

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Roundtable Agenda
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
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 6:02 PM
- 2. Introduction of Members and Audience:** Roll call Members. A quorum was met with 25 members. Present were Sonja Macys, Tom Grey, Julie Baxter, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, J. Sheehan, Callie Hendrickson, Madison Muxworthy, Will Meyers, Kent Vertrees, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Doug Monger, Jeff Meyers, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Travis Day, Vince Wilczek, and Jackie Brown.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Ken motioned to push item 7b to the March meeting and add Steve's "Projects" discussion in its place. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Review and Approve September 14, 2022 & November 9, 2022 Minutes:**
Steve motioned to approve September minutes. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Steve motioned to approve November minutes. Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Budget Report, CWCB Update:** (15 min) Jeff Rodriguez & Jackie Brown
 - Jeff updated that the water plan is getting finished up and was sent to the printer January 11. There will be a water plan celebration event being held at Improper City in Denver, CO on January 24th from 5-9 PM. Basin hero awards will also be recognized at this event. Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program and the application for those grants is scheduled to go live January 11. Clarification was made regarding the 10% basin contribution required for a statewide grant request; that the intent of the 10% required from the basin is 10% of the total WSRF project cost. That 10% can be used by that application as part of their 25% match. The CWCB is working on clarifying the guidelines and creating some tools to help project proponents, WSRF coordinators, and other roundtable members to help navigate the criteria of what those different percentages are. The Governor's proposed budget is still in the proposal phase and will not get passed until the Spring. Originally, he proposed about \$5 million coming from the general fund for water plan grants in addition to 10 and a half from Proposition DD and 2 million from the construction fund. With this recent revision, he has increased the amount coming from the general fund for water plan grants by 7.5 million, equaling about 12.5 million. Jeff stated how this is really a testament to all the

- great work being done on the ground by all roundtable members across the state.
- Ashley Garrison was present at the meeting and introduced herself as the new Water Plan Grant Manager for Yampa, White, Green, Colorado, and Gunnison River Basins. She plans to work with folks from these basins to develop the water planning grant project applications and determine which funding programs provide the best opportunity within the CWCB and other local, state, and federal programs.
 - Jackie provided an update on the CWCB. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd and 24th. During this meeting, they will be finalizing and approving the 2023 Colorado Water Plan, upon board agreement.

6. Public Comment: No comments.

7. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. **White River Management Plan/Programmatic Biological Opinion BRT Comments** (15 min) Kara Scheel/Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager CWCB. Kara reported that they received an influx of comments on the last round so it has slowed their progress. They hope to provide more of an update in March. Steve added that he thought the plan was thoroughly done.
- b. **Projects** (15 min) Steve Hinkemeyer proposed a Projects Committee for the Basin Roundtable to help support the grant process. Currently, the Basin Roundtable has 15 projects and about \$1.3 million of ongoing grants that the CWCB has distributed on the Basin Roundtables' behalf and there is little grant/project follow-up. This group could help reflect updates and progress of YWG Basin projects pages and provide a progress report to the YWG Basin Roundtable, as well as document and review completed and ongoing grant funded projects and confirm project spending. This group could also keep track of YWG BIP projects and collaborate more with the CWCB. Alden posed a question to the CWCB asking if there is already a process in place for gathering reports on grants and if this is something that could be shared with the YWG Basin Roundtable. Jackie was able to clarify that she believes this is something that is going to be included with the new application process and there should be a central portal. She also brought up the idea of alternating the location of the meetings throughout the year to view current projects across the basin. Jeff shared that he may be able to provide a spreadsheet of WSRF projects that has status updates a few times a year. He is going to take this back to the CWCB to see what they might be able to provide.
- c. **PEPO** (20 min) Patrick Stanko and Ken Brenner Nothing to report.
- d. **Grant Committee & Action** Steve Hinkemeyer
 - i. Grant Committee Update on new funding (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer gave a status update over the grant funding for the 2023 grant cycle. At the March meeting, Steve will share the suggested amount for the 2024 grant meeting.
 - ii. Rivers Edge West Letter of Support – (10 min) John Leary, Restoration Coordinator, asked for a letter of support from the YWG Basin Roundtable for the repair and restoration project from the Colorado Water Plan Grant. They are aiming to improve 11 acres of riparian habitat in the White River Basin through russian olive and

