

Dated: December 20, 2013

December 19, 2013 WAC Meeting Summary

Participants: Brent Uilenberg, Michelle Garrison, James Greer, Dan Luecke, Tom Pitts, Jana Mohrman, Don Meyer, Andrew Gilmore, Kevin McAbee, Melissa Trammell Laura Belanger, Bart Miller, Leslie James, Pat McCarthy

Not present: John Shields, Gene Shawcroft

Assignments are indicated in the document in bold, preceded by a ">".

**CONVENE 9:00 a.m.**

Review 7/11/13 meeting summary comments due by Dec 24.

**1) White River Management Plan – Jana**

White River MP – Jana' provided a summary of pre-public meeting outreach - 153 email invites. Effort has been made to reach out to the Northern Ute Tribe via a letter from USFWS ARD Mike Thabault to the Tribe. . White River round table well attended. At that mtg, T. Wright suggested that roundtable participants participate in this Management Planning exercise – Tom Pitts suggested that T. Wrights buy-in is an incredible accomplishment on behalf of the Program. On a related note there was discussion of replacement storage for Kenney Res. Michelle said the plan for now would be to leave Taylor Draw Dam in place. Rangely Meeting - good start; subsequently the PDO has reached out to Colorado and Utah BLM folks. Michelle said CWCB will try to have a WRMP contractor in place by mid-summer.

Added after the WAC: Summary of relevant presentations given at the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 16, 2013

- a) Rio Blanco Water Conservancy – Second Reading Project Update EIS Solutions: Brad McCloud (partnered with W.W. Wheeler) presented a water storage proposal on the White River. W.W. Wheeler is a partner. There have been 4 meetings with the public and CWCB about this water storage project. **This project will replace Kenny Reservoir** due to sedimentation. The 3 phases of the project; Course screening, May, 2014, Fine Screening, August 2014 and Field Assessments, August, 2015.
- b) **Yampa-White Projects and Methods: Mark McCluskey and Hal Simpson:** The Yampa, White and Green Basin Roundtable is finishing the Yampa-White Basin Projects and Methods Study. This study combines results of previous studies of the consumptive (municipal, agricultural and industrial) uses and non-consumptive (environmental, recreational and habitat)

uses to assess their current and projected demands in the basin using StateMod under varying hydrology to assess flows given development projections (low, medium and high) as well as if Identified Projects and Processes (IP&Ps) are developed. Separate models were developed for the Yampa and White basins, respectively. The results of the study will assist the basin in their water resources planning efforts to identify locations of existing and potential ‘shortages’ and provide insight on where projects or reoperation of existing projects could be used to meet both consumptive and non-consumptive needs. The results from this study will be used in the preparation of the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) for the basin. The BIP will become part of the Colorado State Water Plan scheduled for 2014.

