

Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable Minutes Summary

Wednesday, September 11, 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 @ 6:01 PM
2	Introduction of Members and Audience 24 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, Julie Baxter, Bill Badaracca, Ken Brenner, Rebecca Briesmoore, Jackie Brown, Mike Camblin, Chris Collins, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Miranda Kawcak, Sonja Macys, Doug Monger, Jeff Meyers, Patrick E'Amon O'Toole, Doug Overton, Andy Rossi, Callie Scritchfield, Tim Sullivan, Vince Wilczek, Shawn Welder, Alden Vanden Brink <u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u> Sally Cariveau, Amy Ostdiek, Ashley Garrison, Brian Romig, Erin Light, Heather Sackett, Robert Sakata, Michelle Mahosky
3	Approve/Modify Agenda Hinkemeyer suggested modifying the agenda, moving item 8, Water Commissioner's Corner ahead of item 7, CWCB updates. Mike Camblin moved to approve the revised agenda, 2nd by Jeff Comstock, the agenda was approved unanimously.
4	Election of New Members Jackie Brown, Tim Sullivan, and Amon O'Toole introduced themselves to the group. Jeff Meyers proposed voting them in. Brown- industrial Sonja Macys moved to elect Brown as Industrial seat, Sulivan to Environmental seat, and O'Toole to out of basin seat. 2 nd by Frank Alfone, the motion carried unanimously.
5	Review and Approve July 10, 2024 Minutes Callie Scritchfield and Macys asked for the minutes to be amended to reflect the correct spelling of their names. Scritchfield moved to approve minutes, 2 nd by Andy Rossi, the minutes were approved unanimously.
6	Public Comment No public comment
8	Water Commissioners Corner Amy Ostdiek gave several updates. She discussed ongoing work on post-2026 Operations negotiations, including development of alternatives and continued discussions among the basin states. She reported on Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations, including that Powell will operate at A Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a fixed release of 7.48 MAF for 2025 and Mead will operate in a Tier 1 shortage condition. Ostdiek addressed efforts to clarify misunderstandings around "free river loopholes" and highlighted improved infographics and collaboration among upper basin states to ensure accurate messaging about water use.
7	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jeff Rodriguez provided an update on initiatives and funding opportunities from the CWCB, including the draft CWCB guide (open for feedback until November 1st) and the upcoming C9 Summit. He highlighted the Colorado Ag Water Alliance drought resiliency grants (due 12/13) and turf replacement grants (open 8/31-10/31) and announced the launch of new infographics for basins to standardize PEPO efforts across the state.Brown discussed the September meeting of the CWCB in Monta Vista, with a Finance Committee meeting 9/17 and formal board meeting 9/18, focused on water plan grants, operational planning, and project funding prioritization for future boards.

9	Presentations
9a	<i>Bear River Fire Risk Study</i>
	Rossi presented on the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Bear River Wildfire Ready Watershed project, emphasizing the importance of planning for both pre-and post-wildfire scenarios to protect water resources and infrastructure.
10	Action Items
10a	Rebecca Briesmoore gave an update on Shoshone Water Right Preservation and asked the RT for a LOS to the Bureau of Reclamation for the CRD's funding application through the Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E) program to acquire and permanently protect the historic Shoshone water rights. Brenner moved to approve the LOS in concept with edits to be submitted back to the chair no later than the 1st of October; Macy 2 nd , motion carried unanimously. Briesmoore abstained from the vote.
11	Division of Water Resources Report
	Erin Light provided an update on measurement compliance, with new forms available and a public meeting scheduled for September 18 to discuss water rules. She reported continued low river flows, leading to active calls on Slater Creek, the Bear River for CWCB in-stream flow, and the Elk River under a common irrigation call. Light also shared recent staffing changes, including new hires, an ongoing vacancy in the North Platte Basin, and the upcoming departure of water commissioner Mendi Figueroa.
12	Colorado River District Update
	Briesmoore provided an update from the CRD, highlighting the upcoming annual water seminar, which will cover topics like the Shoshone water rights, climate outlooks from the state climatologist, and water scarcity challenges faced by municipal providers. CRD's next board meeting is in October, where they will discuss funding recommendations, including \$232,000 for the shared reservoir project. Additionally, Briesmoore noted ongoing discussions about the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP), which includes potential water conservation credits for the Upper Basin. She also mentioned that stakeholder engagement for the dredge and fill bill is underway, with a series of public sessions planned.
13	Roundtable Projects and Committees
13a	<i>Big River Committee/IBCC</i>
	Meyers gave updates on the BRC. He plans to make hydrology updates a regular feature at future meetings. Brenner gave an update on IBCC and clarified misinterpretations for the last RT meeting concerning the No/Low Regrets 2.0 Plan. This plan will dictate the work and projects of the Roundtables across the state. He also encouraged members of the RT to attend the C-9
13b	<i>PEPO</i>
	Sally Cariveau gave updates on PEPO, which is on track with its budget. They are seeking input on the story map in the works. PEPO will have a canopy at the Yamptika Fall Festival, and Amber Pougiales is the new director at Community Agriculture Alliance.
13c	<i>Grants</i>
	Alfone explained the grant cycle. The next grants committee meeting is October 9, 2024. Applications are due September 18. They will be reviewed at the October grant meeting and brought to the RT at the next meeting in November: Sherif Dam rehabilitation project and Yampatika's Youth Education Grant.
14	Announcements
14c	<i>CRD Water Seminar, Grand Junction, September 20, 2024</i>
14d	<i>Upper Yampa Youth Festival, September 25, 2024</i>
14e	<i>C-9 Summit, Crested Butte, CO, October 1-2, 2024</i>
15	Dates and Tentative Agenda Items for Future Meetings
15a	<i>Suggested Upcoming BRT Agenda Items</i>
	White Riber Return Flow Study, Economic Impact Study, CAWA Water Quality Study, Bear River Projects, Yampa River Dashboard Project, UYWCD Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Project, Steamboat Springs River restoration project, LIDAR data collections, weather modification
15b	Next YWG BRT meeting is November 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, CO
16	Adjourn Meeting
	Doug Davis moved to adjourn. Rossi 2 nd , meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.