

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

1. **Call to Order:** Steve Hinkemeyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Modify or Approve Agenda** – This agenda item will be added back to the agenda starting next meeting. Jackie Brown will not be able to make it today so there will be no report for the CWCB Update. Rebecca Briesmoore asked about adding 5 minutes to the agenda to talk briefly about the Shoshone water rights purchase by the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Jeff Meyers made the motion to approve the agenda with the modifications listed. T. Wright Dickinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously
3. **Appointment of Members**
  - a) **Seat Moffat County Appointment** – Miranda Kawcak was welcomed to the YWG board as the county representative.
  - b) **Recognize House/Senate Legislative Member** – At the November meeting Callie Scritchfield was recommended by the membership to be the House/Senate Appointment. Jeff Rodriguez talked about the process and that Callie was approved unanimously by the ag committees for both the House and the Senate to represent them on the YWG BRT.
4. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Voting members present for the meeting were Sonja Macys, Miranda Kawcak, Julie Baxter, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Jay Sheehan, Tim Winkler, Kacey Green, Rebecca Briesmoore, Madison Muxworthy, Will Myers, Frank Alfone, Jeff Meyers, Doug Monger, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Travis Day, Bill Badaracca and T. Wright Dickinson. Non-voting members present were Jonathan Bowler. A quorum is present.
5. **Review and Approve November 8, 2023, Minutes:** Frank Alfone made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ken Brenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Review and Ratify December 11, 2023, comments on BuRec CR Interim Operations SEIS** – T Wright Dickinson made the motion to ratify the comments sent the BuRec and Sonja Macys seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Public Comment:** No public comment request was made.
8. **CWCB Update:**
  - a. **Budget Report:** Jeff Rodriguez gave an update of CWCB activities that
    - i. included the Climate Change in Colorado Report was released on January 8, 2024,
    - ii. the Soil Moisture Survey deadlines is February 5, 2024,
    - iii. the CWCB Stakeholder Guide will be introduced possibly in March or May for the YWG,
    - iv. IBCC meeting dates (next meeting 2/27/2024 in Denver),
    - v. upcoming WSRF grant deadlines,
    - vi. Wildfire Ready Watersheds Grants, Technical Assistance and Local Capacity Programs are still accepting applications that need to be contracted by the end of 2024, and
    - vii. CWCB reports that are coming later in 2024.

- c. **Drought Task Force Update** Mike Camblin discussed the final process in what was recommended to go forward to the Legislature. Of the 15 final recommendations, 8 of them passed a vote by the Task Force and were included to the Legislature. Several of the recommendations that did not pass the vote is being carried on as a Narrative, that may move forward to be discussed further and may be picked up by Legislators as one of their proposed bill to sponsor.

- 8. **Water Commissioners Corner:** Amy Ost diek discussed the SEIS comments that were put into the Bureau of Recreations Website. The States comments were very similar to the YWG BRT comments approved earlier. The State has the same questions as those we posed as well. The focus at the State Office has been looking at post-2026 operating guidelines. The SCPP in Colorado received 51 application requests from Colorado water users. Estimates of proposals for the SCPP program are about 1,700 acre-feet of water by Colorado users.

## 9. Presentations

- a) **Head Waters of the Colorado Initiative:** Johnathan Bowler gave an update on the Head Waters of the Colorado Initiative. The presentation is in the meeting packet. There is no ask for this project at this time, he just wanted to keep us updated with what is being developed in North Routt County. Ken Brenner is a member of the Steering Committee and Executive Committee for the project. They are currently working on a grant from Water Foundation to help with capacity and staffing. There will be a full-time staff member hired that will work for the Executive Committee. A WaterSmart grant has been applied for. They have spent a lot of time getting organized and feel they are ready to move forward and begin to develop plans to move forward. First full public stakeholder meeting will be in February 2024.

## 10. Action Items

### a) Grant Committee

- a. **Grant Committee Update** Frank Alfone was elected by the grant committee to become the grant committee chair, and Steve will be the vice-chair. Frank gave an presented an update to the grants committee and the presentation is in the meeting packet.
  - i. Approval of new YWG Grant Guidelines for CWCB Website – Frank discussed the update of the guidelines that the grant committee voted to send to the membership in December. The changes made were mostly around the State WSRF fund for Drought and Infrastructure Projects. A motion was made by Ken Brenner and seconded by Madison Muxworthy to approve the guideline update as presented. The motion passed unanimously approved.
  - ii. Approval of new YWG Letter of Support Guidelines. Frank discussed the new Letter of Support Guidelines to try to clarify grant applicants (not-WSRF grants) when they need to come before the BRT membership to get a LOS approved by the YWG. There are two ways to get a LOS from the BRT, the first is to go through the grants committee process and then to the BRT or come to the BRT meeting and to ask. T Wright Dickinson made a motion to approve, and Mike Camblin seconded the LOS Guidelines as written. The motion passed

unanimously.

