

Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8,2023

Call Meeting to Order: Alden VandenBrink called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Recognize Letters of Appointment:

Letter(s) of appointment were received prior to the meeting for the following representatives, and they were seated at this time:

Doug Overton, Rio Blanco County	Sonja Macy's, Routt County
Rebecca Briesmoore, CRWCD	Mike Camblin, Juniper Conser. District
Ken Brenner, Upper Yampa WCD	Steve Hinkemeyer, Moffat County Municipalities
Shawn Welder, Yellow Jacket WCD	Julie Baxter, Routt County Municipalities
Jay Sheehan, Pothook WCD	

Introduction of Members and Audience: Role call Members

Voting members present at the meeting included Julie Baxter, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Shawn Welder, Rebecca Briesmoore, Tim Winkler, Callie Scritchfield, Madison Muxworthy, Will Meyer, Kent Vertrees, Frank Alfone, Jeff Meyers, Doug Monger, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Bill Badaracca, Vince Wilczek. One non-voting member, Jonathan Bowler was present at the meeting. A quorum was present at the meeting.

Approve/Modify Agenda:

Add to the end agenda the Headwaters of the Colorado Letter of Support Request if there is time at the end of the meeting for it. There will be a question during the grants update on how the BRT wants to support non-WSRF grants in the future. Tim Winkler made a motion to amend the agenda to add that item at the end. Ken Brenner second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve September 13, 2023, Minutes:

Frank Alfone motioned approval of the minutes as written. Callie Scritchfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Elections: At-Large candidate introductions.

- a) Election for two seats are up for re-election this year, that were held by:
Will Meyers – Ag Representative and
Madison Muxworthy – Environmental Representative.

Both are running unopposed for their respective seats. Each was given a few minutes to discuss their candidacy. Ken Brenner made the motion to reappoint both Will Meyer and Madison Muxworthy to the Ag and Environmental Seats. Bill Badaracca seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) Nomination for House/Senate Representative

The Colorado State Legislature House/Senate Seat is up for election. Callie Scritchfield was the only individual to put their name in for this seat. She has served the Roundtable in that capacity for the last 5 year and is willing to do that again. No official was taken for Callies candidacy; however, the membership was asked if anyone had concerns about

Callie representing the Roundtable in that capacity for the next five years. There were no concerns. The BRT Chairman will send a letter to the Legislature expressing our desire to have Callie placed in that seat for another term.

- c) Election for Vice-Chairs – Two positions need to be filled, the Yampa River Vice-Chair and the White River Vice-Chair.

Yampa Vice-Chair – Kent Vertrees nominated Ken Brenner to be the Yampa Vice-Chair. Madison Muxworthy seconded the nomination. No other nominations were forthcoming. A motion to cease nominations was made by Steve Hinkemeyer and seconded by Tim Winkler. The motion was approved to close nominations. Having only one candidate for Vice-Chair, Ken was unanimously approved to the Yampa Vice-Chair position.

White River Vice-Chair – Ken Brenner nominated Tim Winkler for White River Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Callie Scritchfield. Steve Hinkemeyer moved to close nominations; Kent Vertrees seconded. The motion was approved to close nominations. Having only one candidate for White River Vice-Chair, Tim Winkler was unanimously approved to the White River Vice-Chair position.

- d) Election for Chairperson – Steve Hinkemeyer was the only current member to put in an application of interest for the Chairperson position. A motion was made by Tim Winkler to nominate Steve for the Chair position. The motion was seconded by Frank Alfone. A call for other members to express their interest in the position was offered with no other interest. A motion to close nominations was made by Ken Brenner and seconded by Tim Winkler. The motion passed unanimously. Having only one candidate for the Chair position, Steve Hinkemeyer was unanimously approved for the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable Chair. Alden Vanden Brink then turned the meeting over to Steve to finish.

Public Comment:

- a) Owen Yeager sent an email introducing himself as a new representative of the Colorado Cattlemen's Land Acquisition Trust. His email was read to the group.
- b) John Peters, Colorado Open Lands, introduced himself to the membership and talked briefly about their work in Land Trusts.
- c) Will Meyers asked about honoring long time members who are moving on from being on the BRT. No decision was made on what to do.

Budget Report, CWCB Update:

Jeff Rodriguez gave a CWCB update. He covered the

- a) SCCP webinar coming up next week,
- b) the upcoming CWCB Stakeholders Guide that should be available early next year,
- c) The C-9 Summit next week, and talked about reminders for
- d) CWCB WSRF and WPG grant due on December 1, 2023,
- e) Wildfire Ready Watershed funding still being available,
- f) The Technical Assistance & Local fund Capacity (ARPA fund)
- g) The Climate Change in Colorado report due out in December 2023, and covered the
- h) Project Database Update (once per year or when required) and how updates to that would be handled as well as what kind of review would be done on projects updated or added.

DWR Update

Erin Light gave an update on the

- a) Measurement rules stipulations and potential lawsuits. Trial is set for the end of February.

- b) DWR is still working on the abandonment water rights list and that is keeping the office very busy.
- c) Diversion Records are due in this month and that is keeping all the water commissioners busy trying to get all that information captured and updated.

