

**Yampa/ White/ Green River
Basin Roundtable
Minutes
Wednesday, March 11th, 2020
Quality Inn & Suites
300 South Colorado Highway 13, Craig CO 81640
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Alden Vanden Brink at 6:05 p.m.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Members and guests introduced themselves. See attached sign-in.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Steve Hinkemeyer requested the addition of an action item to 8b to reallocate or potentially increase allocation for the grant cycle. Kent Vertrees asked that the name of item 8a be changed to the Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust LOS. Si Woodruff motioned to approve the changes, Chuck Grobe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approval of January 8th, 2020 Minutes:** Chuck Grobe motioned to approve the January draft minutes, Si Woodruff seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
5. **Budget Report CWCBC:** There was not update as Craig Godbout was not in attendance.
6. **Public hearing/Public Input and Comment:** There was none.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. **Irrigation and Water Resources Management:** Dr. Perry Cabot gave a [presentation](#). Dr. Cabot went over yield and crop production results for an alfalfa field under low and high-risk scenarios. Cabot found that crops that were watered at the end of the growing period or "put to bed wet" did comparable to fields that were not given water. The data suggests that these plants tend to build up carbohydrates in response to stress. Carbohydrates, in return, generate plant growth. The science suggests that stressing the field before dormancy gives the field advantage when it comes out of dormancy. While participating in this study, producers were allowed to do whatever they wanted regarding fertilizing. Bill Badarracca asked if Dr. Cabot is studying how this could affect weed species. They are currently not studying this, but the grower would need to consider it as part of the risk. Several BRT members would like to learn more about this at a future meeting. These studies were only conducted on alfalfa crops; future studies on grasses are needed.
8. **Consideration/ Action on Roundtable Projects:**
 - a. **Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust LOS:** Kent Vertrees introduced Andy Heppelmann. Andy gave a [presentation](#) regarding the Pleasant Valley Project. The project objectives are to restore instream complexity, create

pockets of deeper water for the juvenile fish, and improve shade to keep the stream cool. The stream is wide and shallow. This project will provide around 10 to 12 macro featured areas for people to fish year-round. This is a design-build team approach. The presentation includes high-level slides that pinpoint details of the project and rock placement. Restoring the riparian habitat and improving juvenile habitat is a primary goal of the project. The project will cost roughly \$250,000. Doug Monger asked if this project requires a 404 permit, Andy stated that it does and they are working on it. Funding is coming from Colorado gives day, a fund-raising golf tournament that they hold yearly, as well as matching grants with entities whose goals align with their own goals. This LOS would fit into their grant process as a means of showing support for the riparian habitat use. Doug noted that this was originally a piece of private property that will now be made public. Kent motioned to approve the letter of support, T. Wright Dickinson second motion passed unanimously.

b. Grant Committee Update/ PEPO Community Ag Alliance Grant Approval:

Steve Hinkemeyer presented a [summary of 2020 YTD Grants](#). Steve recommended \$50,000 be added to the large grant fund. This amount would be in addition to the \$330,000 allocated to grants in November. Ken Brenner motioned to approve the recommendation. Chuck Grobe seconded the motion. It was noted that this change would not negatively affect the small grant process as funds will still be available. All were in favor. Steve gave the introduction to the PEPO Grant. Steve explained this grant also helps fund the administrative side of the Grant process. Patrick Stanko gave a brief [presentation](#) on all the previous tasks the PEPO grant has covered, and what the new PEPO grant will cover. The ask is \$100,000 split over the next three years. There are no matching funds provided in this grant, as this is a BRT PEPO grant. Kelly Romero-Heaney explained to Roundtable members that the CWCB does not provide enough funding to properly educate the Basin, which is why PEPO is asking to dip into BRT funds. Kelly encouraged members to relay the need for education funding to the CWCB. Steve went over the results of the grant committee meeting. The Grant Committee approved the grant and did not complete the matrix as it is a BRT's project. Frank Alfone motioned to approve the PEPO Community Ag Alliance Grant request, Callie Hendrickson seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Yampa IWMP Update & Contract Approval:

Frank Alfone gave a brief [presentation](#) regarding the update on the IWMP progress, activities, and financial status. Brian Hodge gave a short [presentation](#) regarding the action item necessary for contract approval. This item included hiring a contractor to perform the desktop assessment. The committee received three proposals. All three contractors were brought in for interviews. The committee concluded that the best fit was the proposal from ALBA & Others. During this process, the committee identified a gap in aquatic biology. There is a perception that fish populations have changed in the Basin, given the need for an assessment, the IWMP committee is also recommending that a fisheries assessment be completed, they

