

**Yampa/White/Green River Basin  
Roundtable Agenda  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
Location: CNCC Craig  
Campus Room 185  
2801 West 9th Street • Craig, CO 81625  
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 6:04 PM.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Role call Members. A quorum for the meeting was met.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Due to time constraints item, 8C might need to be moved up on the agenda. Ken Brenner made a motion to approve agenda changes. Brian Hodge seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve January 12, 2022 Minutes:** Frank Alfone made a motion to approve the January minutes. Travis Day seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Budget Report & CWCB Staff Update:** (10 min) Sam Stein noted that the [BIP Survey](#) is still up and needs comment from roundtable members. Elgin Turner requested 30 days' notice for room rentals, and food requests, and 5 days' notice for Agenda. CWCB is requesting that local guidance in regards to Covid is still being followed when the BRT meetings take place. The February 23 IBCC meeting was held. The next meeting is on June 30th. The CWCB board meeting is March 15th-16th, there will be a discussion surrounding Demand Management and Infrastructure Funding. The CWCB July board meeting should be very informative and will discuss the Draft Water Plan. Megan O'Grady is a new member of the CWCB staff as the Senior Climate Change Adaptation Specialist.
6. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** \*For Public Comment, please email [yampawhitegreen@gmail.com](mailto:yampawhitegreen@gmail.com) by March 8<sup>th</sup> to be placed on the agenda. Public Comment will also be available in person.
7. **Bylaws change/addition:** [Colorado Water Conservation Board Stakeholder Group Code of Conduct](#) (10 min) Jackie Brown. Jackie, Steve, Ken, Alden, and Tim all came to a conclusion on wording based on feedback provided in the January discussion in regards to the Bylaws referencing the Code of Conduct. Additional edits to the Bylaws included updating the dates and signatures of the Chair and Vice-Chairs. Ken Brenner made a motion to approve the amendment to the Bylaws to include reference to the CWCB Code of Conduct. Jennifer Holloway seconded the motion. The discussion was that our Bylaws also include the BRT following Roberts Rules of Order which is also a code of conduct. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects:**

- a. [2021 Colorado DNR Drought Tour Video](#) (15 min) Bethany Howell & Kelly Romero Heaney. The state has several task forces that get embolized by the governor when the state hits a severe drought. There's a municipal, ag, and drought task force. The drought task force did a tour of northwest Colorado in 2021 along with the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture. The goal was to bring decision-makers, communications, agency folks, state legislature, and the like together to see and understand how drought is affecting us and to also see how northwest Colorado is adapting and changing to the drought conditions. The tour saw many recreational, municipal, and ag facilities throughout Routt and Moffat County. Thank you to everyone who played a part in contributing to this effort.
- b. Colorado Water Trust (30 min) Alyson Meyer Gould. [The CO Water Trust went through a three-part presentation.](#) Part 1 was an introduction informing the BRT of who they are and what they do. The trust is a non-profit organization that works statewide to restore flows to Colorado's river needs. In 2021 they completed 28 projects and added over 42,000 acre-feet of water to rivers in Colorado. Part 2 covered their "Request for water" outreach, what they look for, their timeline, and how to find more information. Working with the Trust is a voluntary effort on water shareholders so outreach is needed to inform shareholders of the works the Trust does. Shareholders are invited to submit a confidential preliminary offer that invites the Trust to evaluate water rights for potential streamflow restoration opportunities. This is a free and confidential evaluation and doesn't lock owners into anything. The water right must have a good history and record of use and be willing and able to change operations. It cannot accept conditional, groundwater, springs, or abandonment list water. Ideally, preliminary offers need to be submitted by June 30th, within roughly two months the Water Trust will be in contact to let know if there are project opportunities for the following year. Part 3 covered the 3 step process they hope to implement on the Yampa River. Step 1 is to locate the natural stream and evaluate the process. Step 2 consists of looking at the water right and determining if the Trust can help restore flow when/where needed. Step 3 consists of determining the best tool to implement whether it be a permanent or temporary tool all while following all water rules and laws.
- c. [Division 6 Flow Measurement Rules Update](#) (20 minutes) Erin Light/DWR. Comments were due on March 4, 2022. There were a few commonalities in these comments. One was confusion about the definition of headgates. The second concern is on the term wasteway and how it presents a negative connotation, and if the measuring devices need to be before and after the waste way, Erin confirmed that the device can be after the wasteway there does not need to be one before. The third concern was the recording devices and that they were too discretionary for the Division Engineer to require these. The statutes under 3792502 give the authority of the Division Engineer to issue orders for records which would include recording devices. Erin doesn't envision a scenario under her term as the Division Engineer requiring recording devices. Her hope is that it would be a long time down the road for Division 6 to require this. There were questions in regards to 3792 501 and 502 of the Water Rights Act and why there was little mentioned about these statutes. Erin noted these weren't mentioned because they aren't developing rules under that statute they are developing rules under the APA

Administrative Procedures Process. Lastly, concern in regards to better defining the term on and off-stream channel. The next step will be to develop a matrix regarding practices to address these concerns and make adjustments were applicable. Once the final set of rules is developed it will be filed with the Secretary of State. They will then be published with the Colorado Register. A hearing will then be scheduled and held, at this point the location is not known, but will be in the basin and a hearing officer will be present. Once the hearing is worked through then the rules are adopted they will be filed with the Attorney General's Office for comment. Then a final set of rules is filed with the Secretary of State. Rules will be active 20 days after publishing.

**9. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:**

- a. **WRIWI:** (10 min) Callie Hendrickson. All Diversion Structure and Riparian Reports are complete and have been given back to the landowner or shareholder. In lieu of the reports, six applications have been turned in for work to be completed. The committee will be reviewing these applications within the coming weeks. The CWCB granted the CO Cattlemen's funding to go towards three Conversations Districts for the implementation of some of these projects. The CO River District recently announced they will match the CO Cattlemen's funding which should just about cover these project costs. The last PAC Meeting finalized the mission and primary goals based on edits suggested in the review process.
- b. **Yampa River IWMP** – Action Item (10 min) Ken Brenner & Nicole Seltzer. The IWMP is refining the Remote Environmental Assessment. It should be done before the May BRT Meeting. Lots of sub-committee work happening and expected to have a final product by the July meeting. Various members working on recommendations such as 30 diversion structure projects, additional capacity for ag shareholders, and riparian landowner practices to name a few. Technical meetings will meet monthly until the project is wrapped up. Other committees are meeting more frequently as well. Pat O'Toole from the Ladder Ranch on the Little Snake River gave a brief talk on what they have done and the resources, tools, and organizations they've used to accomplish some of their water goals.
- c. **PEPO:** (10 min) Ken Brenner & Patrick Stanko. There are opportunities for additional funding for Public Education and Outreach from the CWCB. There is one Grant Application currently in progress that should be viewable for the YWG BRT at the May 11, 2022 meeting. If granted the funding would be available by July of 2022. Additionally, Yampatika is currently applying for another CWCB Grant. The PEPO Committee is planning on collecting tents and informational materials to be able to attend events such as Parades, Farmer's Markets, etc. in Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Routt Counties to increase public education. BRT Members are encouraged to participate.
- d. **Big River Committee/IBCC:** (10 min) Jeff Meyers & Tom Gray. IBCC Meeting was on February 23, 2022, and consisted mainly of updates regarding forest health, federal funding, and details of proposed bills. Dan Gibbs from the CWCB gave a presentation and being that the IBCC is at a crossroads he raised the question what is the path for the IBCC? And what topics need to be explored? The common response was the IBCC wants to be useful, work on specific intrastate issues, and be the entity that vets, ratifies, and brokers within the state agreements or compacts

on water issues and topics. There was a call for a subcommittee to identify specific topics to work on, Tom volunteered for this committee. This subcommittee will work diligently between the bigger meetings in hopes of more timely and efficiently completing tasks and keeping the overall momentum going forward. Tom and Jeff have a meeting with Kelly Romero-Heaney and Amy Ostdiek from the CWCB in an effort to collect feedback on items to address. Big River Committee's March meeting was re-scheduled for April for several reasons. One reason being is to break up the meeting dates and times and keep them separate from the BRT. The second was there were topics discussed at the last BRC Committee meeting that was not yet ready to present to the BRT.

- e. **CWCB Update:** (10 min) Jackie Brown. There are several updates coming down the pipeline at the upcoming CWCB Board meeting such as the Legislative, Water Plan, and CO River updates. These updates will tie back to the discussion the IBCC recently had on items to focus on going forward. Now that meetings will be in person there should be some good momentum moving forward. Paul Bruchez a livestock producer from Kremmling put in an application to represent the CO River District in the Grand Lake area.
  - f. **Grant Committee** (10 min) Steve Hinkemeyer. [Ken gave a Grant presentation on behalf of Steve](#). It outlined the summary of changes to the CWCB Grant Guidelines that were implemented on January 1, 2022. The CWCB will provide a flat annual distribution of \$300,000/roundtable/year. They will institute a basin cap of \$750,000. They will create a PEPO Grant program that provides basins upwards of \$25,000/year up significantly from \$6,500. The YWG BRT will have to strongly consider restructuring Grant Deadlines to match up accordingly to the state level. Summarized the BRT's YTD Funding. Of the approved \$500,000 there is still \$475,000 in funding available for the 2022 year. Lastly, there was a summary of the changes to the [Grants page](#) on the YWG Website. There is a link to the meeting materials as well as a zoom meeting link. The verbiage on the Grants page has been modified to comply with the CWCB Guidelines. Sam stepped in to update the BRT on the updates to the grant portal that should be done by June of 2022 which will streamline the Grant committee's processes for submitting applications to the WSRF. Chris Collins has volunteered to be a new member of the Grants Committee. Doug inquired about how the IGA funding from the feds will be dispersed. Jackie noted that at this point in time it hasn't been outlined. Julie Baxter with the City of Steamboat Springs informed the BRT of an accelerator grant the city applied for from the Water Now Alliance. The grant is geared towards technical assistance for 250 hours to develop a strategy for how the city can apply for these Infrastructure Act Funds as well as the Recovery Plan Funds.
- 10. Announcements:** Mike Eytel with the CO River District announced that the State of the River Meetings is around the corner on March 23, 2022, at the Moffat County Fairgrounds. The Routt meeting is on March 24, 2022, at the Community Center. Mike is continuing talks with Andrew Ricker from the CWCB in regards to Cloud Seeding and additional funding shouldn't need to come from the YWG BRT. Andy Baur with the Yampa River Fund announced the [Yampa River Fund](#) grant cycle is open and closes on April 4, 2022.

**11. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

- a. Next YWG BRT Meeting May 11, 2022, @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, Colorado

**12. Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM by Chair Alden Vanden Brink