- b. **Norvell Ditch change of grantee from Norvell Ditch Owner to CAA** (5 min), Frank Alfone and Steve Hinkemeyer explained what happened last May on this grant, and what it will take for it to move forward to be contracted and funded. Will Myers is the engineer on this project so will abstain from the vote. If approved tonight, because the CWCB board has already approved the grant, it should just be a put on the consent agenda at the January 2024 CWCB board meeting. Ken Brenner made a motion to approve the change of grantee and for CAA to become the fiscal agent for this project instead of the Norvell Ditch Owners, seconded by T. Wright Dickinson. The motion passed unanimously.
  - c. **YWG BRT Funds Update:** Frank Alfone gave an update on how much money is remaining in the 2024 Grant program and what documents are in the packet for the next two items, which are grant requests. The following two grants are asking only \$33,780 of YWG funds, leaving us with \$366,220 remaining in our grant program. Each of the grants has a grant summary, a three-slide presentation, and the YWG application, and also there are the grant committee minutes, all of which are in the meeting packet.
  - c. **Ain't Lyon Ranch Infrastructure Imp.** Megan Knott and John Gioia, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, presented a grant for infrastructure improvement at the Ain't Lyon Ranch, just upstream from Elkhead Reservoir on Elkhead Creek. The grant highlights a new pump and several measuring devices on land that ultimately be protected by a conservation easement. A motion was made to approve this request for \$9,000 of YWG WSRF funds by Jeff Meyers and seconded by Mike Camblin. The motion was approved unanimously.
  - d. **Nickell Diversion Upgrade & Automation** Patrick Stanko, CAA presented a grant for infrastructure improvement at the Nickell Ditch Diversion, which is the most downstream call point on the Little Bear River. The diversion will be designed to pass and in-stream flow rate past the diversion when necessary. The diversion still needs to operate as a call point on the river, which is always on call. Funds to complete the final design of this project is already approved. Fish passage may be designed into this project when water is by-passed for other uses by the diversion. T Wright Dickinson made a motion to approve \$24,780 of YWG WSRF funds and \$161,070 of Statewide WSRF funds for this project. Chris Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) **YIWMP Implementation Subcommittee**
- a. **BIP IPP Project Updates:** Steve Hinkemeyer presented a PowerPoint that showed which BIP projects got updated during the final phase of the Yampa IWMP Project Implementation Project work. Steve explained that updating these projects in the CWCB BIP Project Database, does not change the 2021 BIP, but just tracks projects until the new 2027 BIP Project investigation starts again. Steve presented a list of 23 of 43 projects that were reviewed by the committee that had been updated in the database. As these projects have all been approved with the 2021 BIP, no action is necessary.

- b. Approval of nine IWMP Recommendations for inclusion into the YWG BIP IPP List: Steve Hinkemeyer presented the 9 IWMP recommendations that he updated in the CWCB BIP IPP Database. Ken Brenner motioned to approve adding project based on IWMP Recommendations, 7,8,11 and 15-20 be added to the CWCB BIP IPP Database. The motion was seconded by Frank Alfone. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Approval of the four 2023 Projects for inclusion into the YWG BIP IPP List: Steve Hinkemeyer presented the four newly discovered recommendations that he updated in the CWCB BIP IPP Database. Mike Camblin motioned to approve adding the four new projects YW-2023-0001 through 0004 be added to the CWCB BIP IPP Database. The motion was seconded by Madison Muxworthy. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. DWR Update:** Erin Light covered some of the turnover at the State office and at the local level of DWR. Kevin Rein retired and they are advertising for his replacement. Tracy Kosloff has been named the interim director and acting state engineer. Sarah Myers was promoted to Lead Water Administrator. The newly created Lead Hydrologist position here in Division 6 has been filled by Jacob Olson from Division 2. Water District 44, vacated by the Sarah Myers promotion is currently be advertised. All protests of the new Measurement Rules have been settled and they are now waiting on the judge to consider them final and approve them.

**12. Colorado River WCD Update:** Rebecca Briesmoore talked about the Shoshone Water Rights purchase by the Colorado River District. The total sale was for 98.5 million dollars. The River District put up \$20 million from it grant program, which is going toward the Colorado River area, so future years the district will look to spend \$3 million in the YWG basin as well as the Gunnison Basin. The district has equity targets for all four of its basins that they are trying to spend similar monies across the four. It will continue to be a process over the next few years to make this come to fruition.

### **13. Roundtable Projects and Committees:**

- a) **Big River Committee/IBCC** Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner presented a small slide show shown at the Big River Committee meeting earlier in the day. Ken talked about what the role IBCC members from the BRT's will play in the IBCC meetings. The YWG had good alignment with the Colorado River District and the UCRC. The CRD & the UCRC are also concerned with 1) reinserting operation changes proposed in the original draft and 2) Do not allow the Lower Division reductions defined as an Intentionally Created Surplus.
- b) **PEPO:** Patrick Stanko and Ken Brenner discussed what is happening with the PEPO committee. The committee has been working on the BRT introduction video and it is nearly ready to shoot. The next project is the Story Map of our basin that would be put on the website and can be utilized for educational purposes as well as introduce people to our basin. An email will be out in February asking about what events PEPO should try to have a presence at in 2024.

### **14. Announcements:**

- a) Ken Brenner announced that Airborne Snow Observatory has received some additional money to get some more snow-on flights for the Elk and the Yampa this year. These flights will help determine how much snowpack is being held in those basins at the time of the flights.

- b) Executive Committee has been working on making meetings end on time. In that regard we have put together a document called YWG Presentation Guidelines that we would like you to review and comment on. We will bring them back to the membership for the March 13, 2024, Meeting for approval.
- c) We can put a list of upcoming events for the next two months here if membership would send Patrick your events to add to our YWG Website Calander.
  - a. The upcoming CWCB meeting in late January was highlighted.
  - b. The Colorado Water Congress January 31 thru February 2 was highlighted.
  - c. The White River/Douglas Creek Conservation Districts annual meeting will be held on February 10, 2024.
  - d. The Colorado First Conservation District annual meeting will be held on February 20, 2024.

**15. Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

- a) Next YWG BRT Meeting [March 13, 2024](#) @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

**16. Adjourn Meeting:** Jeff Comstock made the motion to adjourn and Will Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:07 pm.