expect that this work can be done for \$20,000 or less. The committee recommends hiring GEI to conduct this, in particular hiring Ashley Ficke as she lives in the Basin and is familiar. Doug Monger asked how GEI and a fishery assessment will interact with CPW and the work they are doing. Brian explained that the idea is to utilize data that has already been collected but to do so to answer specific questions that the committee has. David Graff supported this as he believes that compiling all the data CPW collects and putting it through a usable process would be difficult. David thinks the assessment would be the most helpful way to package the information. Jeff Meyers motioned to approve the recommendations as "beautifully presented" by Frank and Brian. Bill Badarracca seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. **BIP Committee Update & Approval:** Alden Vanden Brink reported the Roundtable only received one proposal. The proposal came from a team comprised of Wilson Water and CBI, members that are very knowledgeable and familiar with the Basin. Everyone on the BIP committee was supportive, accepting the proposal, and hiring the team. If hired, the team wants to hit the ground running in May. T. Wright Dickinson motioned to accept the proposal and hire Wilson Water & CBI. Kelly Romero-Heaney seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Alden encouraged members to bring project ideas to be looked at with the costing tool, forward. There has also been talk about integrating the IWMP processes on both rivers with the BIP process. Doug Monger requested that the BIP committee sends out a timeline for the process to the BRT in the future.

9. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **CWCB Update:** Will be discussed in May.
- b. **Big River Committee Update:** Jeff Meyers [presented](#) the second demand management discussion. The committee's goal is to create a statement regarding demand management over the next several meetings. Kent Vertrees asked the committee if other Basins are making policy statements surrounding demand management. Some basins are or will be once more information is known. Russ George will be presenting to the Roundtable in May to further discuss demand management. Jeff previewed the draft statement: "The YWG supports the concept of DM on a guided/regulated-market basis, that recognizes the shared responsibility of all basins, and that preserves and enhances agriculture in our basin, local economies and communities, and environment." The point of the phrase of market basis was to not force participation in demand management. The committee believes there needs to be some entity in charge of managing demand management and ensuring that it is done fairly. There is a lot of work to be done regarding market regulation. It was noted that there needs to be some way to make the responsibility shared between groups and basins, and a mechanism to define that. Jeff pointed out that further definition will be easier when criteria is established. The committee is meeting again in April. Jeff encouraged members to

join the committees email list if they have not already done so. He also encouraged members to share any ideas with him at any time.

- c. **PEPO Committee Update:** Kelly Romero-Heaney gave a brief update. Yampatika hired a new youth water educator that will help implement the education program. Patrick Stanko reported that the rough draft videos were sent out. Members asked if they could look at the storylines of the videos. There will not be an opportunity for changes to the videos when they are revealed to the Roundtable. Members were encouraged to participate in the PEPO process if they are interested in being apart of the video process. Callie Hendrickson noted understanding the concern regarding every individual on the Roundtable giving feedback and wondered if it would be possible to let the group give feedback so that PEPO can note if there are themes. The videos are really past that point at this time, and members were again encouraged to participate in PEPO. Patrick encouraged Ag users to come 30 minutes early to the State of the River meetings in Craig and Steamboat.
- d. **White SMP Review Update:** Callie Hendrickson reported that they received a small grant through the River Network. A White River SMP Committee has been formulated. There have been four public meetings. There is a place on the conservation district's website where people can give feedback regarding the SMP. The final report will go to the committee and then will be sent to the Conservation District board, and they will be working on submitting grant applications in the future. Alden Vanden Brink reiterated his support for local IWMPs and the importance of community involvement in their rivers.
- e. **DWR Update:** Erin Light reported that she reached out to Director Rhine, and asked about rulemaking on measurements. It will likely be in line with what was seen here in this Basin. Erin reported the DWR is getting ready to send out notices on the White and the Green Rivers. It will be the same process as what was done on the Yampa. Users will have until July 31st to comply after that orders will be sent out. Erin announced that her office is still working on finalizing the abandonment list by June. Of note, that list will exclude pre compact water rights.

10. Announcements: State of the River in Craig March 31st, State of the River in Steamboat Springs April 1st, Rangely April 2nd. On April 7th, there will be a flow measurement workshop (what devices are out there and how to install them) in Craig at 1:00 p.m. and in Meeker at 5:00 p.m.

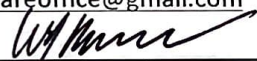

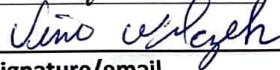

11. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Next Basin Roundtable meeting May 13th. Becky Mitchel will try to come up sometime in the spring. Alden reported that the May agenda is already filling up, a large chunk of time will be dedicated to Russ George. Members were reminded that the next meeting would be back at the Pavilion. Some Roundtable members noted that the acoustics were better at the Quality Inn.

12. Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.

