outbreak of Leafy Spurge on the Yampa a few years ago. They are asking that the Roundtable assist them in the matter of fighting to eradicate it. They are asking for \$100,000 over a 3 year period, with a match coming from the YRLSP itself. Mike Camblin said he would like to see the actual cost of the project. Alden Vanden-Brink asked if the problem was on private or public lands, the answer of which, was both. Alden asked if there were other entities that they could approach for funding, and could they approach land owners for funds? Jackie Brown told the group that what she was hearing from the Roundtable members is that they need more financial information. She asked the group to please be patient with the Roundtable as they go through this process, as some groups come back three times. T-Wright conveyed his respect for the group in trying to take this on, but in order to gain his support he would need to see a fully integrated plan of funding. He would like them to go back to the drawing board and figure out how to involve the BLM, both Counties and everyone else involved that they can think of, because to truly be successful with the project they will need funding closer to a million dollars. Dan Birch motioned to ask the group back for a 2nd reading, Chuck Grobe seconded the motion. Steve Hinkemeyer asked if instead the Roundtable should table the project and ask them back for another 1st reading, since the Roundtable Guidelines are set up for a 2 reading process, not a 3 reading process. Dans motion was called for a vote. To which 8 members voted to ask them back for a second reading, 7 members voted no. The motion passed and the group is invited back for a 2nd reading.

b. The Yampa River Diversion Park 1st Reading: Dave Pike director of Craig City Parks and Recreation, presented on behalf of the Yampa River Diversion Park. They are asking for \$125,000 from the Roundtable. They have also talked to DOLA, are eligible for a GOCO grant, and have applied for \$300,000 from the Colorado Implementation Plan with CWCB via American White Waters. That aside they truly feel like this is the right place to start for funding. Last time Dave presented to the Roundtable he was asked what the cost difference would be between repairing the dam, and creating a recreational attraction. Dave found that the repair of the dam itself would be \$20,000, a temporary dam that would be necessary

during repair would cost \$60,000, and the rest of the cost of repair is currently tied into the \$213,333 Boulder fill cost. This makes it difficult to sort out what that exact number would be. However their goal is to ultimately have a multi use project that will benefit the community at large. T-Wright let Dave know that he does not want them to follow the same path that the Diversion in Routt County took. Alden Vanden-Brink asked what their in-kind contribution was. Dave said that currently they are prepared to bring \$31,250 to the table as a match, and that they will have a better financial picture in a couple of months. Kevin McBride made a motion to ask them back for a second reading. Alden Vanden-Brink made a motion to table the first reading, asking them to bring back letters of intent with cost projections of contributions. Burt Clements seconded Alden's motion, and the motion carried.

11. **Steamboat Stream Management Plan:** Announced they would move their presentation to the November meeting, due to the late hour and number of items still on the agenda.
12. **Yampa Stream Management Plan 1st Reading/Stream Management Q&A with CWCB:** Dan Birch informed the group that the Yampa Stream Management sub committee has decided to slow down the process. They are going to go through a scoping process and hope to apply for a grant one year from now. Linda Bassi from the CWCB gave a brief presentation on what a Stream Management Plan is and why it would be beneficial for everyone in the State to have them, highlighting that they are stakeholder driven. Nicole Seltzer showed examples of some stream management plans. Explained how they look at the entire River, and give different attributes different grades. She showed the group a Stream Management plan that the Gunnison is doing, which has needs that are similar to the Yampa. In essence a Stream Management plan would Assess needs, compile existing info, conduct stakeholder outreach, ID info GAPS, identify options for improved water use efficiency and other watershed best management practices. Dan spoke of the outreach currently being done by the Basin Implementation sub committee and the possibilities there. He also pointed out the similarity of what they have been doing with modeling. Working on outreach and taking that input to come up with a scope of work. Jackie Brown suggested that having the Yampa Stream Management sub committee give an update at every meeting, as other sub committees do, would help keep the Roundtable involved and informed. Alden Vanden-Brink liked the idea and suggested that when they do, breaking the information up into smaller components would be helpful.
13. **November Elections:** Jackie Brown announced that the last page in the meeting packet has a list of Members who are up for re-appointment, as

well as empty seats that are up for election. If your intent is to re-up please notify the recorder. Alden Vanden-Brink reminded the group that the Executive offices, and IBBC Representatives are also up for appointment.

14. Announcements: There were no announcements.

15. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

Next Meeting November 8, 2017 at 6pm.

16. Adjournment: Kevin McBride motioned to adjourn, Alden Vanden-Brink seconded, the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
April McIntyre