

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin  
Roundtable Agenda  
Wednesday, March 8, 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=ZnBJVFhmaS90b2RqWWVGNm94NWNZZz9>

**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:** Roll call members. A quorum was met with 25 members. Present were Sonja Macys, Tom Gray, Doug Overton, Julie Baxter, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, J. Sheehan, Tim Winkler, Callie Hendrickson, Madison Muxworthy, Will Meyers, Frank Alfone, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Doug Monger, Jeff Meyers, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Travis Day, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek, Pat O'Toole, and Jonathan Bowler, and Jackie Brown.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Ken Brenner moved to push item 7a to a later date and approve the modified agenda. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Review and Approve January 11, 2023 Minutes:** Frank motioned to approve January minutes. Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Budget Report, CWCB Update:** (15 min) Jeff Rodriguez updated the Turf Replacement Program is open for applications and closes March 31. C-9 Roundtable Summit is an event to create higher alignment among the IBCC, CWCB and the Roundtables across the state. The CWCB is asking for roundtable members to provide agenda suggestions for that event. The tentative date for the C-9 Roundtable Summit is November 14 and will likely be held in Denver, CO. The CWCB is currently in the process of planning a Drought Summit at the Governor's directive which will be a two-day event on May 31 and June 1 at History Colorado in Denver, CO. The deadline to approve projects that will count towards the cap for this fiscal year is June 1.
- 6. Public Comment:** (5 min) Robert Sakata, CWCB board member representing the South Platte commented that his group will be meeting with the Colorado Ag Commission in Steamboat, CO at the Steamboat Grand the week of March 6th to collaborate with other water groups around the state.
- 7. Roundtable Projects:**
  - a. White River Management Plan/Programmatic Biological Opinion** (15 min) Kara Scheel/Endangered Species Recovery Program Manager CWCB and David Graf. Agenda item moved to a later date.
  - b. Grant Committee & Action** (50 min) Steve Hinkemeyer
    - i. Grant Committee Update & 2024 Grant Funding (10 min)** – S. Hinkemeyer 2023 Grant Cycle Funding Results: The YWG BRT had available throughout the year was just over \$1,200,000 and our total spending will likely be \$800,000 after the March and May grants get approved, which will leave the YWG BRT with a balance of \$406,000 for the end of this cycle.

Callie moved to approve the grant committee's request for \$400,000 of YWG BRT WSRF funds to fund the 2024 YWG Grant Program.

Jeff Meyers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. **Bear River & Sarvis Creek Data Logger & Telemetry (20 min)** –

Mendi Figueroa, DWR Division 6, District 58 Water Commissioner.

This is a voluntary project whose purpose is to install telemetry consisting of data loggers with built in satellite transmitters, radar level sensors on diversion structures and the river system, and on the service ditch. The goals and objectives of this project are to maximize accuracy and efficiency of water deliveries, improve water management decisions, increase adaptive capacity, provide transparent equitable administration, and protect agricultural and senior water rights. The equipment will belong to the water users themselves. There is an annual fee for the telemetry which will be \$300 per year, per structure. At the time of this meeting, there is commitment for 21 telemetry devices to be put in place. The total cost of the project including labor is \$189,000. The statewide grant request is \$132,300. Request from the YWG BRT is \$25,200. The Division of Water Resources will provide a cash match in the amount of \$25,200 as well for the labor and installation of the equipment. Bill Badaracca moved to approve the grant request for \$25,200 of YWG BRT WSRF funds and \$132,300 of CWCB WSRF state match funds. Sonja Macys seconded the motion. Doug Monger and Ken Brenner abstained from voting on this matter. Motion passed unanimously.

iii. **Sheriffs Reservoir Additional Funding (20 min)** – David Torgler,

Town of Oak Creek DWR, Dam Safety concerns are inadequate spillway capacity, potential for foundation erosion and operation concerns with the outlet works. Inflation has presented difficulty to install the equipment. If the headgate does not get replaced, there is the potential to create issues with the town of Oak Creek's drinking water supply. Sonja Macys moved to approve the grant request for \$16,250 of YWG BRT WSRF funds and \$48,750 of CWCB WSRF state match funds. Madison Muxworthy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. **West Fork Dam & Reservoir Project (20 minutes)** Jonathon Bowler Savery

Little Snake River WCD The proposed location of the reservoir is 30 miles Northeast of Baggs, WY and 40 miles North of Hayden, CO on the West Fork Battle Creek. The project is currently in the planning process. The purpose and need of this project is for late season supplemental water supply for irrigation. The whole service area serves 19,000 irrigated acres, 74% in Wyoming and 26% in Colorado. The proposed action plan is a 264 foot concrete dam storing 10,000 acre feet with a total 130 acre surface area. Included in the 10,000 acre feet pool, 6,500 acre feet will be irrigation supply, 1,500 feet will be held back to provide for instream minimum flow requirements and the last 2,000 acre feet will be a conservation pool. In January-February 2023, the Notice of Intent for the project was released by the NRCS and the forest service. Next steps are to continue to engage from the local level, educate and inform irrigators, partners, interested parties, apply for watershed planning grants, and apply to CWCB Water Plan Grant for assistance in further permitting, environmental compliance, delivery system analysis, and project outreach.

## **8. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:**

**a. DWR Update (10 min)** Erin Light updated on the 7 protests that they received in December and shared next steps on how the process is moving forward. She also shared as much as she could regarding the bill on the restoration projects.

**b. Big River Committee/IBCC (10 min)** Jeff Meyers Position paper overview. Moving forward, draft 2.1 will be emailed out to BRT members. Alden will send out instructions on how to proceed on this matter. Ken Brenner updated on the IBCC.

**c. PEPO (20 min)** Halie Cunningham, Water Education Coordinator for Yampatika updated on water education in the YWG Basins. Yampatika is the organization that the YWG BRT contracted to provide youth water education. Yampatika offers in-class programming, field trips, classroom resources, expert speaker coordination, and teacher resources to school programs. Curriculum development is guided by teacher demand and also the Colorado Education Standards. In the 2021/2022 school year, 25% of the basin student population had received water education at least once from Yampatika. In the 2022/2023 school year, 20% of the basin student population has already been met and it is projected that 32% of the population will receive water education by the end of the year. Service areas in the YWG BRT are South Routt SD, Steamboat Springs SD RE-2, Moffat SD RE-1, Meeker SD RE 1, Rangely SD RE-4, and Private/Charter schools. Moving forward, Yampatika is working towards becoming more inclusive about their education by translating more lessons in Spanish and working with ESL and adding bilingual classes. Additional resources can be found here:

<https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school>

## **9. Announcements:**

Patrick gave an update on how to navigate the YWG BRT Website.

State of the River Talks will be held in Craig, CO on March 22.

## **10. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

**a.** Next YWG BRT Meeting May 10, 2023 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

## **11. Adjourn at 9:12 PM**