

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin
Roundtable Agenda
Wednesday, January 12, 2022,
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 the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call for a quorum. Members present were as follows: Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Gary Moyer, Julie Baxter, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Alden Vanden Brink, Ken Brenner, Mike Camblin, Shawn Welder, Hunter Causey, Callie Hendrickson, Brain Hodge, Will Myers, Frank Alfone, Jackie Brown, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Charles Whiteman, Chris Collins, Jennifer Holloway, Travis Day, T. Wright Dickinson, and Jonathan Bowler.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Jackie made a motion to add item 10A. Hunter Causey with CO River Water Conservation District. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve November 10, 2021 Minutes:** Frank made a motion to approve the November 10, 2021 Minutes. Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jackie abstained from the vote as she was not in attendance at the last meeting.
5. **Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update:** (10 min) Sam Stein shared that the WSRF has \$693,490 in the State Fund and \$27,250 in the Stimulus Fund. At the board meeting in November, they adopted the new [WSRF Grant Criteria and Guidelines](#); they are up on the website and went into effect on January 1. They additionally adopted changes to the Public Education and Outreach (PEPO) Fund and increased the allotment from \$6,000 to \$20,000. CSU Extension is hosting an upcoming [Drought Leadership Training](#). Virtual Trainings are February 4, 11, 18, and March 4. In-person training March 8-9 in Grand Junction or March 15-16 in Morgan County. The [BIP Survey Update](#) is currently available. BIP update from Lisa: Wilson made a few minor tweaks in regards to public comment and will work with the PEPO Committee to finish up any edits on their section. Once that is done the YWG BIP Update Volume 1 and 2 will be finalized and all documents will be available for viewing. Ken inquired when the PEPO Funds should be available? Russ Sands with CWCB stated that the funds will be ready come the new fiscal year, July 2022. Steve encouraged members to view the 2021 Funding Summary Provided in the PEPO update. Doug inquired what has happened to the Dead to Proposition money (gambling funds) that were to be allocated to Water Plan Grants? Russ replied that those funds will be heading to CWCB this fiscal year, July 2022, and are close to \$7 million.
6. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** **For Public Comment, please email yampawhitegreen@gmail.com by January 11th to be placed on the agenda.** Dierdre Macnab was pleased to see the Leafy Spurge Final Report in the Meeting Folder; and would like to see future final grant reports within the meeting agenda.
7. **Bylaws change/addition: Colorado Water Conservation Board Stakeholder Group Code of Conduct** (10 min) Jackie Brown discussed the [Code of Conduct](#) that the

CWCB staff and DNR brought to the board last year and was adopted in the Spring of 2021. Its purpose is to serve as a reminder to respect each other in regards to differing opinions and points of view especially as our water community continues to grow. This was discussed last year but no action was ever taken in adding into the Bylaws. Jackie recommends that this be reworded and goes under the Conflict of Interest segment in the Bylaws. Several individuals expressed opposition that the Bylaws is not the place for this; that it would be better suited in the Handbook but ask the question who would enforce this. Ken made a motion for CWCB to bring back a formal proposal with specific language to the March meeting for further discussion. All but 3 voting members voted yes on this; members voting no are Doug, Callie, Gary, and Jeff.

8. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:

- a. **Visit with Colorado DNR Executive Director Dan Gibbs** (30 min) Introduced himself in his new role as Inter Basin Compact Committee Chairman. He was appointed last October 2021 by Governor Polis. Department of Natural Resources has many divisions; State Land Board, Oil and Gas Conservation, Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Division of Water Resources, Colorado Avalanche Safety Center, and Colorado State Forest Service. Dan is a Colorado native who brings along much experience and expertise and is looking forward to working with the different round tables within Colorado. At this time Dan is focused on listening to the roundtables and finding common issues that all roundtables are discussing to know which projects to focus on first.
- b. **Colorado State Forest Service** (20 min) Ron Cousineau and John Twitchell work with foresters all over northwest Colorado. Recently Ron laid out an approach for Landscape-scale Management and the approach for identifying landscapes in need of management based on the health of the forest resource and how they treat on the ground. There is a strong potential for more funding. Ron mentioned that they've heavily served Routt but their goal is to soon be expanding influence on watersheds in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties. John explained that despite timber not being a very strong industry within Colorado he is confident that moving forward some initiatives will prompt a change. For example the use of wood in fuel treatment projects in place of coal from the closing Craig and Hayden power plants. John stated that because of the "good neighbor policy" the State is able to use its policies on Federal Land. Guidelines still have to be met and followed like NEPA for example. They have been productive in removing timber from the federal ground and selling it on their behalf in local mills. John explained that forest management is an important tool and there's lots of misinformation out there so it's important to educate the public in a certain way. On a smaller scale, the Forest Service has programs and funding available to help small acreage allotments and homeowners to have plans in place in regards to forest fires. It's advised to reach out to your local forest or NRCS individuals to discuss further.
- c. **WECO Educational Funds** (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer. Water Education Colorado (WECO) has requested a letter of support from the YWG BRT to accompany a grant request to the Colorado Water Plan Engagement and Innovation grant fund. WECO will support and strengthen the Water Educator Network through 2025. The Grant Committee is in support to take this to the BRT for further approval given the addition of the following statement "Collaboratively

