

Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable Minutes Summary

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Location: CNCC Craig Campus, Room 185

2801 West 9th Street • Craig, CO 81625

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Recorded by Kristin Skowronski

1	Call Meeting to Order
	A regular Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWG BRT) meeting convened virtually and in person. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hinkemeyer @ 6:02 PM
2	Introduction of Members and Audience
	19 voting members were present at the call to order, so a quorum was present (at least 16 required)
	<u>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT</u> : Frank Alfone, Ken Brenner, Jonathan Bowler, Rebecca Briesmoore, Mike Camblin, Jeff Comstock, Chris Collins, Travis Day, Doug Davis, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Sonja Macys, Jeff Meyers, Doug Monger, Madison Muxworthy, Doug Overton, J. Sheehan, Callie Scritchfield, Rich Thompson, Shawn Welder, Charles Whiteman
3	<u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE</u> : Sally Cariveau, Jeff Deems, Mendi Figueroa, Chip Herold, Thomas Kennedy, Ben Krause, Emily Lowell, Greg Peterson, Jeff Rodriguez, Phillip Rossi, Robert Sakata, Russ Sands, Tyler Schnider, Kristin Skowronski, Claire Sollars, Patrick Stanko, Emily Zmak
	Approve/Modify Agenda
4	Frank Alfone made a motion to approve, 2 nd by Ken Brenner, unanimously approved.
	Review and Approve March 13, 2024 Minutes
5	Callie Hendrickson proposed to amend March's meeting minutes to reflect her name change to Callie Scritchfield. Brenner made a motion to approve minutes with that amendment. Madison Muxworthy 2 nd , minutes approved unanimously.
	Public Comment
6	No public comment
	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update
7 7a 7	Jeff Rodriguez gave an update on the CWCB budget and briefly informed the group about the Transformative Landscape Challenge, the upcoming Water Conditions Monitoring committee meeting, the Colorado River Team webinar series, the end-of-year deadline on wildfire watershed readiness, technical assistance, and local capacity grants.
	Presentations
	CWCB Membership Handbook

b	Russ Sands led a presentation on CWCB's creation of a handbook about CWCB for basin roundtables and their committees that will answer FAQs, address onboarding procedures and operational topics, and reference resources roundtables can utilize. A revised draft is expected to come out in June of 2024 and final version approved by September 2024.
	<i>Airborne Snow Observatories (ASO) Flight Data Presentation</i>
	Jeff Deems gave a presentation on ASO and the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Program, which focused on the results of the first-year data collected from flying the Yampa Basin. A second flight is planned for mid May of 2024.
8	Action Items
8a	<i>Grant Committee Update</i>
8aa	Alfone outlined the 3 grant requests and 2 letters of support on the agenda and briefly reviewed RT's available grant funding. He also compared the two scoring matrices used to score the grant requests that came before the committee in April. The committee is working on refining a version of the matrix that will be easier to use and more effective at ranking the grant requests in the event the committee's funding is limited.
i	<i>Yampa White Green Education and Outreach – Public Education Participation Outreach (PEPO) Grant 2025 – 2027</i>

ii	<i>Applicant: Community Agriculture Alliance (CAA)</i>
8a	<u>2025 CWCB Annual Grant - \$25,000</u> Patrick Stanko presented. This is the CWCB annual grant for basic coordination of public education and outreach, which is fulfilled by CAA.
	<i>PEPO Chairman Brenner recused himself from this vote and the next.</i> Scratchfield motioned to approve the request, 2 nd by Mike Camblin, unanimously approved.
	<u>2025 – 2027 YWG BRT/Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant - \$91,000</u> Stanko presented. Funding would enable PEPO and CAA to continue their marketing campaign efforts and facilitate the creation of new content, such as a story map and videos. CWCB staff confirmed the grant requires a 25% match of \$22,705 for approval.
8ac	Sonja Macys motioned to approve the request, 2 nd by Rich Thompson, unanimously approved.
8	<i>Stillwater Reservoir Blanket Underdrain</i> <i>Applicant: Bear River Reservoir Company (BRRC)</i>
	<u>Stillwater Reservoir Repairs, Phase 2, BRRC - \$24,000</u> John Redmond presented. These funds are to design, permit, and construct a downstream blanket drain to provide a filtered exit for seepage. Asking YWG BRT for 10% of the project's total cost.
	Brenner motioned to approve the request, 2 nd by Scratchfield, unanimously approved.
	<i>Upper Yampa Reservoirs Rehabilitation</i> <i>Applicant: Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance</i>
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	<p><u>Routt County Reservoir Repairs, Phase 1, CAWA - \$68,250</u> Presented by Greg Peterson. These funds support necessary infrastructure improvements for 7 reservoirs. 3 of the reservoir owners were present and gave input on the need for these repairs: Phillip Rossi, Chip Herold, and Tyler Schnieder. Mendi Figueroa, District 58 Water Commissioner, DWR, also spoke in support of this project.</p>
	<p>Camblin motioned to approve the request, 2nd by Scritchfield, unanimously approved.</p>
	<p><i>Little Snake River Valley Diversion Structure Letter of Support</i></p>
	<p>Jonathan Bowler asked for a LOS from the RT for a request for \$781,989 from the CWCB Water Plan Grant Program for water diversion infrastructure.</p>
	<p>Doug Davis motioned to approve, 2nd by Brenner, unanimously approved.</p>
	<p><i>LOS for future ASO Flights, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District</i></p>
	<p>Emily Lowell requested LOS for UYWCD's grant proposal for the t Snow and Water Supply Forecasting Program to fund for the next two years, 2025 & 202</p>
9 9a 9 b	<p>Alfone motioned to approve, 2nd by Brenner, unanimously approved.</p>
	<p>Roundtable Projects Committee</p>
	<p><i>Big River Committee/IBCC</i></p>
	<p>Meyers gave an update on BRC, which is currently focused on negotiations regarding post 2026 operating guidelines proposals. Emily Zmak answered a question about the timeframe of that process. Brenner gave an update on IBCC, which met in February and is working on listing the qualities of exemplary traits of IBCC members and the essential qualities of a successful statewide program and prioritizing the pursuit of low/no regrets projects to empower and engage the Colorado water conservation programs to engage the basic roundtables.</p>
10	<p>PEPO</p>
	<p>Stanko gave an update on PEPO. They are finalizing 2023 video; it should be on the website soon. PEPO is also working on a story map with Yampatika. Stanko and Brenner emphasized the importance of members signing up to volunteer at events this summer, staffing canopies to engage with the public about the RT.</p>
11	<p>Announcements</p>
	<p>Hinkemeyer discussed the next meeting. Before the meeting, members are invited to go on a field trip to the Maybell Diversion project, return to Craig for lunch, and then visit Craig's Yampa River Corridor Project. Camblin noted a correction to the agenda: the Maybell Diversion Project is separate from the Juniper Water District.</p>
11	<p><i>Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings</i></p>

	<p>Hinkemeyer noted that there are no grants in July and September, so there is more time for presentations. Members made suggestions on potential topics to include in upcoming meetings.</p>
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	July 10 – Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Juniper Ditch upgrades
12	Adjourn
	Davis motioned to adjourn, 2 nd by Brenner. Adjourned at 8:46 PM