

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 12, 2021
Via Webex
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Alden Vanden Brink called the 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, Gary Moyer, Kelly Romero-Heaney, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, J Sheehan, Tim Winkler, Hunter Causey, Callie Hendrickson, Brian Hodge, Will Myers, Kent Vertrees, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Meyers, Doug Davis, Chuck Whiteman, Deirdre Macnab, Chuck Grobe, Travis Day, Vince Wilczek, T. Wright Dickenson and Pat O’Toole.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Alden Vanden Brink reported Jackie Brown would not be in attendance and requested item 7e be struck from the agenda. Steve Hinkemeyer requested to be heard under item 8b. Doug Monger motioned to approve the agenda as modified, Kelly Romero-Heaney seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve March 10, 2021, Minutes:** Kelly Romero-Heaney motioned to approve minutes as presented, Chuck Grobe seconded, motion passed unanimously.
5. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** There was none.
6. **Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:**
 - a. **Director Mitchell/CWCB:** Director Becky Mitchell thanked the Roundtable for participating in the Basin Implementation Update as it is a critical part of the Water Plan. Director Mitchell discussed the difficulties of changing to a virtual setting for these social forums. She noted the upside of these platforms has increased attendance to workshops like the Riverside chats. There will be an open comment period on the updated Water Plan forthcoming. The Water Equity Task Force is seeking to engage Roundtables and stakeholders who are not currently engaged in water conversations. The CWCB is also currently working on a Code of Contact, as prompted by the electronic changes and ensuring open meetings. This also considers difficult conversations and ensuring respect. Each Basin will be able to formally adopt, or not, however either way it will be a CWCB policy. The CWCB is continuing to work with the legislature to maximize and seek funding.
 - b. **Demand Management:** Amy Ostiek and Emily Zmak gave a presentation on the [Demand Management Framework](#). This framework was developed to better understand how the program would work as a tool for Colorado. The framework was informed by workgroup input, board feedback, subject matter experts and Colorado’s diverse water stakeholders. The Big River Committee currently putting together feedback from this Basin. Emily encouraged members to participate in the survey located on the CWCB’s website. Members can find information regarding how to get involved at www.engagecwcb.org/dm

- c. **BRT Seat Addition to By-Laws, Great Northern Water Conservancy District:**
Doug Davis reported the Great Northern Water Conservancy district was formed in 1974. It is located in both Routt and Moffat Counties. The district has not had an active board since the 90's. Doug is requesting the Roundtable entertain adding a seat for this district to the Basin Roundtables membership, which would require a change to the Bylaws. Kelly Romero-Heaney and Doug Monger reported the Bylaws already allow all Conservancy Districts to have a seat. Kelly pointed out the benefits of a current Roundtable member filling the Conservancy Districts seat, as this would open a vacant Roundtable seat for interested parties. Doug Monger moved to amend the bylaws to include the conservancy district. T. Wright Dickenson Seconded. Steve Hinkemeyer voiced his concern with voting on bylaw changes without seeing them in writing first. Deirdre Macnab voted no, as she would also like to see bylaw changes in writing but noted she does support the addition of the seat. Motion passed.
 - d. **Yampa River IWMP:** Nicole Seltzer gave a [presentation](#) on the IWMP Action Plan Process. Neighborhood meetings start this weekend in Maybell. The Committee would like to request authorization from the Roundtable to spend up to \$58,000 of the \$80,000 of unspent funds in Task 5 (field work) and Task 6 (final conditions assessment) to conduct work on ag infrastructure, riparian habitat, wetland and natural bank stability and flows and shortages. Brian Hodge noted the complete diversion assessment is a 400-page document. Doug Monger moved to approve the Committees request, Ken Brenner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - e. **Rivers Edge West:** John Leary restoration coordinator with Rivers Edge West gave a [presentation](#) regarding the White River Partnership. John Leary will provide future updates to the Roundtable via written updates that can be include in the Roundtables meeting packets.
 - f. **West Fork Dam Update:** Pat O'Toole discussed the progress of the [West Fork Dam project](#). Pat reported the project is moving forward. Pat reminded Roundtable members a [letter of support](#) was requested and given stating that it supports the process of reviewing the reservoir project in 2018. Pat reported the biggest threat to their project is currently funding.
1. **Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:**
 - a. **DWR Update:** Erin Light reported there is a call on the Michigan in the North Platte. They have been able to stave off calls on the Little Bear and on the Bear. Yamcolo is sitting at 6,000 acre ft, capacity is 9,600. Chances of it filling are slim. High Savory is sitting at 56% full, it is unknown if it will successfully fill this year. Erin reported there is very little water in the Savory that serves Colorado. Elk head was 1700 feet shy of being full at its last check. Fish Creek Reservoir is always low this time of year due to the drawing down in the winter. Erin reported the comment period for over appropriation has ended. Four individuals commented. Three portrayed concerns with getting well permits in order. The abandonment objection period ends July 1, 2021. The final list will be filed at the end of December. Erin gave a staffing update, four positions have been vacant for some time. Her office was able to successfully fill one position. Next critical position in the DWR to be filled will be the water district 44 position. There is currently no date set for over appropriation. Well permitting will return to the Division 6 office in June. Measuring device orders on the white river, are on hold at this time. Erin was asked if the

