

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Roundtable Agenda
Wednesday, July 13, 2022
Location: CNCC Craig
Campus Room 185
2801 West 9th Street • Craig, CO 81625
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7575667369?pwd=ZnBJVFhmaS90b2RqWWVGNm94NWNZZz09>

Meeting ID: 757 566 7369

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Alden Vanden Brink called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call Members. A quorum was met with 20 members. Present were Doug Monger, Ginny Love, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, Callie Hendrickson, Brian Hodge, Will Myers, Kent Vertress, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek, and Pat O'Toole,
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Ken motioned to add to item 7b as a virtual presentation. And item 8d as an action item. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve May 11, 2022 Minutes:** Frank motioned to edit item 6 by editing the spelling of Frisand to Fristhen. And editing "Friends of the Yampa gave an update on a name change to Yampa River Fund" to "[Friends of the Yampa](#) gave an update that in September of 2022 they will be the new management entity for the Yampa River Fund." Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with the exception that Al abstained from voting due to not being in attendance for the May meeting.
5. **Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update:** (10 min) Sam Stein
6. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** Whit Patterson with BLM Little Snake Office will begin attending future meetings.
7. **Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:**
 - a. **State Water Plan** (20 min) Russ Sands/CWCB The next CWCB Meeting is the week of July 18, 2022, along with the updated database. Better user functionality for reporting and grant applications. The grant committee or the entity applying for the grant can use the portal. Portal training is coming down the pipeline. Jeff Rodriguez is the new BRT liaison. The [CO Water Plan](#) is out and public comment is open for 90 days, thru the end of September 2022. Listening Sessions will be held July 27th, August 10th, September 1st, and 28th. Visit the [Engage CWCB](#) website for more information. The water plan is an opportunity to develop partnerships and a strategy for the CWCB. The vision is to have partner and agency actions which can be found in chapter 6. The water values are to uphold a productive economy encompassing cities, agriculture, recreation and tourism, efficient and effective water infrastructure, and a strong environment with a healthy watershed.
 - b. **Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation** (15 min) Amy Moyer & Raquel Flicker/ Colorado River District presented virtually [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Opportunities](#) and a list of [helpful links](#). Within the bill some funding is designated to water and the main entities are the Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency (Water), NRCS, and the United States Forest

Service. The focus areas of BIL are partner communication, understanding local priorities, funding, technical, and advocacy support. Funding agencies look for multi-benefit projects, environmental groundwork, and early-stage planning. The CO River District has opened an [Accelerator Grant](#) and applications are due August 1, 2022, you can email PartnerFunding@crwcd.org. Some key opportunities for funding are Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration Funding, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Cash Fund, USBR Aging Infrastructure, and State Revolving Fund. The WaterSMART Dashboard lists all funding opportunities, and important contacts to help streamline the process.

- c. **Fire Ready Watershed** (20 min) Chris Sturm/CWCB In 2021 the CWCB passed a legislative directive to assess the susceptibility of CO's water resources to post wildfire impacts and implement strategies to minimize impacts. Two components statewide susceptibility and framework for communities. The conceptual approach is values of risk times post fire hazards equals susceptibility. For more information please visit the [Wildfire Ready Watersheds](#) website. Chris shared the [Yampa Reservoir Storage Capacity List](#) and discussed how they are using that information to help evaluate risk along with municipalities, built flowlines, decreed water rights, and aquatic species habitat. The six step framework will be a comprehensive guide for local advocacy groups and agencies to follow and include lots of fact sheets.
- d. **Grant Committee & Action** (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer presented a [Grant Committee Update](#) informing every one of the schedule change moving from three to four grant cycles and the Current Allocation of \$450,000 to the 2023 year. Frank Alfone was added to the committee as vice chair, and the website was updated to reflect these changes. Due to a change in basin account allocations, instead of \$81,510 of expected funding, we'll have \$300,000. The YWG needs to allocate and spend at least \$522,990 in FY 2023 to get the full allocation of \$300,000 in July of 2023. Ken motioned to amend the previously voted on amount of \$450,00 to a range of spending for a minimum of \$522,990 with a maximum of \$622,990. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **Big River Committee/IBCC** (5 min) Jeff Meyers & Tom Gray No report at this time.
- b. **WRIWI** (5 min) Callie Hendrickson Phase 2 has identified Phase 3 to focus on return flows and forestry. Diversion and riparian assessments will be in the next round because landowners were requesting more assessments. Looking at installing eleven different measuring devices in Meeker. Working with CNCC to provide educational opportunities. Phase 3 tentative start in September of 2022.
- c. **CWCB Update:** (5 min) Jackie Brown
Happy BRT Day Everyone,
Sorry, I can't join you in person – I will try to hop on virtually if possible. I wanted to share a few things with you from the CWCB, and from my observation as it relates to water in our basin!
Water Plan Draft – Link to the draft [here](#). My favorite parts of the plan draft are:
 - o The CWCB board has the opportunity annually to have an operational plan that allows the board to focus on specific issues or projects on an annual basis. It makes a 10-year plan more

flexible.