tamarisk removal, and revegetation with native plants, as determined by monitoring and partner needs. 9 acres of that is in the Victor Heel area, which is split between Bureau of Land Management and private land. Two acres of that is in Yellow Creek which is managed by the BLM. This project is also supported by the grazing permittee for the Yellow Creek area. This is a multi-benefit project, and it will improve habitat for terrestrial and extreme wildlife. \$66,069 of CWCB funds are being asked for, with a total project cost of \$130,000. Of the total, \$90,000 of that is for project implementation (hiring crews, purchasing herbicide, purchasing plant materials, etc.). The remaining amount is for monitoring, coordination, planning and reporting. Shawn shared his support for John and this project and would like to see a letter of support. This project type is part of an IPP (YW-2020-0032) in our YWG BIP. Jeff motioned that a letter of support for the White River Restoration Project be submitted for this water claim grant. Chris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. Yampa River Corridor Project – (20 min) Melanie Kilpatrick, City of Craig-The project is a collaborative project between the City of Craig and Moffat County. The city has taken the lead on funding and management of the project, but improvements will occur on county property as well as city property. There are two components to the project. The first component will happen at Loudy Simpson Park which is a new boat ramp. The new concrete boat ramp will be about a quarter mile downstream of the existing ramp. There will be 28 new parking spaces, 3 ADA parking spaces, and road access into that location. The second component will be to reconstruct the city's existing diversion dam, which is about 30 years old. There will be two drop features at this location; one above and one at the existing diversion dam. It is a multifaceted project with many benefits, not only for the lower Yampa River basin, the City of Craig, and Moffat County but the surrounding regional areas as well. This project is contributing new recreation opportunities, supporting increased public access to the lower Yampa River Basin, creating enhanced aquatic riparian habitat and fish passageways, sustaining the city's municipal water supply, creating a multi-use park, serving a variety of populations, and supporting environmental education opportunities for advocacy and stewardship. Lastly, it has good local, regional, and statewide support for the projects. This project is an IPP (YW-2015-0023) in the YWG BIP. Mike motioned to approve the grant request of \$100,000 of the YWG WSRF funds and \$100,000 of CWCB WSRF state match funds to the Yampa River Corridor Project. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- iv. Maybell Diversion and Headgate Construction – (20 min) Jennifer Wellman, TNC The overarching project objectives are to modernize antiquated irrigation infrastructure covered under that aging

infrastructure umbrella to improve diversion efficiency and ease of use for agricultural water users, and to improve the safety and passage of recreational boaters that currently have some challenges with this diversion. This project also supports Native and endangered fish habitat and movement for over 21 miles of the Yampa River. They are planning to enter the construction phase of this project this summer. The project has experienced an extreme increase in construction and haul costs and unanticipated road builds on the south side of the river in order to access the project for construction traffic. Total project cost is currently at \$6.1 million. Funds are being reserved in contingency as recommended by a number of engineers, including the project engineer, Luke Gingrich. They are looking to fill about a 1.2 million funding gap and currently have some other requests pending and some potential federal funding that might go towards this project as well. They are requesting \$150,000 from the Basin Roundtable. If awarded, this WSRF grant will cover construction expenses, which would include road building into the Southside of the project and some of the instream work to increase aquatic connectivity as part of this project. This project is an IPP (YW-2020-0012) in the YWG BIP. Ken motioned to approve the grant request of \$150,000 of the YWG WSRF funds and \$801,884 of CWCB WSRF state match funds to the Maybell Diversion and Headgate Construction project. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- e. **IBCC (20 min) BRT Group Discussion-** Alden announced that Tom Grey is stepping down from his current position on the IBCC. The IBCC is part of the Water 21st Century Act but serves as the statewide committee that guides discussions and voluntary negotiations between basins. The bylaws state that you need two individuals from each Basin Roundtable and they have to reside within our YWG Basins. It's a two-year term of office. There is currently a vacancy for a YWG Basin Roundtable member to fill on the IBCC. Alden is looking for a volunteer to fill this vacancy. Jeff stated that the value that Tom brought to our roundtable in his role as an IBCC member is not going to be easy to match up to because of his stature and the relationship that he had with people at the state level and his knowledge. Ken Brenner volunteered to fill the position on the IBCC. Steve motioned that Ken Brenner fill the position as the IBCC representative. Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **DWR Update (15 min)** Erin Light reported on the abandonment process. Most of their cases that were protested were extended to January 31. This means they have until January 31 to enter as many stipulations as they can in those 55 protested cases. If they cannot do that by January 31 they will ask for another extension of the At Issue date or they will have to start filing the disclosures with the court. She also gave an update on the measurement rules. They did receive six protests, 4 of which were really not substantive, but 2 of them were more substantive. The case number for this court case is 22 CW 3102. The new water

commissioner for district 43, Betty Craft introduced herself during the meeting and provided an update on the call issued on the White River effective December 1, 2022.

- b. Big River Committee/IBCC (10 min)** Jeff Meyers updated the group on the position paper the Big River Committee is drafting to submit to the YWG Basin Roundtable. Tom updated that the UCRC has accepted from the Bureau of Reclamation, \$135 million to begin in 2023 leasing Ag land to let water run down into Lake Mead and Lake Powell. The Colorado River District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, have tentatively been given the approval to oversee any Ag/water leasing and how that would be structured moving forward.

9. Announcements: Nothing to report

10. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a.** Next YWG BRT Meeting March 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

11. Adjourn at 9:13 PM