MARCH

Membership of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable 2020		Name	Term Exp.	Jan, 8	Apr, 11	May, 13	Jul, 8	Sep, 9	Nov, 11	Signature/email
1	Routt County Commissioners Appointment:	Doug Monger	2023	X						<u>dmonger@co.routt.co.us</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
2	Moffat County Commissioners Appointment: (IBCC Rep through 2019)	Tom Gray	2023	X						<u>trgray7@gmail.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
3	Rio Blanco County Commissioners Appointment:	Si Woodruff	2023	X						<u>si.woodruff@rbc.us</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
4	Garfield County Commissioners Appointment: (Vaccant Never filled)									
5	Routt County Municipality Appointment:	Kelly Romero-Heaney	2023	X						<u>kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
6	Moffat County Municipality Appointment:	Stephen Hinkemeyer	2023	X	X					<u>steve.hinkemeyer@trappermine.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
7	Rio Blanco County Municipality Appointment: (White Vice Chair through 2019)	Alden Vanden Brink	2024	X	X					<u>aldenvb@yahoo.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
8	Upper Yampa Conservancy District Appointment: (IBCC Rep through 2018)	Ken Brenner	2023	X	X					<u>kpbrennersteamboat@gmail.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
9	Juniper Water Conservancy District Appointment: (Yampa Vice Chair through 2019)	Mike Camblin	2023	X						<u>mcamblin@camblininc.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
10	Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District Appointment	Shawn Welder	2023	X						<u>packtrip@cmn.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
11	Pothook Water Conservancy District Appointment:	J Sheehan	2023							<u>gsheehan7321@gmail.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
12	Rio Blanco Conservancy District	Tim Winkler	2020		X					<u>timwinkler7272@gmail.com</u> <i>[Signature]</i>
13	Colorado River Water Conservation District Appointment:	Hunter Causey	2023	X	X					<u>hcausey@cryacd.org</u> <i>[Signature]</i>

14	House/Senate Appointment:	Callie Hendrickson	2023	X	MARCH						callie.districts@gmail.com <i>Callie Hendrickson</i>
	At-large Appointments from above members			Jan, 8	Apr, 11	May, 13	Jul, 8	Sep, 9	Nov, 11		Signature/email
15	Environmental Appointment:	Brian Hodge	2023	X	X						Brian.Hodge@tu.org <i>Brian Hodge</i>
16	Agricultural Appointment:	Will Myers	2023	X	X						will@headwaterengineering.com <i>Will Myers</i>
17	Recreation:	Kent Vertrees	2022	X	X						kent@friendsofthepampa.com <i>Kent Vertrees</i>
18	Domestic Water Provider:	Frank Alfone	2022								falfone@mwwater.com
19	Industrial Water Interest:	Rich Thompson	2022								rthompson@tristategt.org
20	At-Large Representative:	Jeff Meyers	2022	X	X						coyotecreek@comcast.net <i>Jeff Meyers</i>
21	At-Large Representative:	Jackie Brown	2022	X							jbrown@tristategt.org <i>Jackie Brown</i>
22	At-Large Representative:	Jeff Comstock	2022	X							jcomstock@moffatcounty.net <i>Jeff Comstock</i>
23	At-Large Representative:	Doug Davis	2022	X	X						dugdavis@gmail.com <i>Doug Davis</i>
24	At-Large Representative:	Chuck Whiteman	2021	X	X						cwa@rioblanco.com <i>Chuck Whiteman</i>
25	At-Large Representative:	Deirdre Macnab	2021	X							didimacnab@earthlink.net
26	At-Large Representative:	Chuck G. Grobe	2021	X							cgrobe@moffatcounty.net <i>Chuck Grobe</i>
27	At-Large Representative:	Travis Day	2021		X						wpss1999@gmail.com <i>Travis Day</i>

28	At-Large Representative:	Bill Badaracca	2021								fairsquareoffice@gmail.com 
29	At-Large Representative:	Vince Wilczek	2021	X							brotwilczek@gmail.com 
	<i>At-large Appointments from above members</i>			Jan, 8	Apr, 11	May, 13	Jul, 8	Sep, 9	Nov, 11		Signature/email
30	Green River Basin Representative	T. Wright Dickinson	2021								twd@vermillionranchlp.com 
31	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin	Patrick O'Toole	2021								h2otoole@gmail.com
32	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin		2021								
33	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin		2021								
34	Non-Voting Colorado Water Conservation Board Representative	Jackie Brown	no term	X							jbrown@tristategt.org

Guest Sign-In Sheet

Name	Affiliation
Patrick Stanko	CAA
Jessica Sanow	BUM-WKPD
Greta Hinkemeyer	YWG BRT Segment Coordinator
Baili Foster	NKCS
Holly Kirkpatrick	UyWCD
James Martin	Dir. Water Resources
Curtis Ellgen	Rancher - Ellgen Ranch
David Graft	CPW
Tamara Naumann	Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project
PAUL SCOLARI	DINOSAUR NATL MONUMENT
Meg Walker	Yampatika
Gabriela Rodriguez	Yampatika
ERIN LIGHT	CDWR
Lauren Blair	Aspen Journalism
Billy Mitzelfeld	Two Hawks Ranch
Jennifer Wellman	The Nature Conservancy
Andrew Heppelmann	Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Trust

Want to join our notification list? Add your email address below.

Please remember to mark yampawhitegreen@gmail.com as safe so our emails find their way to your inbox

Name	Email Address
Baili Foster	baili.foster@usda.gov
Curtis Ellgen	curtisellgen@gmail.com
Gabriela Rodriguez	gabriel@yampatika.org