

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Yampa/White/Green River Basin

Roundtable Agenda

Wednesday, September 14, 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: Meeting called to order by Tim Winkler Vice Chair at 6 pm.

2. Introduction of Members and Audience: Role call for Members. Members present were as follows Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Ginny Love, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, Tim Winkler, Kacey Green, Mike Eytel, Callie Hendrickson, Brain Hodge, Will Myers, Kent Vertress, Rich Thompson, Jeff Meyers, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Hollway, Travis Day, T. Wright Dickinson, and Jonathan Bowler.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda: Brian Hodge made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Doug Monger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review and Approve July 13, 2022 Minutes: Steve Hinkemeyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Meyers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **5.**

Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update: (10 min) Jeff Rodriguez. A \$17 million infusion was approved by the board to go into the WSRF funds in July of 2022. The Revised Criteria and Guidelines go to the board in September. Could be available as early as December of 2022. The CWCB would like to meet and revise the duties for all recorder positions around CO. Along with increasing funds to \$6,500 annually. Owls were purchased for all BRTs. Project Database and Grant & Loan Portal are up and going and will allow access for the BRT Chair plus one more individual. Step-by-step How-To Tutorials are available online. Regional Program Managers are in the process of being hired to focus on Water Plan Grants. A representative will be available in the four basin areas 1-North, South Platte, and Metro 2-Arkansas 3-Rio Grande, and Southwest Basin 4-Colorado, Gunnison, and YWG basins. Reminders: The Water Plan comment period closes September 30th. The final virtual listening session, Robust Agriculture, is on September 28th from 4-6 pm. Other funding from House Bill 1379 will be available this fall. For questions reach out to anna.moss@state.co.us. More funding is available from Senate Bill 215 website [CO Forward](#). Questions can be directed to

nate.pearson@state.co.us. The [CO Landscape Summit](#) is on November 9th. YWG WSRF Stimulus Funds are \$2,250 and must be spent by the May 2023 meeting. The Basin Account has \$695,740. Additionally, the grant for Stillwater Reservoir Upgrades for \$139,500 and the Drescher Dam Phase 2 Repairs for \$62,440 are coming in September at the CWCB meeting.

6. Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment: Holly Kirkpatrick with the Upper Yampa Conservation District invites everyone to the [Yampa Youth Water Festival](#) and is seeking volunteers. Drew Peternell with Trout Unlimited is letting know of a new grant under [CO Ag Water Alliance](#). Applications due December 1, 2022 with projects being implemented in the 2023 year. Please contact Drew with questions drew.peternell@tu.org

7. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. [White River Algae Report](#) – (30 min) Ken Leib, Cory Williams, & Natalie Day/USGS In 2017 the Technical Advisory Committee began. From 2018-2020 numerous algae studies were conducted. In 2021 and 2022 additional funding was received to continue the research being done. Studies found that algae growth was minimal in the winter and spring due to cold water temperatures and spring run-off. After spring run-off and as the summer temperatures rise algae would form. Streamflow greatly impacts algae growth. Some questions arising from the study are why is algae growth more abundant than in the past and why does it occur in greater concentration in certain areas. More studies were done to consider different factors affecting algae growth and studies ran over multiple years. Algal bloom in 2028 was high, low in 2019 and 2020 and some higher values in 2021. The consensus was relatively large, late, and long lasting peak streamflows, such as those measured in 2019, may limit algal blooms during the same water year and into subsequent years, as evidenced by extremely low algal biomass during the summers of 2019 and 2020 at all sites. Algae proved to be more prevalent in areas where the mean August temperature was higher. Likewise sites with bigger rock beds are less likely to move with streamflow thus allowing algae to bloom. Sites with higher phosphorus content also proved to promote algae biomass growth.
- b. **YIWMP** - (40 min) Presentation of the final report (Nicole 20 min), Q&A and motion to accept report (Ken, Nicole 10 min), Explain a concept to continue and coordinate BRT support for projects in Northwest Colorado (Steve, Ken 10 min). Nicole gave an update and shared the [Final Report for the IWMP](#). This is the product of four years of work completed by committee members. Please visit the [IWMP Website](#) to find all detailed research and data materials. Discussion revolved about one big question: “What does a balanced river system look like both today and in the future?” With that, characteristics of a balanced river system were defined falling under these four main categories 1. Education, Understanding, and Collaboration regarding the River Corridor and its Water 2. Human Use of the River Corridor and its Water 3. The River Corridor 4. The Water in the River. The report details the processes for the group and their findings. There have been 20 consensus-based recommendations made. Each recommendation has a detailed document associated with that recommendation. Doug Monger made a motion that the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable accept this final report, including its findings and recommendations, as the final work product of the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan Committee. Brian seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Steve shared next steps for the IWMP. One being the IWMP will continue to meet and utilize facilitation support **to outline the purpose, membership and tasks of a subcommittee or working group of the YWG BRT focused on supporting implementation of the projects and recommendations.** Two being the subcommittee be made of both BRT members and relevant community members **and organizations.** Three being to hire a basin wide water project coordinator **to ensure meaningful progress, maintain a focus on implementation and provide an accountability mechanism for project champions. Subcommittee could have the following goals: work with recommendation leads, continue information sharing, identify and assist with collective funding needs, build public support for the IWMP findings and recommendations.** Time frame for implementation is to have a version of how the subcommittee/working group might work by the Nov. 8th meeting. A final review of this subcommittee/working group by the Jan. 11th meeting. **During this timeframe the YIWMP Committee would continue to**