- o Readability – shorter report, action-based. Clearly defined agency actions and proposed partner actions that move the needle towards resilient water use in a drier climate/ future.
- o Inclusion – Spanish version available, incorporation of tribal partners and needs, report from the DEI committee
- o Great educational section on aridification and how climate change has impacted Colorado since the first CPW. This sets the stage for the inclusion of the Drought Resiliency Plan into the Water Plan, which makes sense, and coalesces around where we need to be in order to have our collective “house in order” in a drier future.
- o Recent developments in water law section
- o Agency and partner action and visions – this section gets to the heart of what we need to accomplish over the next decade to become more resilient as a state. I look forward to hearing feedback on this specifically. Page 216 discusses this approach.

Colorado River issues

- o Commissioner Mitchell has accomplished much on behalf of Coloradans. In this particularly challenging time, I am proud to support her negotiations, actions, and outcomes so far. In particular, she has done a great job of highlighting the shortages that Coloradans are experiencing annually – in 2020, the upper basin used 4.5 MAF, and in 2021 used 3.5 MAF. This is a substantial reduction on the backs of our production operations primarily. While we don’t use less water exclusively by managing our reservoirs, the shortages we experience are natural and uncertain on an annual basis – arguably a more difficult way to experience cutbacks.
- o In May the Secretary of Interior also proposed a reduction in the WY 2022 annual release from Lake Powell from 7.48 to 7.0 million acre-feet. After receiving input from the Basin States, the Assistant Secretary confirmed her intention to take this action and to do so in a way that is operationally neutral and will not create adverse impacts to the Upper or Lower Basins.
- o You have all likely seen that the federal government has mandated cuts of 2-4 additional MAF in late June. I know Commissioner Mitchell is working with the other upper basin states on how to respond by the imposed deadline (August 2022).

General CWCB updates

- o Please join me in recognizing the substantial efforts and kind and giving nature of Robert (Bob) Sakata. While I did not have the opportunity to work with Bob, serving on the CWCB with Robert, his son, is an honor and it is easy to see how he carries on his father’s legacy with grit and grace. It is important to honor the people that do so much for our State and our rural communities,

and I hope you will take a moment to read Robert's incredible story.

o Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Group Update will be discussed during our July 20th board meeting (agenda item 9) – it is pretty incredible how this work can support water users and managers, so please check out the report in the packet or listen in to our meeting if you

can. <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/events/hybrid-board-meeting-july-20-21-2022>

o Thanks to the Stream Protection Section for working with local water users to bring final action on Deep Creek (WD 6) to the CWCB board (agenda item 15) - Upper Yampa Routt 2.45 headwaters confluence Steamboat Lake in the following amounts:

0.3 (10/01 - 04/30)

2.5 (05/01 - 07/31)

0.95 (08/01 - 09/30)

o Finally, the board continues to look at how we can improve our meetings and information sharing. We are hoping to implement a panel discussion at each board meeting in the future where we can take a deeper dive with experts on specific water issues and solutions. Please reach out if you have ideas or want to chat further.

o At every CWCB meeting I share outcomes from the BRT meetings, and water issues and projects from across the basin. If you have something you would like to highlight, please let me know!

o Wow, some rain for spring! I hope the precipitation has made your lives a little easier, it caught us up to right about median SWE for the end of June, beginning of July. Let's hope it keeps coming!

Jackie Brown

Water & Natural Resource Policy Advisor

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- d. **YIWMP & Action Item** (15 min) Nicole Seltzer The IWMP has a rough draft report summarizing the data collected and then twenty different project recommendations based off of that data. The Yampa River in Balance is a list of Yampa River specific characteristics that help identify and tie back to the BIP Goals.
- e. **DWR Update** (5 min) Erin Light Abandonment protest period ended on June 30th and there were 55 protests. The stipulations will be worked on in October. There are two vacant positions within Division 6. Measurement Rule meetings were held in Meeker, Walden, Steamboat and Craig and attendance was good. Another round of virtual meetings will be held on July 27th. The purpose of these meetings are to detail these documents. [Division 6 Measurement Rules](#) and [Comparison of Measurement Rules](#) and [Comments and Responses](#). This process will then go thru

the water court process. And this fall hopefully in October it will be submitted.

- f. **PEPO (5 min)** Ken Brenner & Patrick Stanko Yampatika and local school districts are doing lots of water education outreach. Summer radio and print ad are out. Still waiting on the outcome of the PEPO Grant request. CO Water Congress is holding an event at The Grand is on Tuesday August 23rd, from 9-10:30 PEPO will have access to talk about NW CO Water.

9. Announcements:

- a. **Recorder (5 min)** Alden VB Position is open and needs to be filled ideally by December of 2022. Advertising is happening in Routt, Rio Blanco and Moffat.

10. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting September 14, 2022, @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

11. Adjourn at 8:59 pm

