

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Yampa/White/Green River Basin

Roundtable Agenda

Wednesday, November 9, 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:** Chair Alden Vanden Brink called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
- 2. Recorder Announcement.** (5 min) Introduction of the new recorder Katie Camblin to the YWG BRT.
- 3. Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call for quorum Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Ginny Love, Julie Baxter, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, Tim Winkler, Kacey Green, Callie Hendrickson, Will Myers, Kent Vertress, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Myers, Jackie Brown, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whitemen, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek, T. Wright Dickinson, and Jonathan Bowler.
- 4. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Tim Winkler made a motion to move the IBCC Representative Appointment to item 9c. Jackie Brown had discussion and raised the question if there is enough time to consider filling the seat due to short notice. YWG BRT decided to wait to fill the seat until the January 2023 meeting. Steve Hinkenmeyer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Review and Approve September 14, 2022 Minutes:** September minutes need edits to the YIWMP Presentation and discussion. The recorder will re-listen to the meeting recording and make necessary edits and/or additions. Doug Monger made a motion to table accepting the minutes to the January 2023 meeting. Ginny Love seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Steve voted against holding back the approval of the minutes because discussion was cut off before he could talk about why he thought we were only asking for thoughts on the proposal and everything will be included in later meetings with more thought put to them. We were just asking for opinions on what to think about, not voicing real concerns.
- 6. Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update:** (10 min) Jeff Rodriguez updated that the Water Plan Grant Regional Coordinator's have been appointed. The Yampa, Colorado & Gunnison Basin coordinator is Ashley Garrison and she will start on December 12, 2022. She comes to this position with past project management experience. The CWCB Portal is back up and running. There are several Grants available on the portal. Local Capacity and Technical Assistance Grant from the HB22-1379 with funds in upwards of 2.5 million dollars for local grantees to hire their own contractors for federal grant application processes. There is another 2.5 million dollars for the CWCB to hire their own contractors. Michael Regan is the point of contact for that HB22-1379 program and can

be contacted at michael.regan@state.co.us. The Colorado Ag Water Alliance Grant <https://www.coagwater.org/> is due December 1, 2022. Geared towards ag producers who want to participate in and demonstrate improved strategies for drought on their operations in the year 2023. If you have questions please contact Greg Peterson at coagwater@gmail.com. The Water Plan Celebration is scheduled for January 24, 2023. They will recognize all staff and volunteers from all the subcommittee who have helped with their contributions to the Water Plan. Additionally, Basin Heros will be recognized at this time voting information and RSVP's will be coming out soon. WSRF both state and basin requests are due December 1, 2022. Statewide requests are now being accepted at all bi-monthly meetings. December 1, 2022 is also a Water Plan Grant <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants> deadline. The YWG BRT has no stimulus funds left. The recent WSRF Balance Sheet can be found in your November 2022 meeting packet and on the CWCB Website <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/funding/water-supply-reserve-fund-grants> The YWG BRT starting balance as of October 1, 2022 is 1 million dollars, this includes Pepo. Current Statewide WSRF Grants are at \$11,029,188. Reminder with the influx of WSRF Funding it's a great time to focus on local projects and fund what you can out of the WSRF account.

7. Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment: (5 min) None.

8. Elections (30 min)

- a. Candidate introductions (3 min each) Madison Muxworthy is running for seats 16 Environmental At Large, and seats 21-22 & 23-24 At Large. Drew Peternell is running for seat 16 Environmental At Large. Kent Vertrees is running for seat 18 Recreational At Large. Frank Alfone is running for seat 19 Domestic Water At Large. Rich Thompson is running for seat 20 Industrial At Large. Jeff Comstock, Doug Monger (who is also stepping down from Routt County Commissioner seat), Doug Davis, Jeff Myers, and Holly Kirkpatrick are running for At Large seats 21-22 & 23-24. The following individuals have been voted in by the voting members of the BRT. Seat 16 Environmental is Madison Muxworthy. Seat 18 Recreational is Kent Vertrees. Seat 19 Domestic Water is Frank Alfone. Seat 20 Industrial is Rich Thompson. At Large seat 21 is Jeff Comstock. At Large Seat 22 is Doug Davis. At Large seat 23 is Doug Monger. At large seat 24 is Jeff Myers.

9. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. **Grant Committee & Action (75 min)** Steve Hinkemeyer
 - i. [Grant Committee Update](#) (10 min) The status of the grant funding for 2023 originally was \$972,990. The 2023 allocation maximum is \$623,000. In the May meeting it was approved to allocate \$201,940 for Stillwater Reservoir Updates and Dresher Dam Rehabilitation. That leaves \$421,060 remaining allocation total. The October Grant meeting suggests allocating \$343,962 on Yampatika Education Grant, Yampa Dashboard Project, and White River Information Acquisition. That leaves \$77,098 available for the year. Additional WSRF funding was added to the YWG BRT on October 1, 2022 in the amount of \$209,000. Bill Badarraca made a motion that the allocated grant funds from the YWG BRT Basin Account WSRF funds be increased from \$623,000 to \$850,000 maximum spend for grant cycle year 2023. Callie

Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Yampatika preK through 12 Water Education (15 min) Kristen Jespersen, Yampatika. The Yampatika proposal will cover 1. Update Water Education Curriculum 2. Deliver In-School and Out-of-School Programming 3. Provide Community Water Education. 4. Water Education Evaluation. Areas for growth include engaging more MS and HS students, work to integrate water information into other areas, translate into spanish, emphasize career opportunities, bring more out of school programs, train teachers, and provide education at community events. The curriculum is offered both in class and virtual and includes hands-on activities. Include providing classroom resources as well as field trip opportunities. A budget was presented and this project is requesting \$99,552 from WSRF funds to support the water education coordinator. Ken Brenner made a motion for approval of grant request for the Yampatika Pre-K to 12 Educational Grant, involving \$99,552 of YWG Basin Roundtable WSRF funds. Ginny Love seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Yampa Dashboard Project (15 min) Emily Lowell, UYWCD. The dashboard is a centralized online data infrastructure. This provides an interactive means of monitoring, measuring, analyzing, and extracting relevant information. Dataset will include streamflow, temperature, soil moisture, snow data, precipitation, water quality etc. Dashboard will launch in a phased approach and some data will be available to the public. A budget was presented and is requesting \$95,000 in WSRF funds. Frank Alfone made a motion for approval of grant request for the Yampa River Dashboard Project, involving \$95,000 of YWG Basin Roundtable WSRF funds. Chris Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Doug Monger and Ken Brenner abstained from voting as they are both board members for the UYWCD.
- iv. White River Integrated Water Initiative P3 (15 min) Callie Hendrickson gave an update on the Phase 3 Priorities. Water supply study (return flows) partnering with Dr. Bailey from CSU, upland vegetation treatments through a Forestry Project Manager, information and education through CNCC classes & a water measuring device demo, and diversion structure & riparian health assessments. The grant funds would be going towards data collection via wells, tributaries and diversion measurements, and planning and coordination via the PAC (Planning Advisory Committee). A budget was presented and this project is requesting a total of \$149,410 in WSRF funds. Tim Winkler made a motion for approval of grant request for the White River Integrated Water Initiative Phase 3 Project, involving \$149,410 of YWG Basin Roundtable WSRF funds. Julie Baxter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chris Collins and Callie Hendrickson abstained from voting as they are both members of the WRIWI PAC Committee.
- v. Letter of Support for Bear River Park Boat Ramp (10 min) Julie Baxter. This is a design for a new trailered boat access and supports the Bear

River Park Master Plan. The benefits include creating only trailered boat access in or near lower Steamboat, concentrates users to designated areas, minimizes impact to river bank and riparian areas, and provides free river access and education opportunities. This supports the BIP Goal #5 to protect recreational water uses and Goal #9 public water education and the Colorado Water Plan. Ken Brenner made a motion for approval of a Letter of Support be written and submitted for the Bear River Park Design and Engineering for a Trailered Boat Ramp involving \$80,000 of CWCB Water Plan Funding. Jeff Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- vi. Letter of Support for WaterSMART Irrigation System Control (10 min) Julie Baxter. This project will purchase and install a smart irrigation central control system for the city of Steamboat including city facilities and parks. This allows the control of irrigation sites from a single remote location. The system adjusts automatically according to soil moisture and weather conditions. Water savings in the first year will be an estimated 11.83 acre-feet almost 20%. Supports the City of Steamboat Water Conservation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan. Frank Alfone made a motion for approval of a Letter of Support be written and submitted for the Smart Irrigation Central Control System involving approximately \$300,000 of CWCB Water Plan funding. Ken Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Julie Baxter abstained from voting.