position on the White River will be filled, Erin reported that position is currently not top priority.

- b. **WRIWI Update:** Callie Hendrickson reported the project received their letter to proceed. Diversion structure and riparian health assessments will be starting soon. NRCS, CPW, Trout unlimited are participating in the project. They are currently in the process of identifying 20 areas to work on. The project has hired two coordinators and had their first PAC meeting last week.
- c. **PEPO Update:** Kelly Romero-Heaney reported the Roundtable would like to get feedback regarding the BIP from community members who are not always engaged in these conversations. PEPO is rebooting radio ads. They will be including voices outside of the Roundtable. Water Education Colorado is doing a water fluency program, it will be primarily virtual this year. Kelly will send out flyer with participation information. Kelly was invited to join the water equity task force, Kelly requested Roundtable members contact her with any feedback they may have. Kelly reported her hope is that water equity means engaging folks who would not normally engage. Patrick Stanko reported the State of the River virtual talk will be held a week from today. To participate please sign up on the River Districts website. On June 4th a flood irrigation tour will be held in steamboat springs, to show people what flood irrigation is like in person. Alden gave kudos to the PEPO Committee and their work with Yampatika, as it has reached all areas of the Basin with their K-12 education program.
- d. **Big River Committee Update:** Jeff Meyers reported the BRC met yesterday. As reported earlier in the meeting, they are currently analyzing and working on providing feedback as a Basin for Demand Management. In 2021, the committee will be working on interim operating guidelines re-negotiation, storage (leveraging existing and building new, and inducing/encouraging the SEO to finalize/describe the compact curtailment method.

1. **Announcements:**

- a. **BRT Recorder:** Alden Vanden Brink introduced Megan Kozey as the new Basin Roundtable Recorder. Alden reminded members that if more than three members are meeting, the meeting needs to be posted on the website and minutes need to be taken. Alden requested members send this information to Megan.
- b. **Grant Committee Update:** Steve Hinkemeyer reported he was contacted earlier this year by Peter Goble. Peter works with the CSU Lysemieter project. Steve has a copy of their Draft report. Steve requested interested members reach out for a copy of the draft, as Steve would like to give Peter feedback. Peter is open to coming to future meeting to discuss the project and its findings further if the Roundtable is interested. Please email Steve at steve@yampawwhitegreen.com comments will be sent to Peter on June 1st. Erin Light reminded members that the study period has ended, and the sites will no longer be operational.

1. **Dates and Agenda Items for Future meetings:** July 14, 2021 will be discussing the BIP.

1. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.