representing all water users (Agriculture, Municipal, Recreation, and Environmental) and the tradeoff required to support those users.” Steve motioned for approval that the YWG BRT write a LOS for WECO. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. **WRIWI:** (10 min) Callie Hendrickson. Grant was for \$115,800, \$49,800 came from the YWG BRT, \$66,000 from the State, and the rest of the match was from in-kind donations from partners that helped in the diversion and riparian assessments. There have been 25 diversion assessments and 22 riparian health assessments. All partners involved in the assessments were well balanced from different areas such as Trout Unlimited, BLM representatives to local ag producers. The Planning Advisory Committee was scheduled to have 12 public outreach meetings within 2 years and currently, they are halfway through. Grant was funded thru 2023 but it looks like it will be done by end of 2022. The goals of the WRIWI are to protect water rights, enhance water quality and quantity, focus on the forest, riparian, and rangeland health, favorable streamflow conditions, improve infrastructure, and develop efficient long-term storage. Community outreach was held in all 4 districts. Currently sorting thru public feedback. Assessing if goals and mission statement need to be revamped as well as prioritizing feedback towards moving onto Phase 3.
- b. **Yampa River IWMP** – Action Item (15 min) Ken Brenner & Nicole Seltzer
 - i. Remote Environmental Assessment - table until March 9th BRT meeting as currently working thru the extensive report. Ken made a motion to table this discussion until the March 9th BRT meeting. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Approve additional Consensus Building Institute (CBI) funds totaling \$22,500. Note that this is not additional funding. This funding has already been approved it is just being re-allocated as it wasn't previously earmarked for a specific task. The CBI contractors Ryan and Dan were scheduled to be done in February but they won't be done until June. Steve made a motion to approve the CBI funding of \$22,500 to cover expenses for CBI. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Approve IWMP Committee Membership for 2022. Brian made a motion to add Curtis Ellgen as an alternate to Mike Camblin's position and approve the IWMP Committee Membership as outlined [HERE](#). Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **PEPO:** (10 min) Ken Brenner & Patrick Stanko. The CWCB gave the PEPO committee many updates. They discussed upcoming tours for 2022 and added some verbiage/edits to the BIP with the help of Lisa Brown. Also discussed was the new funding from the CWCB and Elizabeth Schroeder that's effective July 1st. There is a long list of projects and partnerships the committee would like to work on this year. The committee will vet these projects more thoroughly and present the projects at the March meeting along with any grant funding requests. Reminder if any partnerships have any events or tours that are coming up this year please send the information to Patrick to update the website and social media. A newly added feature to the Yampa White Green website is a Youtube link to our

[past meeting videos](#). Big thank you to Patrick Stanko for making the website so user-friendly and accessible. Many roundtables have given their compliments for a job well done and setting the bar high.

- d. **Big River Committee/IBCC:** (10 min) Jeff Meyers & Tom Gray. Eric Kuhn gave a presentation at the BRC meeting on January 11th about Interim Guidelines about Managing the Lower Basin. The presentation will be available on the [website](#) under Resources, Big River Committee, Demand Management Presentations, 2007 Guidelines. IBCC will be having a meeting on February 23rd.
- e. **CWCB Update:** (10 min) Jackie Brown. The next meeting will be roughly 2 weeks after the BRT, the Monday and Tuesday before the Water Congress meeting. There will be a workshop on the CO Water Plan. Both will be entirely virtual, no agendas as of yet. Reappointment of board members will happen in March.
- f. **DWR Update:** (10 min) Erin Light. Yampa Over-appropriation: we are still waiting on the final letter but it's close and should hear something within the next few weeks. There are a few things to iron out in regards to well permits. Measurement Rules: preparing rules for the next round of public comment, should be done end of the month. Abandonment List: the final list was submitted to the court before Christmas. The list went from 702 abandonments down to 300. If you want to see the list please visit the [website](#). If you want to file a protest you must do so thru the court and the form is online.
- g. **Grant Committee** (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer. There was some updating to the guidance document on the CWCB due to losing a vice-chair position on the board. As well the website has been updated appropriately. Grant membership is down to 5 individuals and if anyone has an interest in being on the committee please reach out to Steve, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 9th, 6-7 pm. As of now, there are no new grant requests. Steve mentioned that in part due to Covid the BRT has not done a final review of the grant reports. Its been left up to the BRT members to check online and view documents at their own discretion. Steve is wondering if this needs to be changed and we should schedule a final review on our meeting agendas. Callie, Travis, Doug, Jennifer, and Ken all agreed that a report back to the BRT would be appreciated. Steve reminded the board that the website is being updated regularly on the [Projects](#) page and you can see both the 6-month update and the final reports.

10. Announcements:

- a. CO River Water Conservation District. Hunter Causey has to step away and Mike Eytel is filling that seat pending approval. Mike is bringing a lot of knowledge and experience to the table.
- b. Tom noted that on January 19th at 10:40 am there is a virtual meeting in regards to Demand Management.

11. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting March 9, 2022, @ 6:00 PM via Hybrid

12. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM Alden.