
**Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Roundtable Minutes
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Location: CNCC Craig
Campus Room 185
2801 West 9th Street • Craig, CO 81625
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
**IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE IS
HIGHLY ENCOURAGED****

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. **Seat Rebecca Briesmoore to CRCWD Seat:** Rebecca introduced herself as the Colorado River Water Conservation District Appointment for the YWG Basin Roundtable.
3. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call Members. A quorum was met with 22 members. Members present were Sonja Macys, Tom Gray, Doug Overton, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Tim Winkler, Rebecca Briesmoore, Callie Hendrickson, Maddy Muxworthy, Will Myers, Kent Vertress, Frank Alfone, Doug Davis, Doug Monger, Jeff Myers, Chuck Whiteman, Chris Collins, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek, Jonathan Bowler, Julie Baxter, Jackie Brown.
4. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Steve Hinkemeyer moved to approve the agenda. Tim Winkler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Review and Approve March 8, 2023 Minutes:** Tim Winkler moved to approve March minutes. Frank Alfone seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Review and Approve Minutes from modified Sheriff's Reservoir Grant Voting:** Bill Badaracca moved to approve minutes from modified Sheriff's Reservoir Grant Voting Minutes. Callie Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Public Comment: (3 minute per individual or 5 minutes per group):** Nothing to report.
8. **Budget Report, CWCB Update:** (15 min) Jeff Rodriguez reported that the registration for the drought summit event is full, but there is a waiting list for those who are still interested in attending. The CWCB is working to find a way to live stream or record the event for the those who are not able to attend but want to listen to items that were discussed.
Drought Summit: <https://engagewcb.org/drought-summit>
Flood Threat Bulletin: <https://www.coloradofloodthreat.com/>
Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/>
Colorado River issues: <https://engagewcb.org/colorado-river>
9. **DWR Update (10 min) Erin Light:** Erin updated on 8.5 new positions that DWR received on May 1st. One position is going to be in Denver and 7.5 positions are located on the western slope. One and a half positions were allocated for division six specifically, and they are hoping that more funds can be obtained to make two positions.
10. **Big River Committee/IBCC:** (20 min) Jeff Meyers updated on the position paper and

shared what revisions the BRC has made to reach the final draft. Ken Brenner moved to approve draft 3.1 of the YWG Basin Position Statement: Crisis on the Colorado River. Sonja Macys seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff gave an overview of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Link to Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS):

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/NearTermColoradoRiverOperations/20230400-Near-termColoradoRiverOperations-DraftEIS-508.pdf>

SEIS for Near-term Colorado River Operations Public Engagement Webpage:

<https://www.swcavirtualpublicinvolvement.com/seis-near-term-operations>

Tom, Ken, and Jeff will be meeting with Senator Roberts Thursday, May 11 to present this same information as provided tonight.

Tom Gray gave a legislative update on SB23-295: Colorado River Drought Task Force:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb23-295>.

Ken Brenner updated that the next Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting will be held June 8, 2023 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Action Items:

11. Grant Committee (75 min)

- a. Grant Committee Update (10 min) (potential acceptance of minutes from online voting): Future grant request process. Steve will bring an updated version of the grant committee guidelines to reflect this new grant request process.
- b. Fortification Creek Stage Sensor & Telemetry, Melanie Kilpartrick, City of Craig (15 min) The project is to install stage sensor and telemetry equipment on Fortification Creek and will aid in modernizing the current low-flow monitoring on Fortification Creek to meet the City of Craig's decree terms. This project will also provide remote, real-time monitoring to provide critical measurements directly back to the water plant. These measurements are critical to protecting the City's water rights and prevent municipal water supply shortages. The components this funding will support are ultrasonic measurement equipment, which will be supported by solar powered battery components. The 13th Street Bridge is the possible site location. They are requesting \$10,000 from the YWG Basin Roundtable. The total project cost is \$16,000. Fortification Creek is unique in that there are no streamflow gauges present, so the City is having to develop their own measurement system for low flow conditions. Tim Winkler moved to approve the grant request for the \$10,000 of YWG BRT WSRF funds. Frank Alfone seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Norvell Ditch Infrastructure Improvement, Justin Duzik, Owner & Gena Hinkemeyer, CAA (15 min) The existing headgate structure will be replaced to accommodate new headgates along with constructing a new concrete diversion wall. A concrete head wall structure spanning across the ditch and connecting the two main walls would be required for mounting these head gates. Due to the orientation of this diversion and slow-moving water in Elk Head Creek a trash rack would be required to prevent debris from clogging up the main gates and/or downstream structures. A detailed engineering design and cost for such are included in this grant request. Total cost for this project is \$133,500; \$13,000 for engineering design and construction monitoring, \$4,000 for grant administration, and \$116,500 for demolition and reconstruction of headgates. Doug Davis moved to approve the grant request for the \$99,750 of YWG BRT WSRF funds. Mike

Camblin seconded the motion. Steve Hinkemeyer and Will Myers abstained from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

- d. Coal Creek Mesa Ditch Measuring Device, Paul Sheridan, Sheridan Ranches LLC (15 Min): Agenda item tabled to a later date.
- e. Agricultural Drought Resilience & Innovative Water Conservation P2, Greg Peterson, CAWA (20 min) The Colorado Ag Water Alliance is looking for a source of funding that is not cumbersome for farmers and ranchers to obtain and can be used on small innovative projects that demonstrate drought resilience. The projects that the CAWA is asking the YWG BRT to fund cannot be reported as they have not been identified yet. The goal is for this project to fund 20-30 new projects throughout Colorado, scale-up 10-20 of their current projects, and collect data from every project related to water use and economics. In the future, they would also like to leverage these funds with Federal and other sources to repeat this project in 2025 and 2026. Mike Camblin moved to approve the grant request for the \$75,000 of YWG BRT WSRF funds and \$46,650 of CWCB WSRF State-wide Funds. Callie Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Roundtable Projects and Committees:

PEPO (10 min) Patrick Stanko and Ken Brenner. Patrick updated on grant requests for the fiscal year 2024. They are asking \$10,000 for administrative support and \$15,000 for outreach support. Two canopies were purchased so that members can attend events and do outreach work within the communities of the YWG Basin. One canopy will be stored in the Steamboat Springs area, possibly at the Legacy Ranch, and the other will be stored at the Chamber of Commerce in Craig. The canopy design was shared with the group. Ken encouraged members to pick an event this summer to be a part of this outreach event. Patrick will send out an email with a link to sign-up for these events with the canopy. With the outreach budget, they are also working on developing a storyboard map that can be posted on the website and provide an interactive map of the YWG Basin. Callie Hendrickson moved to approve a letter of support from the YWG BRT to obtain this funding. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Water Education Colorado Basin Tour is in the YWG basin again this year, June 6-7. The YWG BRT has provided a \$2,000 sponsorship. One seat is available for someone to attend the two-day tour and they are looking for suggestions on who that person should be. They do not have to be a roundtable member. Ken added that they will have 14 members of the state legislator that are members of the Interim Water Resources and Agricultural Review Committee present, so it is a great group who want to learn more about what is happening in the YWG Basin.

13. White River Management Plan/Programmatic Biological Opinion (30 min) David Graf and Karla Scheels. David provided an overview of the history of the White River Management Plan and shared that they are currently in the final draft stages. David also presented on what a Programmatic Biological Opinion is. The program is focused on consultations and putting those into a program framework to simplify and streamline those consultations. The whole umbrella of their program works throughout Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to provide a programmatic and streamlined approach to section seven consultation.

14. Announcements: Nothing to report

15. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting July 12, 2023 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

16. Adjourn at 9:31 PM