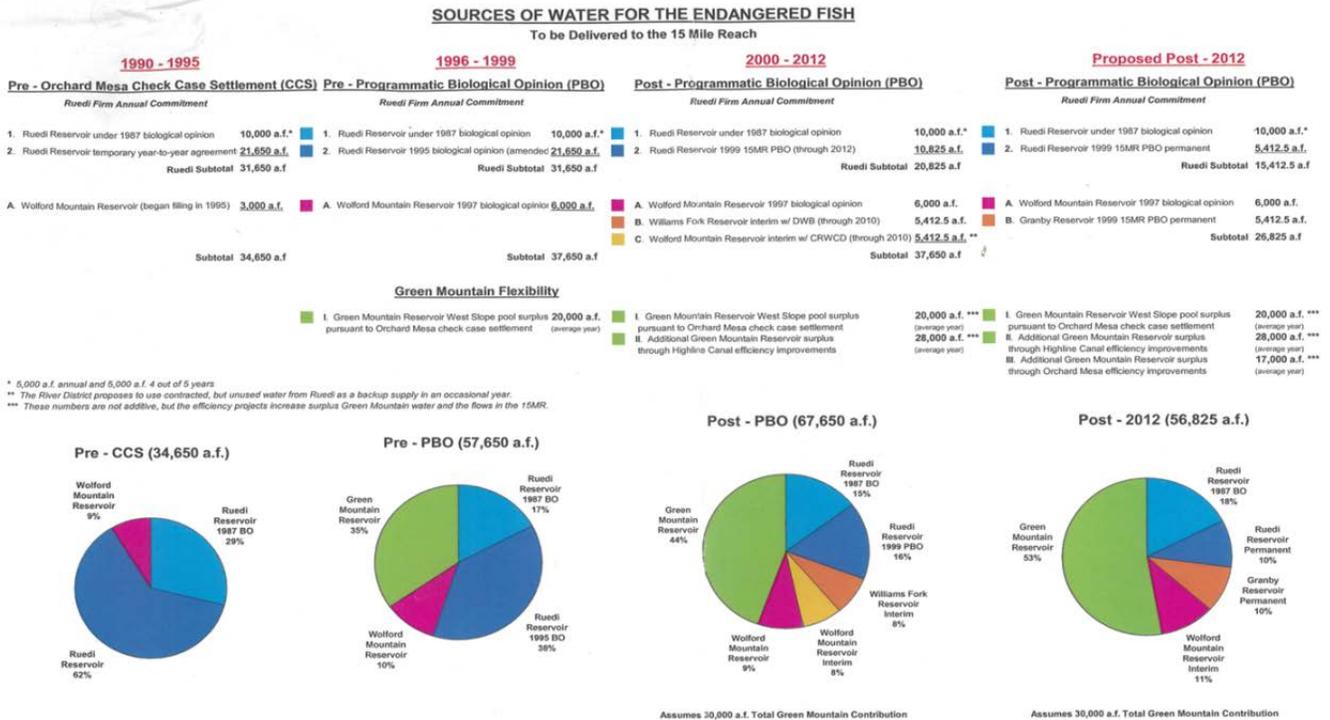
- c) **Basin Implementation Plan Grant Discussion (Second Reading) – Dan Birch:** Dan gave a brief of what he did to begin the **Basin Implementation Plan**, after the meeting AMEC was chosen. Dan thinks that a consultant will cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000 for this project. T.Wright wants to make sure that there is money set aside for deficiencies and return flows into the Yampa.
- d) **Energy Study Grant (Second Read) – Dan Birch and Jeff Devere:** SGM conducted the first phase years ago and there is an interview scheduled later this month. The oil shale issue needs to be reexamined because the Shell project closed down. Jeff Devere said a new oil shale company could come in and need more water than Shell’s predicted. The motion was passed to update the energy study (\$25,000).
- e) Jacob introduced Kate McIntyre to the round table. Kate works with the Education Outreach Program and is assisting with a two way dialog with the State and the Basin to help shape the message. [COWaterplan@state.co.us](mailto:COWaterplan@state.co.us) is where you can find the handouts that Kate and Jacob sent out tonight.
- f) **IBCC Update –“No Regrets” Jacob Bornstein, Kevin McBride, Jeff Devere, and T.Wright Dickinson:** Jeff Devere talked about the “no regrets” plan presented at the last IBCC meeting. Jeff thinks the IBCC will focus on the areas of consensus to create a water plan. Jeff believes that we are not talking about new water supply but actually the reallocation of water. T.Wright believes that we need to have the conversation about what is new supply? Jacob stated that people at the IBCC table stated they could live with the IPP’s out there. 80% of the panel seemed happy with the results. However some were concerned about how do we actually get to our firm deliveries? Questions and information is at the Roundtable page on the CWCB website.

**2) Brief update on Geomorphology Working Group – White Paper will be produced in 2014**

**3) 15-Mile Reach:** These Changes took place in water Year 2013:

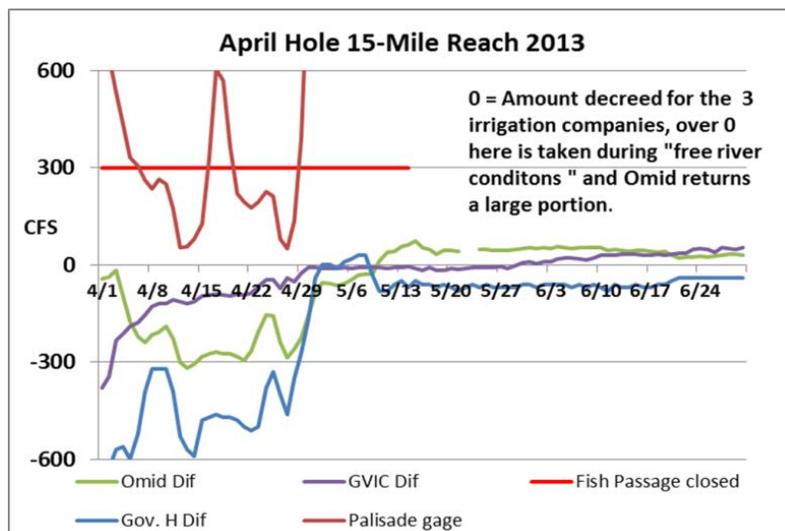
Changes since 2012	2012	2013
Wolford	6,000	4,300
	5,412	0
Ruedi	10,825	0
	0	5,412
	5,000	5,000
5000 acft 4 of 5 years	0	0
Williams Fork	5,412	0
Granby	0	5,412
<b>Total Acre-Feet</b>	<b>32,649</b>	<b>20,124</b>
<b>+ Green Mtn 66,000 acft if surplus is declared</b>		

Tom Pitts questioned why we only had 4300 acft (not 6000 ac-ft) in Wolford? Brent and Don clarified that in better hydrologies we have 6000 available, but we are subject to 20% of inflow and this year that was < 6000.