Water Commissioners Corner

Amy Ost diek filled in for Becky Mitchell and covered several slides

- a) The first concerning the Colorado River Usage Graph with some updated information on it
- b) The SCPP 2024 Program highlights, and webinar next Monday, November 13th,
- c) The new 2007 Guidelines Draft SEIS put forth by the Bureau of Recreation being commented on by December 11, 2023, which takes the California proposal and not the six basin states proposal that started the SEIS for Colorado River Interim Operations, and
- d) Post 2026 Colorado River Operations update and Colorado six step program for the river.

Drought Task Force Update

Mike Camblin and Jackie Brown were not available for an update at the meeting, but a 19 page “Concepts for Further Consideration” document has been put on the website for members to review if they would like to see what the Drought Task Force has been working on and what some of the ideas and tools that have been discussed during their meetings.

Jeff Meyer reminded the membership that at the last meeting he had been tasked with sharing the YWG BRT’s thoughts on Demand Management, which is one of the Task Force concepts. Jeff made the Granby meeting and shared the membership’s thoughts on Demand Management that came out of the Big River Committee. Andi Rossi reminded the group that the final public comment is due by December 7 and a final report from the Task Force is due on December 15th.

Upper Colorado River Endanger Fish Recovery Program

David Graf & Julie Stahli, USFWS, gave an update on the White River Management Plan. There has been no decision on continuing onward and providing a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) for the White River currently. They are finalizing the WRMP and are working to figure out what the next steps should be? They laid out scenarios for having a PBO and for not having a PBO and what kind of actions should drive the decision. If there were not a PBO in place in the White River, the actions in the White River below a 4,500 acre-foot depletion, the consultation time in the White River would be the same as that in the Yampa River Basin, which has a PBO.

Colorado River District Update

Rebecca Briesmoore gave an update from the River District on what they have been working on lately. Projects highlighted include:

- a) 2023 Colorado River District Seminar
- b) Contributed to WaterSmart training for municipalities in Grant Junction.
- c) On-going work on the SCPP that Amy highlighted and looking at all applications to make sure that Colorado River water user are not harmed by any projects
- d) The River District has now funded 100 projects with the CR basin. They recently assisted the City of Steamboat Springs with funding for irrigations system controls for city open spaces.
- e) The River District is still working on purchasing the 1,250 cfs Shoshone water rights in the Colorado River and hope to complete that soon.

Roundtable Projects and Committees:

Big River Committee

Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner gave an update on the Big River Committee activities over the last several months. Ken discussed the purpose of the C-9 summit and encouraged membership to attend the conference. Jeff reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's SEIS on Colorado River interim operations and how we might go about making comments from the YWG BRT.

IBCC Update

Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner gave an update on the IBCC committee. They reminded the membership that next Monday's C-9 meeting will also be one of the three planned IBCC committee meetings for the year. A conversation ensued concerning how the IBCC is being utilized as a committee and that they should be tasked to do more. Some discussion was held on how to go about getting the BRT IBCC members more involved with what is going on around the state.

PEPO

Ken Brenner gave a brief update on PEPO activities. They are still working on providing a video to go on the YWG website explaining who the Roundtable is and what we do to help water users in the YWG Basin. A comment was made that the radio ads that were made several years ago are getting "stale" and we should look at updating them with new information before we air them again.

Grant Committee & Action

Steve Hinkemeyer gave a Grant Committee update from the October 2023 meeting by reviewing the following

- a) CWCB funding that occurred in early October. The YWG BRT account received the normal \$300,000 in funding plus an additional \$57,981 of funds not used by other BRT's. The grant committee made a decision to stay with the \$400,000 allocation for the YWG 2024 Grant Program.
- b) The grant committee is still working on a new Grant Scoring Matrix that will lend some separation for evaluating projects to determine who should be granted funding. That work will continue into next year.
- c) The grant committee reviewed what work is done to a grant from the time it is submitted to the grants committee until it is reviewed by the committee at its meeting. The highlights were covered with the presentation and the YWG Grant Guidelines will be updated and brought to the January meeting for approval.
- d) The Yampa IWMP Project Implementation Subcommittee has reviewed and updated 41 of 50 BIP IPP's, as well as the 20 Yampa IMWP recommendations and documented 3 or 4 new projects that should be added into the CWCB Project Database. Jeff Rodriguez has discussed updating this database on a regular schedule so that projects for the next BIP, likely researched in 2027, will be in the database already, instead of having to try to discover what happened to the 2021 BIP Projects and which new projects should be listed. Ken Brenner made a motion, and Jeff Comstock seconded to allow for updating those 2021 BIP Yampa River IPP projects as required in the CWCB database. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) A discussion was held among the membership about how they want to receive requests for Letter Of Support (LOS) for non-WSRF grants and on what time

frame. The grant committee will take on writing up some guidelines to put on our website that show the process and timelines for submitting LOS to the YWG Basin Roundtable.

Announcements:

Alden announced that Katie Camblin has notified him that she is resigning from the BRT Recorder position as of the end of the year. She will stay on until some one is found and will help with January and beyond if needed.

Kent Vertrees announced that Friends of the Yampa are having their annual fundraiser and on-line auction and that everyone is invited to go to the website and bid on on-line items.

Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting January 10, 2024 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

Adjourn

A motion was made by Jeff Meyers and seconded by Callie Scritchfield to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously