

Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable Minutes Summary

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Location: Meeker Fire Station

240 7th Street, Meeker, CO 81641

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 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 Stephen Hinkemeyer @ 3:10 PM
2	Roll Call 14 voting members were present. A quorum was not formed (at least 16 needed). The meeting proceeded in an informational capacity only. VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Overton, Ken Brenner, Julie Baxter, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Mario Sullivan, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, Rebecca Briesmoore, Tim Sullivan, Frank Alfone, Charles Whiteman, Travis Day, Bill Badaracca, T. Wright Dickinson OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff Rodriguez, Kelly Major, Amy Ostdiek, Maddie Baker, Robert Walters, Kathleen Voight, Sally Carriveau, Kristin Skowronski
3	Public Comment Period (3 mins per person, 5 mins per group) Charles Whiteman provided public comment. He welcomed attendees to Rio Blanco County and expressed appreciation for holding the meeting at the Meeker Fire Station.
4	CWCB Update Jeff Rodriguez Jeff Rodriguez provided updates on Colorado Water Conservation Board programs and upcoming events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects Bill (Non-Renewable Investment Program) grants: statewide funding for regional supply needs, requiring approval by the General Assembly. • Colorado Water Plan Grant Program: July 1 cycle closed with 81 applications requesting \$39M; \$37M available for two cycles this fiscal year. CWCB Board to make awards in September. • Federal Cost-Sharing Program: technical assistance grants available on a rolling basis to help applicants prepare federal funding applications. • Water Education & Workforce Hub: partnership with CSU Water Center to develop a centralized online resource; survey open for input. • C-9 Summit: scheduled for October 28–29 in Lakewood, with CWCB travel reimbursement available for up to 10 roundtable members. • Fluvial Futures webinar series: held the second Tuesday of each month, 10–11 a.m. • Division of Water Resources Ag Water Protection stakeholder meeting for Division 6: August 20, Bud Werner Memorial Library, Steamboat Springs (5:30 p.m.). • Water Conditions Monitoring Committee: meets July 22, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
5	CWCB Board Member Report—Mike Camblin Mike Camblin gave an update from the most recent CWCB meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Lee Cloud was elected Chair (the first Indigenous person to hold this position). • Barbara Vasquez elected Vice Chair • The board approved about \$250,000 in grant funding to support a 5-year temporary instream flow release from State’s Cross Reservoir. • Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding Shoshone water rights. Board members have extensive documentation to review, and many aspects will be resolved through court procedures or potential mediation. • The board’s next meeting is in Glenwood Springs, with a river raft tour beforehand.
6	Water Commissioner’s Corner Amy Ostdiek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2007 Interim Guidelines expire in 2026. The Department of Interior has set November 11, 2025 as a deadline for a 7-State consensus, with agreement details due by February 2026. • Basin States are discussing a supply-driven framework for Lake Powell releases, based on recent hydrology rather than downstream demand. • Emphasized that any agreement must perform better than the 2007 Guidelines; Colorado supports consensus but will not agree to weaker terms.

7	Presentations
7a	<p>Colorado River Invasive Species Update—Madeline Baker, DNR</p> <p>Madeline Baker, Invasive Species Specialist at CPW, provided an update on aquatic nuisance species (ANS) management, focused on zebra and quagga mussels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ANS program is prevention-based, relying on boat inspection/decontamination, monitoring, and education. Zebra and quagga mussels reproduce quickly, attach to infrastructure, and threaten water delivery and hydropower facilities. • In September 2022, an adult zebra mussel was discovered in Highline Lake, the first detection in Colorado. Containment protocols began immediately, requiring all boats launching to undergo hot-water decontamination. An eradication attempt was initiated in 2023: Partial drawdown of the reservoir to expose mussels to freezing/drying conditions and application of EarthTec QZ, a copper-based molluscicide, to target remaining mussels while protecting the fishery. Despite these efforts, veligers (juvenile mussels) were detected in September 2023, and about 100 adult mussels were later found on docks and buoys at season’s end. Highline Lake remains under containment protocols. Every boat is decontaminated before launching. Ongoing sampling and monitoring continue in Highline Lake, nearby canals, and upstream/downstream in the Colorado River. • New detections: On July 3, CPW staff discovered a significant number of adult zebra mussels in a privately owned water body in western Eagle County. Water samples taken in mid-June from the Colorado River between Glenwood Springs and Silt revealed zebra mussel larvae (veligers). This triggered designation of the river as “positive” for zebra mussels from the confluence with the Roaring Fork River to the Colorado–Utah border. • Baker emphasized that eradication is extremely difficult once mussels are established, but Colorado’s early detection and aggressive response have slowed the spread. She stressed the need for continued vigilance statewide to prevent ANS infestations, given their serious environmental and economic impacts.
8	<p>Colorado River District Update—Rebecca Briesmoore</p> <p>Rebecca Briesmoore provided updates from the CRD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on the Shoshone public comment process, encouraging participation and noting the importance of community input as discussions move forward. • Shared grant program updates (CFP), highlighting current opportunities and reminding members of upcoming deadlines. • Noted the upcoming Colorado River District Board meeting in July, encouraging members to follow District update
9	Roundtable Projects and Committees
9a	<p>Grants</p> <p>Frank Alfone reported receiving one new WSRF grant application for the 2026 1st cycle so far (deadline to submit September 17, 2025) which will be reviewed by the grants committee at the next meeting, October 8, 2025.</p>
9b	<p>PEPO—Sally Cariveau</p> <p>The PEPO Committee is developing a story map to showcase basin projects and provide an accessible way for the public to understand water issues in the Yampa/White/Green basins. Members are encouraged to get involved and share content ideas. Cariveau will also be reaching out to individuals for input.</p>
9c	<p>Big River Committee/IBCC</p> <p>Ken Brenner reported on BRC and IBCC activities and stressed the need for consistent messaging statewide to strengthen Colorado’s voice in federal and interstate forums. He gave an overview of the System Conservation Pilot Program. He explained funds can be used for agricultural fallowing, efficiency improvements, and canopy reduction projects that result in measurable system conservation. IBCC is focused on public education, fostering cross-basin collaboration.</p>
10	<p>Announcements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next meeting location and PEPO tour opportunity (LSR tour) b. Water Quality request for presentation on Dredge & Fill regulations c. Moffat County Fair, August 4-9, 2025

	d. Rangely Septemberfest, August 31 – September 5, 2025 Meeker Classic Champion Sheepdog Trials, September 3-7, 2025
11	Next YWG BRT Meeting September 10, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. CNCC Craig, CO
	Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.