

Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable Minutes Summary

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Location: CNCC Craig Campus, Room 240

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 Chair Steve Hinkemeyer @ 6:09 p.m.
2	Introduction of Members and Audience
	A quorum was formed with voting members present at the call to order (at least 16 required)
	<u>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Scott Cowman (for Sonja Macys), Miranda Kawcak, Doug Overton, Ken Brenner, Julie Baxter, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Mario Sullivan, Andy Rossi, Mike Camblin, J. Sheehan, Alden Vanden Brink, Rebecca Briesmoore, Callie Scritchfield, Tim Sullivan, Will Myers, Kent Vertress, Frank Alfone, Jackie Brown, Jeff Meyers, Doug Monger, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Bill Badaracca
	<u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u> Jonathan Bowler, Sally Cariveau, Kristin Skowronski, Jenny Fritsen, Jennifer Wellman, Erin Light, Seth Arens, Laura Chartrand, Liz Chandler, Amber Pougiales, Ashley Garrison, Thomas Kennedy
3	Review and Approve Agenda
	Ken Brenner moved to approve the agenda with the change to move the Basin Roundtable Chairs (BRC) report to follow the CWCB Board Member Update and precede the Presentations. Chris Collins seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
4	Review and Approve May 14, 2025, Minutes
	Brenner moved to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2025 YWG BRT meeting, seconded by Frank Alfone and approved unanimously.
5	Review and Approve July 9, 2025, Minutes
	Hinkemeyer requested that Sonja be struck from the attendance list, as she was not present. Jeff Meyers moved to approve the July 9, 2025, minutes as amended, seconded by Brenner, and approved unanimously.
6	Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda
	No public comment.
7	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update—Jeff Rodriguez
	Sam Stein provided the CWCB update on behalf of Jeff Rodriguez. • Announced the launch of ColoradoRiver.com, a new state website for public engagement on Colorado River issues. • Reminded members that the CWCB C9 Summit will be held October 28–29, 2025, at the Sheraton Denver West in Lakewood. Registration and event details are available at engagecwcb.com. • Provided brief remarks on statewide drought and climate resiliency planning, incorporating lessons from recent multi-year droughts, enhancing coordination among state agencies, and supporting regional recovery projects focused on post-fire watershed health and infrastructure protection.
8	CWCB Board Member Update—Mike Camblin
	• Reported on recent discussions and site visits regarding post-fire restoration and land treatment projects in the White River Basin. • Noted confusion among landowners about funding eligibility differences between burned, back-burned, and untreated areas; CWCB staff are clarifying guidance. • Highlighted continuing coordination between CWCB and local conservation partners on wildfire recovery and watershed resiliency. • Mentioned upcoming Basin Roundtable Chairs (BRC) discussions on cross-basin funding consistency and collaboration.
12c	Big River Committee

