

**Yampa/White/Green River
Basin Roundtable
July Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
Via GoToMeeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Alden Vanden Brink.
2. **Introduction of Members and Audience:** Roll call was conducted. Members in attendance were as follows: Doug Monger, Tom Gray, Jackie Brown, Alden Vanden Brink, Bill Badaracca, Doug Davis, Frank Alfone, Steve Hinkemeyer, Mike Camblin, Brian Hodge, Kelly Romero-Heaney, Ken Brenner, Travis Day, Tim Winkler, Hunter Causey, Callie Hendrickson, Kent Vertrees, Vince Wilczek, Chuck Grobe, Chuck Whiteman, Jeff Meyer, Deirdre Macnab.
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:** Hunter Causey requested the agenda be modified to include 8a State Engineer Abandonment List. Kent Vertrees requested the agenda be modified to include 8b LOS for Study of Economic Impact of Recreation on the Yampa in Moffat County. Ken Brenner motioned to approve the agenda with the recommended modifications, Steve Hinkemeyer seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. **Review and Approve May 13, 2020 Minutes:** Kelly Romero Heaney motioned to approve the May 13th Minutes, Frank Alfone seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.
5. **Budget Report CWCB:** Sam Stein reported the Basins balance is \$752,290, and the State balance is roughly \$5.77 million. The last distribution of funds was in May, and the Basin received \$120,000. Sam reported this would be the final distribution for this fiscal year. Sam also reported a spending plan had been approved to help stretch funds over the next three years. More information on budget impacts can be found [here](#).
6. **Public Hearings/Public Input and Comment:** There was none.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. **IBCC Update:** Jeff Meyers announced the next Committee meeting would be on August 11. Tom Gray shared a brief [presentation](#) outlining the June IBCC meeting. Tom would like to see the terms voluntary and temporary further defined. Tom reminded members the state can move through the demand management process quickly if needed. It is imperative the Basin is represented accurately now. To do this, Tom and Jeff would like members to participate in conversations the BRC will be having at upcoming Committee meetings. Russ Sands put together a document that summarizes thoughts on [Demand Management equity](#); this was shared with the group as was the 2007 operating guidelines. How to best gather BRT feedback is still being determined. The group briefly discussed the possibility of having an interim guidelines discussion and presentation at a future meeting
 - b. **BIP LE Update:** Lisa Brown gave a brief [presentation](#) outlining progress and the scope of work on the BIP Update. Lisa reminded members the original BIP was published in 2015. The technical update was finished in 2019. Presently BIP work is

focusing on updating, refining, and expanding IPP's in a consistent format across all 9 Basins. This will be a living document so that new projects can be added in the future. Projects will also be scored via a matrix that will show how each project supports the BIP goals. The team is working to streamline the process, incorporate technical updates, and celebrate the progress towards achieving Basin goals. Work done to date has been focused on the IPP database. If anyone would like to have a project incorporated into the database, please contact Dan Birch dbirch@cbi.org. The work planned for the remainder of the project starts in August 2020 and concludes in January 2022. Primary tasks include completing the IPP database, engaging the Roundtable, performing technical analysis, completing the BIP Update, Coordination between the BRT, the CWCB, and the General Contractor, and developing the Ripple Effects II report. Kelly Romero- Heaney moves to approve the scope of work as presented. Tim Winkler seconds, all were in favor.

8. New Business:

- a. State Engineer Abandonment List:** Hunter Causey addressed the River Districts' understanding that pre-compact water rights would not be included on the abandonment list. Erin Light explained all pre-compact water rights included on the list are alternate points. Each alternate point was decreed post compact. Members noted this did not appear to be the case in any other district.
- b. LOS for Study of Economic Impact of Recreation on the Yampa in Moffat County by American Whitewater:** Kent Vertrees shared with members; this study is looking to quantify the economic impact of recreation. They are looking at conducting a flow study and pairing the data with the communities' economic picture in order to leverage economic development. They will be applying for a CWCB grant and are merely looking for BRT support. Kent is simply planting the seed at this point. He recommends the item be placed on the agenda for further discussion in September. At which time, more information will be shared. Jackie Brown recommended the group do outreach as the grant process will likely become more competitive.

9. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects: There was none.

10. Reports of Applicable Standing or Special Committees:

- a. CWCB Update:** Jackie Brown thanked Alden for chairing the online meetings. Jackie announced that funding cycles are going to be more competitive in the future. Dan Gibbs rolled out a 2020-2021 goal to create and prioritize a statewide database for projects. This will help determine which projects to support. Jackie suggested that members listen in to the next [CWCB meeting](#) if they are looking at getting up to speed on demand management. The CWCB will then carry the demand management discussion over the rest of the summer. Jackie requested that members let her know what topics they would like for her to address.
- b. PEPO Committee:** Alden Vanden-Brink reminded members the Roundtable has many committees and encouraged members to participate in the committees. Kelly

Romero-Heaney reiterated Alden's message. Kelly explained there are many people who participate in BRT and committee meetings who are not Roundtable members, who would like to be. The BRT does a great job at outreach and is doing a better job with education, but is struggling with the participation piece and encouraged members to participate as much as they can. Kelly shared Yampatika has been working hard developing the K-12 curriculum and requested members help get the word out to schools in their area. The BRT Videos will be available soon. Patrick Stanko reported print ads are running. These contain critical water concepts with BRT member bio's; these ads are being tailored to the area they are running in. Radio ads are also airing again. These will be featuring Will Myers discussing agriculture infrastructure and Kelly discussing M&I. State of the River will be held virtually on July 29; topics to be addressed include the IWMP, recreation, and agriculture. Patrick reported there is \$6,500 in PEPO funds for 2021, which will cover meeting notices. A small portion of that is set aside for registration fees for BRT members to attend events. There is some money left on the PEPO grant that will be extended. The new \$99,000 PEPO grant approved by the BRT in May will go in front of the CWCB for final approval next week.

- c. **Big River Committee:** The committee did not meet or have an update. However, Ken Brenner recommended BRC members attend the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy Districts July 16 meeting, as they will be discussing equitable apportionment.
- d. **Grant Committee:** Steve Hinkemeyer reported the BRT has roughly \$109,000 in pending grants that will come off the Basin balance given earlier, leaving the Basin with a total balance of \$643,290. The grant committee will meet again prior to the next BRT meeting to discuss a recommended amount for the 2021 grant cycle. Steve reported the Basin would likely need to plan for a couple of years' worth of funding. Russ Sands reminded members to look at the link on budget impacts for grants and loans that Sam Stein shared earlier in the meeting.
- e. **IWMP Committee Update:** Hunter Causey gave a budget update. The project's total budget is roughly \$650,000. The Colorado River District is managing roughly \$445,000 of the total funds. The River District is under contract for \$200,424 and has been invoiced for \$42,822 thus far. The IWMP has expended \$162,822 of the total budget. Michele Meyer went over stakeholder work. Initial stakeholder surveys and interviews have been completed. Demonstration project videos are in production. Brian Hodge reported the diversion assessment was included in the IWMP process. Gena Hinkemeyer and Jerry Hoberg finished assessments. Brian explained the assessments would help identify multi-purpose project opportunities. In the process, 45 structures were assessed. Each structure report will recap the data collected and include suggestions for improvements. Notable patterns that came out of the assessments were bank erosion and keeping structures relevant to river migration. Brian thanked Jerry, Gena, and the assessment participants. Jennifer Wellman, with TNC, gave an update on the current scope of work for the geomorphology, hydrology, and ecology remote assessment being conducted. Ryan Golten will help facilitate the IWMP's next steps. The next IWMP meeting is scheduled for July 23.
- f. **White SMP Update:** Callie Hendrickson reported the White SMP project had created a planning advisory committee (PAC), which is made up of 14 members.

One-third of this committee is comprised of agriculture representation, one third is recreation representation, and one third is municipal representation. There have been four public meetings, and the team has been conducting outreach. The PAC met two days prior to this BRT meeting and finalized a mission statement, defined some goals, and are working towards developing a scope of work. The project has separated the river into three reaches, upper, middle, and lower. Callie reported there would be a spreadsheet available on their website.

- g. DWR Update:** Erin Light reported the hot, dry, and windy weather is resulting in low flows. As a result, water commissioners are very busy. Erin recommended people go online to see areas under administration. The abandonment list will be advertised for four weeks. Mailed notices to water right owners on the list are going out by the end of the week. Erin pointed out that Hunter raised a good question. It is important for people to know alternate points are listed very differently on the abandonment list. Erin suggested looking to the far right for WDIP if pre-compact water rights are listed. For questions, reach out to Erin or to Willie Summers. Statement of objection forms are available online and can be submitted online as well. Alden Vanden Brink asked if objections are costly for water right owners? Erin encouraged users to reach out to the DWR to try and work things out; however, if the user does not understand the process, they should reach out to an attorney. Division 6 welcomes Pro Se objections. Erin also noted Division 6 is down three staff members. The short-staffing has affected well permitting,

11. Announcements: The next BRT meeting will be September 9, 2020.

12. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Alden requested members please reach out as soon as they can with requests.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.