

**Yampa/White/GreenRiver
Basin Roundtable
Minutes
Wednesday July 14, 2021 Via
GoToMeeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7575667369?pwd=ZnBJVFhmaS90b2RqWWVGNm94NWNZZz09>

Meeting ID: 757 566 7369

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Alden Vanden Brink called meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call for quorum members in attendance were: Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Steve Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, Hunter Causey, Callie Hendrickson, Brian Hodge, Will Myers, Frank Alfone, Jackie Brown, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Chuck Whiteman, Deirdre Macnab, Chuck Grobe, Bill Badaracca, T. Wright Dickenson, Kacey Green. There was a brief introduction of Kacey Green who is the newly appointed Great Northern Conservancy District Seat.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Add resolution from BRC meeting as item 8ai BRC Resolution under BRC Reports. Doug Monger moved to amend. Ken Brenner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve May 12, 2021 Minutes:** Under 6f West Fork Dam Update change the wording letter of support for the project to supporting the process of reviewing the reservoir project. Under 6c and 6d change wording of motioned to moved. Under Reports of Applicable Standing change the reservoir name from Yampacola to Yamcolo. Ken Brenner moved to approve as amended. Chuck Grobe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update: (Sam Stein)** The IBCC's next meeting is Oct 21st. The next deadline for the Water Plan Grant is Dec 1st. Reminder to get projects in before the deadline. WSRF has \$5 million stimulus infusion to be split between the statewide account and all of the basin accounts which will result in \$200,000 infusion into each basin account with the stipulation that those funds must be approved by board by May of 2023. CWCB will attempt to use those funds in the basin account before the native WSRF funds to meet deadlines and requirements. The CWCB will have a hybrid meeting on July 21st and 22nd and Demand Management will be the focus. The Drought Task Force has issued a Drought Emergency Proclamation in 21 counties. For in depth information in regards to the Phases please visit <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/drought> . Sam summarized the details of the Drought Phase 2 and Phase 3. He also shared the [2021 Drought Related Financial Assistance.pdf](#) information. Alden inquired as to when our basin account would see its drought infusion funds. Sam and Russ Sands informed that the funds will be in the account at the end of July or early August. Russ also noted that those

funds will both be tracked separately. Alden and Ken stressed the importance of using some of those funds to go towards PEPO as we have the audience now due to the drought and it's the perfect time to inform our public. Doug Monger inquired on the Federal Infrastructure Appropriations. Alden shared information he recently received in regards to the

Preliminary Federal Appropriations: Aging Infrastructure: \$3.2 billion, includes \$100 million for certain Reclamation projects suffering a critical failure (Sec. 9004(a)) and \$100 million for repairs to certain Carey Act dams (Sec. 9004(b)) Water Storage, Groundwater Storage and Conveyance: \$1.15 billion, includes \$100 million for new 25% grants for small surface/groundwater storage projects (Sec. 9003) Water Recycling: \$1 billion, includes \$450 million for new authorized large water recycling project grant program (Sec. 9005) Desalination: \$250 million, Rural Water: \$1 billion, Dam Safety: \$500 million, Drought Contingency Plan: \$300 million, includes \$50 million for Upper Basin States, WaterSMART: \$400 million, includes \$100 million for natural infrastructure projects, Cooperative Watershed Management: \$100 million, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program: \$250 million, Watershed enhancement projects: \$100 million (Sec. 9007).

Jackie Brown continued with the rule making that happened back in January in regards to the new In Stream Flow Program changes that will happen due to the new statute put in place back in 2020. She added the CWCB is working with local papers to inform the public when we have new in-stream flow notices. There have been changes to how the CWCB grants are approved. Two projects on the next consent agenda are the City of Craig and Oak Creek. In regards of Demand Management there will be some scheduled releases to boost in flows such as Flaming Gorge into Lake Powell with other releases within our basin right on our heels. Upcoming DM workshop is Aug 18th 1-5pm individuals can join virtually. T Wright Dickinson stressed the importance of good communication with individual use holders prior to and during releases.

6. Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment: **For Public Comment, please email yampawhitegreen@gmail.com by February 9th to be placed on the agenda.* No public comment to report. Doug shared that he and Callie Hedrickson attended a virtual North Routt Round Table meeting in regards to Integrated Water and Stream Management Plans.

7. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. BIP Update: Lisa Brown/Wilson Water Group (40 min)** Lisa Brown presented the Final Bip Update Plan [2021-07-14-BRT-BIP-Update.pdf](#) In detail she outlined the BIP Plan. She then highlighted some of the Demands that the basin is seeing and the Supplies they have readily available and how the BIP plans to address those Demands. Draft BIP Reports were provided to the committee. The BIP Committee and the Local Expert Team thoroughly reviewed and updated the draft. The BIP Report was then submitted back to Brown & Caldwell, the general contractor on the project. With that the IPP list was finalized and submitted to Brown & Caldwell. Ken Brenner questioned if the research done included drastic drought conditions. Lisa noted that directly it did not but felt that the five

planning models taken into consideration and the range of conditions researched which includes a hot and dry scenario should account for this. Deirdre stressed concern that the five models presented in this plan don't adequately take into consideration some of the economic impacts some of our basin counties are seeing or should expect to see in the near future. Alden inquired as to what the final review process looks like. Russ responded that formatting, editing, and refining of Volume 1 will take place. The Fine Tune Review will then become available to the BRT on August 10th and last thru mid November for the members to review and comment. Following that Volume 1 and 2 will open up for Public Comment. All comments received will then be categorized and delivered back to the BRT and changes made as necessary. Finalization will then be done in January of 2022.

8. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **Big River Committee/IBCC:** (15 min) Jeff Meyer & Tom Grey. Jeff Meyers led off by noting that the June IBCC meeting was canceled and Russ George has retired. BRC provided a document of feedback to address the framework for Demand Management. Jeff and Tom put together a brief paragraph describing the Significance of DM. Jeff briefly detailed and outlined July 12th's meeting. [July 12, 2021 BRC.pdf](#). Tom Gray and the BRC are encouraging the BRT table to think of how the basin should focus their efforts going forward and what could potentially happen being there is such a severe drought and demand management is so critical. And inform ourselves of what emergency actions could the department of interior take. He noted other federal projects are actually being shut down in other basins in lue of this. Ken Brenner asked how much water has been released from Flaming Gorge towards Lake Powell. T Wright Dickinson explained that 181,000 AF has been released out of Crisp Reservoir, 125,000 AF out of Flaming Gorge, 36,000 AF out of Blue Mesa, and 20,000 AF out of the Navajo Reservoir thru the end of 2021 and that is just the first round. Stakeholders are asking to be made aware and involved in future water releases.

ai. BRC Resolution Ken Brenner and Jeff Meyers touched on the [7-14-2022 Range & Forest Health Resolution.pdf](#) regarding the Federal Infrastructure Bill and Funding. Jeff moved that the BRT approve this resolution as discussed and presented in this meeting. Tom Gray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **CWCB Update:** (10 min) Jackie Brown. Jackie's comments were presented after the Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update.
- c. **DWR Update:** (10 min) Erin Light told that the Abandonment Objection Period ended on July 1st. In total there are close to 300 objections. The DWR is hoping to have reviewed all objections and have a response by Nov 30th. Revised list then submitted to the water court by Dec 31st. The water court will then publish that case number and people have the ability to protest their water right until July 1, 2022. Calls on the various systems are: Illinois River, Michigan just went off call, Bear River, two calls on Peonce Creek, South and North Hunt Creek, Rinker Creek,

Elkhead Creek, Trout Creek, Oak Creek, Larapos Creek, Little Bear Creek, Talamontes Creek and a potential call on Little Snake River. All calls can be found on the DWR website <https://dwr.colorado.gov/>. Elkhead Creek Reservoir will release 20 CFS scheduled on Friday July 16th. There has been an expedited loan agreement between CWCB and CPW in regards to releasing water from Lake Avery to the White River that will provide additional water for the in-stream flow reach.

- d. **Grant Committee** (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer presented [July 2021 Grant Committee Update pdf.pdf](#) which touches on the status of the 2021 Grant Program, the new CWCB Rules, the update of the BRT Guidelines, funds available for the Grant Committee and when the 2022 Grant Program will begin. BRT discussed updating the CWCB Guideline for the website. After the \$172,750 for Grant Recommendations the balance of the BRT will be \$520,740. And this is before the \$200,000 is allocated. First grant cycle for 2022 is about to begin. The Grant Committee will make a recommendation to the BRT at the September meeting.
- e. **WRIWI:** (10 min) Callie Hendrickson. The planning committee met recently and had updates from diversion and riparian health assessment and discussion of how to move forward. The White River reaches will open up for public comment in August. The objectives and goals for each of the four reaches will be discussed. Diversion structure assessments are moving along and have had three workshops. Riparian health update is that the BML finished up training for individuals that conduct the PFC proper functioning conditioning assessments. The plan is to have these assessments done by this fall so that information can help develop Phase 3.
- f. **Yampa River IWMP** – Action Item (10 min) [July2021BRTUpdate.pdf](#) Nicole Seltzer started off with informing the BRT of the three workgroups going on currently which are in regards to Ag Infrastructure, Riparian and Natural Bank Stability, and Flows and Shortages. These groups have been compiling information in preparation to talk to contractors and move these projects forward. The next IWMP Committee meeting is August 12th. There have been two neighborhood meetings conducted for irrigators. One in Maybell and one in Craig. The next will be in Hayden, Clark and South Routt. Nicole noted that although attendance has been small there has been a lot of good conversations taking place that are allowing irrigators to voice their opinions and concerns in regards to next steps for future projects.. If you want to be added to the email list please email Nicole at nseltzer@rivernetnetwork.org or Doug Monger at dougmonger@gmail.com.
- g. **PEPO:** (10 min) Patrick Stanko gave an update on the PEPO meeting held just prior to the BRT meeting. [RT PEPO Update July 14th 2021.pdf](#) Patrick noted that weekly ads are taking place on both the local radio stations and local newspapers. On August 11th and 12th there will be a Legislative Drought Tour that our State Legislature and Government and potentially Federal Legislature will be attending. They will be touring Steamboat and Craig to discuss the drought not only in regards to the YWG Basin but the entire western slope. They will be looking at the impact of the drought

in agriculture and forestry and other areas. For those that don't know Kelly Romero-Heaney has stepped down so there is an open chair. If anyone is interested please step forward.

- 9. Announcements:** Our September meeting will be a hybrid meeting and allow in person but allow for a webinar as well. Currently we have three options for locations: the Pavilion in Craig, CNCC in Craig and the Meeker Fire Hall.
- 10. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:** September 8, 2021. White River PVO will be presenting at the September meeting. Additionally, TNC will be presenting on the Maybell Ditch.
- 11. Adjournment:** Adjournment of meeting took place my Alden Vanden Brink at 9:01 pm