In the above graphic Don and Michelle clarified that the GVWM project is captured in the pie chart. Brent said this is an underestimation of the actual benefit to the 15-MR and estimates the averaged reduction of GVWM diversion at ~32,000 ac-ft (2002-2012).

April Hole – Jana described the graphic. Don suggested the April Hole may have been exacerbated by GV water users not calling water down, which at the time was prudent. Brent thought the only thing we should do in the future would be raise the OMID check and the Fish Passage check (Obermeyer) more gradually. This would dewater the 15MR more slowly to let the fish vacate.





Dan suggested that there may be other solutions we should explore because this was an oversight in the PBO. We should be looking for additional pools of water, changing periods of use, and other options. Dan clarified that there are experimental considerations in the Global Settlement which could help in April. The Shoshone Call portion of the agreement is Article VI (beginning on p. 35). There are provisions in the agreement for testing a pilot relaxation of the call in “non-critical winter months” to store water for environmental and recreational purposes (p. 42), a possible place for the RIP to set aside water. The one link with federal agencies is with Reclamation and operation of Green Mountain as it relates to Shoshone relaxation and a separate Reclamation agreement (p. 44). (There are also other GM provisions elsewhere in the agreement, e.g., Article V, Green Mountain Reservoir Administration, p. 33.)

Tom Pitts asked how much the Shoshone relaxation contributed to the April Hole >Jana and Don committed to investigate. Dan pointed out that there are differences between the ‘relaxation’ and the ‘outage’ protocols >Jana and Don will work to clarify this as well.

- a. July Hole: Don described what he characterized as a ‘perfect storm’; not necessarily a lack of water in the system. The July drop in flows was an example of ~~unfortunate mismanagement which was complicated by~~ an incorrect weather / flow forecast over a weekend, exacerbated by slow responses to reservoir releases in the 15-MR.
- b. ~~The ShOPs water was slow in arriving in the 15-MR.~~ Dan thought unlike the April hole the July event was due to availability of water – more coordination might have helped. Dan asked if ~~the~~ the essence of ShOPs is to manage the river to meet ~~the~~ the call even in the event of a turbine drop? Don - The State Engineer’s Office does not administer ShOPS, although; Judy Sappington watches this most closely. ShOP participation by Denver (Dillon, WFR, Moffat) and the River District (Wolford) is defined in the CRCA. Reclamation is participating at GMR under a separate agreement. Ruedi is not subject to ShOP. GMR releases under ShOP are debited from a 12 KAF pool which is part of the 100 AF west slope power pool, rather than directly from the CBT, HUP or Silt pools. I

do plan on creating a summary of hydrology and operations for both the April and July holes. Dan asked that when Shoshone goes down should there be a small group that manages this day by day. Don agreed, but indicated that he was watching this very closely. Unfortunately the poor forecast caught everyone off guard. Don thought everyone involved learned from this experience. Tom Pitts asked if the parties involved could put together a memo to describe what happened and a process to deal with a similar event in the future. Don will talk to the other operators, but thinks there is a pretty good paper trail (e.g. Ron Thomason's yearend report). Andrew asked what the intent of the memo would be if climate was such a big player? Tom Pitts clarified that because this speaks to PBO compliance it would be helpful (for the USFWS) to have something they can point to. Dan agreed with Tom Pitts concern with respect to the April event, but felt the July condition was really up to the shOP operators – the USFWS will need to make their decision based on the hydrologic record. Don offered to draft a summary and share with Tom Pitts and Dan. Jana suggested this (July and April) be captured in Ron T's annual report.

- c. Granby releases – will also be summarized in the Annual Report. Jana thanked all the folks that worked to backstop the 'unneeded' Granby releases in Sept.
- d. 582 cfs water right – in August 2013 flows were dropped below 582 cfs – GVWUA were not taking their full water right. Because the water was being released from Green Mtn, GVIC thought they could take it – CWCB has a differing opinion – in the future if these circumstances repeat themselves CWCB will put their junior call on river. This will require the State Engineer to administer the river. In 2013, the Fish water call was not placed. Meeting (CWCB, Program, and irrigators) set in Grand Jct on Feb 13, 2014 @ 1:00pm to discuss this.

