

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Roundtable Agenda
Wednesday, September 13,2023
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:** Stephen Hinkemeyer called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call Members. A quorum was met with 25 of the 30 voting members present. Members present were Tom Gray, Doug Overton, Julie Baxter, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, J. Sheehan, Rebecca Briesmoore, Callie Hendrickson, Madison Muxworthy, Will Myers, Frank Alfone, Rich Thompson, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Doug Monger, Jeff Meyers, Chuck Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Travis Day, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek, and T. Wright Dickinson. Non-voting members present were Jonathan Bowler and Jackie Brown.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Ken Brenner moved to approve the agenda. Frank Alfone seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve July 12, 2023 Minutes:** Tom Gray moved to approve the July minutes. Jeff Comstock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:** Holly Kirkpatrick commented that the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District will be hosting the 2nd Annual Yampa Youth Water Festival, Wednesday September 27, 2023 at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden, Colorado. They invited every 5th grader in Routt and Moffat County to attend. If anyone would like to attend on behalf of the YWG roundtable or any organization, please contact Holly for further information at hkirkpatrick@upperyampawater.com.
6. **Budget Report, CWCB Update:** Jeff Rodriguez & Jackie Brown, Jeff updated that the CWCB is continuing to plan the C9 Summit which will be held at the Westin Hotel in Westminster, CO on November 14th from 8am to 5pm. There will be dinner and a reception to follow. As a reminder, November 14th is the Tuesday before the CWCB board meeting so they are hopeful that more roundtable members will be able to attend the event. Please RSVP at the following link: <https://forms.gle/mkn2mSLWrgxJFKZe6>. The CWCB staff has been putting together a CWCB stakeholder guide. It will serve as a guide to the roundtables, the agency, IBCC, the CWCB board, etc. to help past and current roundtable members sort out the important pieces of legislation that establish the roundtables and IBCC. It will be a collection of information and resources to help navigate the roundtable process. It does not, however, take the place of any bylaws. The upcoming WSRF deadline is October 1st. The BRT WSRF applications will be reflected on the basin balance sheet after the CWCB board meeting. The Wildfire Ready Watersheds and Federal Technical Assistance and Capacity programs are still accepting applications on a rolling basis. These funds are tied to the state's ARPO funding, so they have a standby date of December of 2026, and need to be contracted in full by December of 2024.

Wildfire Ready Watersheds: <https://www.wildfirereadywatersheds.com/>.

Questions/interest contact Steve Reeves (steven.reeves@state.co.us)

Federal Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Grant

Questions/interest contact Michael Regan (michael.regan@state.co.us)

The Climate Change in Colorado Report is set to come out this fall. Jeff provided the link in anticipation of it being released to the public. <https://climatechange.colostate.edu/> Jackie updated on the operational plan the CWCB has been working on in the past months. They have recently looked at more consultants that are engaged with the CWCB and have spoken about their roles and responsibilities as a board. These conversations have led to where they think there is room for improvement as a board, to the members of the water community. Members of the basin roundtables were included in these conversations and asked to provide feedback. They held a operational board planning workshop and went over some of the results they've collected during this process. This is helping them to narrow the focus of what changes they need to make and provided clarity where it was needed. After the September board meeting, they will have a more solid plan of what this is going to look like. Jackie is hopeful that through this process it will give the board a sense of immediacy in dealing with "surprise issues" and they will be better equipped to meet the moment. The CWCB has hired Lauren Ris as the new director as Becky Mitchell has taken on her new role as commissioner.

Jackie also updated on behalf of the Drought Task Force, outside of her role with the CWCB. Jackie was appointed to the task force as appointed by Representative Lynch as a representative of industry with operations on the west slope. As of this meeting, the task force has met 4 times and during the last meeting started discussing the bulk of their duties being a part of the task force. They narrowed down items that they felt the task force needed to tackle in the area. At the next meeting, Jackie anticipates they will come to an agreement on how the task force will bring recommendations to the legislature and what criteria will guide them through that process. Jackie clarified that the task force will not write legislation, but rather provide recommendations as there are no legislators on the task force. Mike Camblin, who is also an appointed member of the taskforce proposed the idea of the YWG BRT bringing the White Paper that the Big River Committee wrote to the task force? Jackie stated that she felt it would more beneficial if someone from the roundtable is willing to attend the public comment portion of the task force meeting to talk about why the things in the white paper are important. After discussion and amendment, the following motion was adopted. T-Wright moved to resubmit the YWG BRT white paper as an independent document to the task force meeting on September 14th in Grand Junction, Colorado, via email with Mike Camblin. Then Jeff, Ken, and any available YWG BRT members will provide public comment during the task force meeting on September 28th in Granby, Colorado by highlighting the important pieces of the document. Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **DWR Update** Erin Light Erin updated that since the July meeting, the DWR placed a call on the White River again. The call started on July 31st and went through to September 7th. The call came off for maintenance, so they suspect that the call may go back on once the maintenance is complete. A call was placed on the Elk River, as well as the flows are around 50 CFS. A normal range is 65 CFS. Erin also updated that they have had releases starting on August 18th at Elk Head Creek Reservoir and Stagecoach Creek Reservoir. Erin also provided a status update on the stipulations concerning the measurement rules.
8. **Colorado River District Update** Zane Kessler, Rebecca Briesmoore introduced herself as

