

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
via Go to Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Alden Vanden Brink at 6:30 pm.
- 2. Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call was conducted, members in attendance: Alden Vanden Brink, Jeff Meyer, Jeff Comstock, Bill Badaracca, Doug Monger, Doug Davis, Jackie Brown, Kelly Romero-Heaney, Callie Hendrickson, Vince Wilczek, Will Myers, Deirdre Macnab, Frank Alfone, Mike Camblin, Tom Gray, Kent Vertrees, Steve Hinkemeyer, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, Tim Winkler, Hunter Causey, Brian Hodge, Travis Day, Pat O'Toole.
Action for BRT Member Voting Not in Person: To proceed with approvals during this meeting a change in Bylaws was required: **Due to the Covid-19 "Safer at Home" Colorado Executive Order (D 2020 044), which would "Prohibit public gatherings of ten (10) persons or more in both public spaces and private commercial venues" through May 27, 2020; for purposes of the Yampa White Green Basin Round Table May 13, 2020 meeting; it is therefore agreed that Members are considered to be physically present, as per Basin Roundtable Bylaws, if they are on-line for tonight's meeting and therefore allowed to vote on action items brought before the board at this meeting.* Jackie Brown motioned to approve the language change. Tim Winkler seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Tim Winkler motioned to approve the draft agenda. Frank Alfone seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Review and Approval of March 11, 2020 Minutes:** Deidre Macnab motioned to approve the March draft minutes, Jackie Brown seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Budget Report CWCBC:** Sam Stein introduced himself as he will now be attending basin roundtable meetings instead of Craig Godbout. Sam reported the basin balance is \$752,290, and the statewide balance is \$5,696,331.
- 6. Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** Peter Barkman with the Colorado School of Mines gave a brief announcement regarding the newly completed Colorado Groundwater Atlas <https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/water/>.
- 7. Old Business:**
 - a. Colorado Water Legislation Update:** Zane Kessler from the Colorado River District discussed the states projected 3.3 billion dollar shortfall. Zane explained the fiscal situation could be worse than predicted. Over the last couple of weeks, the Joint Budget Committee has been working on how best to cut funds. More cuts are expected in the coming weeks. A percentage of the Construction Fund is recommended to be reallocated to the General Fund, in all budget scenarios. The CWCBC projects bill is currently in limbo, given the financial status of the state. For the time being, many programs will be strapped for cash. Zane briefly discussed house bill 1159 and 1157. Mike Camblin asked for an update on 1172, Zane reported it was postponed indefinitely. Zane reminded members that the

Colorado River District is always happy to help and willing to advocate for the Basins' needs in the legislative arena. If members need assistance, they were encouraged to contact Zane, Hunter Causey, or Andy Muller.

8. New Business:

- a. **A Visit with Russ George:** Russ thanked members for the opportunity to sit in and answer questions. Part of his role as IBCC director includes a nonvoting seat on the CWCB board. Russ reported this Basin is well represented on the IBCC. The Basin would like to have Russ back in the future for an in-person meeting so that he can share the history of the Roundtables as well as the IBCC.
- b. **BIP Updates:** Erin Wilson gave a brief BIP update [presentation](#), including the next three steps, and a project timeline. Erin shared Ryan Golten, and Dan Birch will also be working with the team. The CWCB has asked that they go through all IPP's and categorize all projects in three categories; good, not necessary, and new projects. Ryan and Dan will be doing outreach for it. This work will sit in a living document, so it doesn't need to be redone again. The Roundtable will approve the full work plan.
- c. **BRC Committee:** Jeff Meyer gave the BRC [presentation](#). Tom Gray shared Director Rhyne's message. It will be down the road a few years before any worst-case curtailment could potentially happen. The Basin shouldn't worry yet as there is time to work things out. Russ George encouraged members to look at Kevin's reports as the details are hopeful. There is no need to make hasty conclusions. Erin Light apologized to members for coming across abruptly in the past. There have been years of criticism towards the state engineer. Erin shared the next step will be measurement rules.
- d. **Vision of the Little Snake River-Thinking Like a Watershed:**
Pat O'Toole discussed how, on the Little Snake, they were able to look to their community and achieve their goals for productive agriculture, hunting, and fishing. Mountain West North Venture, who is working with landowners on the Little Snake, gave a [presentation](#) on their meadow restoration efforts. In addition to the meadow restoration efforts, water users on the Little Snake have worked with Larry Hicks to bring in the Forest Service. Pat encouraged members to also look at the forest function in this Basin, as a dysfunctional forest affects the rivers. The members discussed potential tours from the continental divide down to the wetlands. Members are also interested in continuing this conversation as they move forward with their BIP.
- e. **2020 Grant Committee Update:** Steve Hinkemeyer gave a [presentation](#) outlining where the Basin stands with grant funds year to date. Steve reminded members the previously approved White River Irrigation project was canceled, which freed up \$19,000 in funds. The committee will come back to the board in September with a recommended amount for grants in fiscal year 2021. Steve briefly touched on tonight's grants. Both are recommended for approval. The Drescher Dam project scored a 26 on the matrix, and the PEPO CAA grant was not scored as it is a basin project.

9. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. **PEPO CAA WSRF Grant Task 4:** Patrick Stanko gave a [presentation](#) outlining the changes to the PEPO CAA grant request. The ask amount has changed to \$99,000. There will now be three tasks instead of four. This is a three-year project that will focus on the website, social media, communications and marketing, and supporting water events. Steve Hinkemeyer motioned to approve the grant request. Kelly Romero Heaney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Drescher Dam Rehabilitation Grant Request:** Nick Charchallis gave a [presentation](#) on his grant request. Nick has been working with Dana Miller at the DWR. Alden Vanden Brink motioned to approve the request. Mike Camblin seconded, the grant passed with Steve Hinkemeyer voting in opposition, citing the lack of public benefit. Doug Monger acknowledged the public benefit concern as well as noting the public benefit in supporting private water.

10. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **CWCB Update:** Was covered in the Colorado Legislative update.
- b. **PEPO Committee Update:** Gabriella from Yampatika gave a brief update on water education. The curriculum is set to move forward in September via distance learning. Yampatika is happy to connect with people if they are interested in the draft program. Kelly Romero Heaney thanked Yampatika for moving ahead with this project while navigating COVID. Patrick Stanko reported the video projects are trying to wrap up by the end of summer. Patrick requested members send in their bios for the newspaper and website.
- c. **IWMP Committee Update:** Nicole Seltzer directed members to read the IWMP update that was included in the meeting reminder email that went out last week. Nicole reminded members they can also find IWMP updates on the Basin Roundtables website.
- d. **White SMP Update:** No update.
- e. **DWR Update:** Erin Light reported the DWR offices remain closed through the end of May, potentially even through June. Water Commissioners are still available via phone to meet the public's needs. The division has three vacant positions that will remain vacant at this time. Erin is still working on the abandonment list, which is due June 1. She is also checking to see who has complied with orders and who has not.

11. Announcements: Alden thanked all for their patience as the Roundtable works out having meetings during social distancing.

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Next Basin Roundtable meeting July 8, 2020. Alden Vanden Brink asked members to email potential agenda items to him or April.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.