	Brenner gave an update on BRC • Reported ongoing coordination among basins and CWCB to strengthen communication and align basin implementation plans with statewide goals. • Noted that the group has transitioned from quarterly reports to monthly subcommittee meetings focused on shared strategies. • Outlined four priority focus areas under development: 1. Storage 2. Forest health and watershed protection 3. Agricultural resilience 4. Demand management tools
9	Presentations
9a	<i>Headwaters of the Colorado Update—Matt Smith, HOC Manager</i>
9b	Brenner provided the Headwaters of the Colorado (HOC) update on behalf of Matt Smith. Coordination continues among upper-basin partners on streamflow forecasting, data collection, and information-sharing across watersheds. HOC is working closely with the Yampa Basin to align project priorities and funding with the goals of the Colorado Water Plan. The HOC board recently met to review upcoming funding cycles. Additional updates will be shared at the next roundtable meeting.
9c	
9d	<i>Yampa River Collaborative (IWMP) Update—Jennifer Wellman, TNC</i>
	Jennifer Wellman provided an update on the Yampa River Collaborative and the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). The Collaborative continues to make progress on implementing watershed-scale projects and strengthening partnerships among agricultural, municipal, and environmental stakeholders. Ongoing work includes improving flow management strategies, advancing riparian restoration efforts, and integrating new data into basin-wide planning tools. Wellman emphasized that stakeholder engagement remains central to the IWMP process and invited roundtable members to contribute feedback as priorities for the next project phase are refined.
	<i>White River (WRIWI) Update—Vanessa Trout, Liz Chandler WR&DC</i>
	Liz Chandler gave an update on the White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI). The initiative continues to focus on community-driven water management planning and education within the White River Basin. Recent efforts have centered on gathering stakeholder input to identify key resource concerns, including irrigation efficiency, streamflow variability, and riparian health. The WRIWI team is also working on refining its data collection and mapping to support locally informed decision-making. Chandler noted that collaboration between agricultural producers, landowners, and local governments remains strong and will guide the initiative’s next phase of implementation.
	<i>White River Fire Lands Remediation Update—Vanessa Trout WR&DC</i>
	Vanessa Trout provided an update on the White River Fire Lands Remediation Project. The project focuses on restoring lands impacted by recent wildfires and mitigating erosion and sediment runoff within the White River watershed. Efforts include reseeding, installing erosion control structures, and coordinating with landowners and partner agencies to prioritize treatment areas for effective management. Trout emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between local landowners, conservation districts, and state agencies to ensure the success of post-fire recovery and long-term watershed resilience.
10	<i>Colorado River District Update—Rebecca Briesmoore, CRWCD</i>
	Rebecca Briesmoore gave updates of the recent and upcoming activities of CRD: • Budget Meeting October 2nd in Grand Junction • Board Meeting October 14 & 15 in Glenwood Springs • Andy Mueller testified before the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee during the Colorado Water Congress on August 21, 2025, addressing Colorado River management, agricultural water protection, and West Slope priorities. • The Yampa River Reservoir Release Program included coordinated releases from Elkhead Reservoir from July 25 to August 28 at 20–40 cfs, in partnership with the Colorado Water Trust, along with additional releases from Stagecoach Reservoir to support downstream conditions. • The White River Stakeholder Group will convene to address post-fire watershed impacts from the Rio Blanco County fires, coordinating among local, state, and federal partners on recovery and mitigation planning.
11	Department of Water Resources Update—Erin Light, DNR

	Erin Light gave an update on current conditions in the White River Basin. The region continues to face post-fire flooding and sediment impacts following recent wildfires. Drought conditions remain variable across the basin, with some improvement in streamflow in certain areas. She highlighted the Division's continued work with water users to manage late-season calls, maintain measurement accuracy, and coordinate reservoir releases in response to changing hydrologic conditions.
12	Roundtable Projects and Committees
12a	Grants—Frank Alfone
	Frank Alfone gave an update on the grant program. The 1 st cycle of 2026 begins this month. The deadline for the 1 st cycle is September 17, 2025. Those applications will be reviewed at the next grant committee meeting on October 8 th , 2025, and submitted to the roundtable for approval at the next BRT meeting, November 12, 2025.
12b	PEPO—Sally Cariveau
	Sally Cariveau spoke with the group about the story map project, emphasizing the importance of member input. The story map should take about 15 minutes to navigate through on the user end. There is also still an opportunity to give the project an official title.
12c	Big River Committee/IBCC—Jeff Meyers and Ken Brenner
	Brenner provided an update from the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) and the No/Low Regret (NLR) Subcommittee. The groups have shifted from brief quarterly meetings to monthly working sessions to strengthen collaboration among basins and the CWCB. Current discussions focus on four key areas: storage and infrastructure, forest health and watershed protection, agricultural resilience, and demand management. These efforts aim to align basin priorities and enhance statewide coordination on drought response and compact compliance planning.
13	Announcements
	a) Upcoming Elections and Reappointments: Several roundtable seats will be up for reappointment this fall. CWCB staff will distribute notices outlining the process, and incumbents wishing to continue serving will need to submit updated letters of interest. Jeff Meyers announced he will not seek reappointment as IBCC representative and intends to resign his at-large Environmental seat; members expressed appreciation for his service b) Craig Fall Fest, September 20, 2025 c) Headwaters of the Colorado Tour and Meeting, September 17-18, 2025 d) USGS Science Day, September 24, 2025 e) Yampatika Fall Fest, September 28, 2025 f) CWCB C9 Summit, October 28-29, 2025
14	Next YWG BRT Meeting November 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, CO
15	Adjourn Meeting
	Brenner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m., seconded by Jackie Brown, and so moved.