the water resource engineer and project manager for the Colorado River District. Rebecca is also an appointed member of the YWG BRT and is the technical point person for the YWG Basin. She shared that the Colorado River District is working to get river district updates as a standing agenda item in the roundtable meetings to improve communication with their constituents. Currently, the river district is waiting for the Colorado River draft supplemental EIS. There will be a comment period once the EIS is released. Rebecca reminded the group that Andy Muller is representing the CRD on the task force and provided an overview of events and programs the Colorado River District was involved with in the past months. The Annual Water Seminar is on September 22 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

9. Roundtable Projects and Committees:

- a. **Big River Committee** Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner, Steve did submit the letter of support that was voted on during the June meeting for the White River PBO and received a reply from Julie Stolley who is understood to be David Graf's direct supervisor. She indicated that Fish Recovery from the Fish and Wildlife service has not moved forward either way with the PBO.
 - b. **IBCC** Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner reminded the group that the C-9 summit is on November 14th and that their attendance at the event is important. One of the goals that the C-9 Summit hopes to accomplish is to improve the communication and interactions between the CWCB, the IBCC, and the round tables.
 - c. **PEPO** Patrick Stanko and Ken Brenner updated the group that during their meeting they worked on the specific script they wanted to present during their 3-minute video providing a summary about the round tables on why they exist, what they do, who serves on the board, and how it works.
 - d. **Grant Committee & Action** Steve Hinkemeyer provided an update on the changes that were made to the YWG BRT 2023 grant cycle results as well as preliminary grant funding for the 2024 grant cycle. There is a balance of \$173,588 in the YWG BRT account and are assured \$300,000 of funding in October which will put the account balance at \$473,500. There are several basins that are not going to get their full \$300,000 allotment, so the round table can anticipate receiving a little more funding over the \$300,000 coming to the YWG BRT. During the November meeting, Steve will discuss the CWCB BRT funding for 2024 and modify the grant funding for fiscal year 2024. Steve also discussed making an update to the BRT grant scoring matrix. He will discuss this update during the October Grants meeting with the committee and hopefully come up with a new table for adoption and update the grant guidelines. The grant committee will bring their suggestions to the November YWG BRT meeting.
- 10. Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Activities** Andy Rossi talked to the roundtable about 4 projects they have going on which are Soil Moisture and Meteorological Sensor Network, USGS Snow Model, WRF-Hydro Model Extension and StateMOD Application, and Wildfire Ready Watersheds- Bear River Plan.
- 11. Colorado DNR Interstate and Federal Section Update** Becky Mitchell, Amy Ostdiek, Emily Zmak, and Alison Gould. Lauren Ris, CWCB Director introduced herself and welcomed the group to reach out with any questions, concerns, or thoughts they may want to share with her. Commissioner Mitchell also extended an invite to the C-9 summit and encouraged roundtable members to attend. Becky introduced herself as the Colorado River Commissioner. Commissioner Mitchell became the state's first full-time Colorado River Commissioner on July 5, 2023. She reports to DNR Director Dan Gibbs and Governor

Polis and represents Colorado's interests. There recently has been a change within the state as of July 1st which is a full-time position dedicated to the Colorado River Commission. That is what freed up this role at the CWCB. The Colorado River touches every corner of the state, has an impact across the state, and is incredibly important. It was important that someone was designated to put 100% of their time dedicated to the Colorado River and the upcoming negotiations surrounding it. Commissioner Mitchell wanted to make sure that the roundtables are aware that a big importance of hers was to get out to the roundtables, boards, commissions, utilities, etc. She wants to make sure to hear from all the voices across the state, which has been a heavy initiative of hers. Commissioner Mitchell provided an update on what is happening on the Colorado River. For more information on Colorado River issues visit: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/colorado-river-commissioners-corner>. Alison Gould, Colorado Assistant Attorney General, provided a presentation regarding the law of the Colorado River which included a summary of the big three which are the Colorado River Compact (1922), Treaty with Mexico (1944), and Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (1948). She also included the functional four which are the Boulder Canyon Project Act (1928), Colorado River Storage Project Act (1956), Arizona v. California Supreme Court Case (1963), and Colorado River Basin Project Act (1968).

12. Announcements:

- a. Elections at the November 8, 2023, meeting. Officers and BRT seats.

13. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

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

14. Adjourn at 9:55