function with funds remaining in the account until this subcommittee is formally created or voted down. Much discussion revolved around support and concerns regarding this position. It was noted there is a definite need in the Yampa basin for project coordination and several from the White River Basin expressed concerns noting the different processes in the basin and loss of local control by joining the two basins together. The chair requested more information to be brought forward to the next meeting.

8. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. Big River Committee/IBCC** (5 min) Jeff Meyers & Tom Gray. BRC had a meeting on Sept. 14th. They are tackling the interim guidelines and how they can best be of support. There will be another meeting between the Sept and Nov BRT meetings. IBCC wants to be used as a project proponent for the Big River Basin at request from Dan Gibbs at CWCBC.
- b. WRIWI** (5 min) Callie Hendrickson. Winding down phase 2 of mission and goals. Have identified 4 primary projects. Will be applying for grants. One is for a Water Supply Project that measures return flows of irrigation. Working with Dr. Ryan Bailey out of CSU for a draft scope of work. Coordinator and advising committee are still meeting. Landowners are requesting more Riparian Assessments. Discussion has been done with the Forest Service to determine what needs to be done for upriver forest restoration. Early planning has been started. The Water Measurement Device demonstration project is another project of interest. CNCC has been actively engaged and interested in this project and has implemented some water classes.
- c. CWCBC Update:** (5 min) Jackie Brown. None.
- d. DWR Update** (5 min) Erin Light. Erin announced she's filled some open job vacancies in Yampa, Craig, and 2 in the White River. Only one vacant position at this moment. Reminder to provide irrigation records by November 15th.
- e. PEPO** (5 min) Ken Brenner & Patrick Stanko. Yampatika is applying for a WSRF Grant for the 2023 Grant Program. Water Education Tour is on Sept 15th and will start at the Carpenter Ranch next stop in Craig at Elkhead Reservoir. Water Festival for 5th graders of Moffat and Routt will be at the Hayden Fairgrounds on Sept 21st. Patrick reminded everyone how to access past and present meeting information, calendars etc from the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable website.

9. Announcements:

- a. Recorder** (5 min) Still seeking position.

10. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a.** Next YWG BRT Meeting November 9, 2022, @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado
- b.** Elections in November

11. Adjourn Tim adjourned meeting.

Seats/Members Up for Election:

SEAT MEMBER

- Recreation Kent Vertress
- Domestic Water Provider Frank Alfone
- Industrial Water Interest Rich Thompson
- At-Large Representative Jeff Meyers
- At-Large Representative Jackie Brown
- At-Large Representative Jeff Comstock
- At-Large Representative Doug Davis

Please refer to the bylaws:

ARTICLE II - Roundtable Membership, SECTION 1 - Number and Selection of Representatives.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kjGK6vwF0rfN44wXo8GsUDdOp14Ymd6o/view>