

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 13,
2021 Via GoToMeeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Alden Vanden Brink called Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call for quorum was conducted members in attendance were as follows: Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Kelly Romero-Heaney, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, Tim Winkler, Hunter Causey, Callie Hendrickson, Brian Hodge, Will Myers, Kent Vertrees, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Meyers, Jackie Brown, Doug Davis, Chuck Whiteman, Deirdre Macnab, Chuck Grobe, Travis Day, Bill Badarraca, Vince Wilczek, T. Wright Dickenson, Pat O'Toole.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Alden Vanden Brink announced that item 7e the BIP update will be skipped and an update will be given at the March meeting. Approval of the Education Action Plan was added to the Agenda under item 9b. Tim Winkler motioned to approve the agenda with modifications, Travis Day seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- 4. Review and Approve November 11, 2020 Minutes:** Frank Alfone motioned to approve the November 11, 2020 minutes as presented, Mike Camblin seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- 5. Budget Report CWCB:** Sam Stein reported the current WSRF Basin balance is \$743,291 and a statewide balance of \$96.9. CWCB will be hosting a riverside chat on January 27th. Becky Mitchell will be conducting a virtual Roundtable tour to hear BIP updates and check in with Roundtables. The next IBCC meeting is scheduled for February 23rd. The next PEPO meeting is scheduled for February 22nd. Upcoming CWCB meetings are scheduled for January 25th and 26th.
- 6. Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** Steve Jamison reported on behalf of the town of Oak Creek. Steve reported he will be submitting a grant application next week to address some safety issues with the Sheriff Dam Reservoir.
- 7. New Business:**
 - a. IBCC:** Russ George requested members contact him at russell.george@state.co.us with any topics they would like him to take back to the IBCC. The next IBCC meeting will be held on February 23rd, they will be discussing PEPO updates, ATM's, how climate change will be worked into water plan scenarios, a forest health white paper will be presented, funding, IBCC membership and Demand Management. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 - b. White River Management Plan/PBO CWCB:** Jojo La, Aleta Powers, Tom Chart and Don Anderson gave a [presentation](#) on the White River Management Plan/Programmatic Biological Opinion. Lisa Brown is helping with modeling. Public outreach to present the draft management actions will begin in the spring; final PBO

is scheduled for winter of this year. Members were encouraged to reach out to Jojo with any questions.

- c. **Upper Basin Demand Management Economic Study:** Presented by Doug Jeavons/BBC Research & Mike Eytel/CRD. Goals of the study were to estimate/evaluate potential secondary impacts from demand management, consider implementation aspects, identify potential mitigation needs/opportunities. The studies summary/final report can be found at <https://coloradoriverwaterbank.com/secondary-economic-impact/>. T. Wright Dickinson noted his dislike of the system pilot conservation project stating, “The prices paid were artificially limited by the bias of the funders to ag. Using it as a basis for justification of the value of water, is fundamentally flawed.” Doug reported they did not use data from the pilot project to derive the lease amounts in this study, but did look back at those numbers and the estimates were similar. Doug encouraged members to reach out to him with further questions at djeavons@bbcresearch.com.
- d. **Air Borne Snow Observatories:** Presented by Jeff Deems and Lurna Kaatz. Jeff discussed air borne snow observatories (ASO) current practices. ASO is working on a project to develop a Colorado ASO program that will consistently fly ASO each year throughout the state and be structured to share costs and benefits amongst a diverse group of water stakeholders. This would increase availability and use of spatial data and physically based modeling. Allowing Colorado to transition to a consistent program that provides valuable SWE and runoff forecast information each year. The collaborative will be seeking funding from each basin later this year. Lurna requested that interested members reach out to her at Lurna.Kaatz@denverwater.org.
- e. **BIP Update:** Moved to next month.
- f. **Yampa River IWMP – Action Item:** Nicole Seltzer gave an IWMP update [presentation](#). Nicole reminded members all information is available online. Doug Monger is now chairing the Committee. The committee is seeking approval on their 2021 membership list and the Stakeholder and website data so their segment coordinator can take that information back to the stakeholders. Ken Brenner thanked Nicole for her leadership and motioned to approve both requests as presented, Doug Monger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. **Yampa River Over Appropriation Designation:** Erin Light/Division 6 State Engineer discussed her letter regarding Yampa River over appropriation that was sent out prior to the meeting, in greater depth. Under an exempt well permitting process the state engineer makes the assumption the well would not injure other water users. In areas that are not over appropriated exempt well permits can be given for all residential uses and livestock watering, regardless of lot size. Under over appropriated status a lot has to be over 35 acres to get an exempt well permit for livestock watering, three domestic dwellings, irrigation of lawn and gardens etc. In this scenario an individual with a lot less than 35 acres would be limited to in house use only. The individual would still have the option to apply for a non-exempt well permit to use water outside of the home, however depletions would need to be

replaced through an augmentation plan. Erin is currently working on the report and will turn it into the DNR for review by the end of the month. There will be a 30 day public comment time period. Erin is hopeful public notice will happen by the end of March.

8. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

9. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **CWCB Update:** Director Jackie Brown gave a [presentation](#) borrowed from Amy Ostdiek. Director Brown also discussed a recent article in the Denver Post. Director Mitchell has replied to the Denver Post and the New York Times articles. CWCB takes the comments that were made in the articles very seriously. Director Brown feels confident that Colorado remains in good hands as we go through the demand management process. Demand management does not mean a water market is inevitable.
- b. **Big River Committee Demand Management:** Jeff Meyers gave a [presentation](#) updating the committee's work on demand management. In the next week or so the committee will finalize their draft concepts and bring it back to the Roundtable for finalization. The hope is to take the concepts to the IBCC meeting in February. Alden Vanden Brink reported the Roundtable may schedule a February BRT meeting to discuss this topic further in depth. This will be determined after the next Big River committee meeting.
- c. **PEPO Committee:** Patrick Stanko gave a [presentation](#) regarding PEPO progress to date. Patrick went over website changes and the Education Action Plan (EAP) budget outlined in the meeting packet. Steve Hinkemeyer motioned to approve the EAP budget as presented, Ken Brenner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Announcements: Chair Alden Vanden Brink requested members reach out with potential agenda items as quickly as possible as the agenda list is currently four months out. Alden also reminded attendees the Grant Committee needs additional members. The Committee is currently expecting three grant applications totaling more than the allocated award amount for this cycle. As the cycles continue to increase in their competitiveness more participation will be essential.

11. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.