- b. [White River Management Plan/Programmatic Biological Opinion](#) (20 min) Kara Scheel/Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager CWCB. Kara updated the BRT on the management plan purpose which evaluates effects of depletion on threatened or endangered fish and lists a plan for action that includes flow management, non native fish control, habitat enhancements, research and monitoring populations. There is a draft of the Management Plan. Schedule is as follows: now Draft Management Plan, December 14 comments due from WRPT and BRT, December 14-23 final editing, December 23-January 13 final review, January 13 finalize document. In the future public comment, ecological service review, and PBO by the end of 2023. Ken Brenner suggested a committee to proceed on this topic and report back to the BRT. Chuck Whiteman, Callie Hendrickson, Steve Hinkemeyer, Doug Monger, and Chris Collins all spoke up about wanting to join the committee.
- c. IBCC Appointment - Tom Gray is stepping down from the IBCC appointment and the seat is open. Check the CWCB website for details on what this position involves.

10. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. [PEPO](#) (10 min) Ken Brenner & Patrick Stanko. Radio advertisements have stopped in September. BIP update was sent out. Will give a full update of the Water Education Initiative that Yampatika is heading up at the next meeting. Want to cover as many public events as possible over the next year and need volunteers to help man the education booth.
- b. **CWCB Update:** (5 min) Jackie Brown updated the BRT that the CWCB November 2022 meeting is the week of November 14th. Discussion will continue on the Colorado Airborne Snow Observatory Monitoring <https://coloradosnow.org/>

funding request, Jackie will provide an update on that following the meeting. Governor Polis released the DNR Budget Proposal. One item on that was the new Colorado River Positions. This new proposal will separate Becky Mitchells duties as director of CWCB and she will focus solely on being the Colorado Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. And additionally, staff up to nine positions to assist her with issues regarding the Colorado River. If passed these new positions will be available in July of 2023. The Upper basin river commission meeting is upcoming and discussion will be on demand management feasibility that the UCRC conducted. Following that is the Colorado River user association conference in Las Vegas December 14-16, 2022.

<https://www.crwua.org/> Department of Interior issued a notice of intent to perform a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam concerning operational proposals for 2023 and 2024 concerning Lake Powell. This proposal will show releases on a monthly basis. Water Plan comments have been received and tallied and are available for viewing on the website <https://engagecwcb.org/>.

- c. **Big River Committee/IBCC** (10 min) Jeff Meyers & Tom Gray. Jeff shared information on the last three years of water use from the Colorado River. From 2019 to 2021 the Lower Basin has increased its usage from 9.3 million AF to 9.8 million AF, well above its 7.5 million AF allotment. From 2019 to 2021 the Upper Basin has decreased its usage of 4.5 million AF to 3.5 million AF. The Upper Basin gets its water supply from rain and snow. With each 1.8 F increase in temperature the Colorado River flow is reduced by 9.8%. The take home message is the YWG BRT has to do a better job of telling their story. The BRC and BRT will write its own position statement incorporating information from immediate relief/crisis mitigation and strategies for post-2026 guidelines. Timeline is to have this statement ready at the January 2023 meeting.

11. Announcements:

- a. Staff recognition.
- b. Callie Hendrickson invites everyone to a Water Seminar at CNCC in Rangley on November 15, 2022 at 2:30 pm. And the second week of December is the next PAC meeting for the White Water Initiative.

12. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting January 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

13. Adjourn

Seats/Members Up for Election:

<u>SEAT</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>
● 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
- Environmental Appointment Brian Hodge

Please refer to bylaws:

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

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