4) GRWUAT – James described the proposed change in schedule (request made a letter from UDNR Director Mike Styler to Tom Chart). The proposed schedule had a lot to do with coordinating the Basin Study model/FG ops model with ModSim. Utah believes this delay was worthwhile. The model analyses are now scheduled well into 2014. This was discussed at the MC meeting in November – Enviro, UTES, NPS all asked that this be further discussed by WAC. The Enviro suggested that the revised schedule be compressed by one year. James suggested that Utah look at options for what authority would be needed to protect that water. However, the quantity of water would be paramount to those discussions. Utah's current position is that they do not have authority to protect water for fish therefore the State legislature will need to be involved because the law may need to be modified or amended. Tom Pitts said his understanding is that writing a new or modified instream flow law is not likely to happen in Utah. Therefore the only option that is considered viable would be protecting these flows would be through legislature and would be specific to the Green River. The St George pipeline still seems the best option, but represents a somewhat remote possibility. Utah's Instream flow law states that certain entities (UDWR, and other fed agencies) can purchase a perfected water right and file a change application between its points of diversion and the next point of diversion downstream. Jana suggested that in addition to the White River management plan update the GRUWAT could provide an update at Utah Water Users meeting in March >James said he would try to get GRUWAT on the Workshop Agenda [later determined infeasible]. Dan raised concern that this change in schedule is much longer than

expected. James reminded the group the legislature meets every year, and this is going to take a lot of up-front work, therefore UDNR's proposed schedule change is the most realistic. James said Utah shares the concern over delays. James indicated that Utah / GRUWAT have all the pieces of information they need now, but it has been a very long time getting to this point. Current questions, are how do we analyze and interpret the results, i.e. how much is needed to meet the flow recs. Melissa – the NPS concern is not so much about schedule, but rather the reliance on St George pipeline and that the base flow recs in the lower river have not been met in all years. James was surprised to hear that the flow recs have not been met. James said Utah is considering other options, but the Pipeline seemed like a good solution hence the focus on that project so far. Tom Pitts moved to accept Utah's new schedule. Dan offered to withdraw the Enviro's alternative schedule, but asked the committee how they proceed should Utah State legislature not act on this? Tom Pitts did not have an answer, but recognized that according to the Blue Book the program partners agreed that fish flows would be 'protected' in compliance with State law. James said Utah recognizes that commitment, but stated that no water bill passes its first time through the legislature. The WAC approved Utah's revised GRUWAT schedule (below). Jana reiterated that this would also be a good topic to discuss at the Utah Water Users mtg (could not get on the agenda this year, will in 2015). Tom Pitts suggested that Gene Shawcroft would be a great person to communicate the importance of this and other endangered fish programs to Utah water users.

		2013 RIPRAP TABLE ACTIVITY	WHO	STATUS	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17
	I.A.4.b.(2)(f)	Analyze model results	UT	<i>In progress</i>	X			
	I.A.4.b.(2)(g)	As necessary, obtain additional authority to protect flows	UT	Pending	X	X	X	
>*	I.A.4.b.(3)	Implement legal streamflow protection.	UT	Pending			X	X

Above is the new GRUWAT approved schedule by the WAC

#### 5) Capital Projects – Brent –

a) OMID – awarded a contract for Phase I (33 canal check structures in canals 1&2) – originally slate for completion by this coming irrigation season. Unfortunately the record cold snap has precluded pouring concrete so there will likely be some delays. Also, the site of the new regulating reservoir has been classified a sensitive location, which has caused the both the maximum reservoir elevation and canal elevation to be equal. The hope is to get that under contract ASAP – may not be completed to summer 2015. Laterals and SCADA also need to be addressed. Construction could be completed FY 2015-2016.

b) Tusher Wash – BOR contracted with Smith-Root to look at an e-barrier. BOR and PDO were not comfortable with the alternatives. New approach pushes the entrainment control down into the irrigation canal; Kevin McAbee added that the volumes of water we are dealing with in the raceway have no precedent in management or literature. For this reason BOR and the PDO focused on addressing adult fish entrainment in the irrigation canal (~70-80cfs).

6) Price River flow management – Kevin McAbee described an opportunity with the Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area. Desert lake WMD was presented to the USFWS as mitigation for

Colorado River storage – currently managed by UDWR. There are possible improvements at the WMA to get some water into the Price River. There have been initial discussion with the parties (UDWR and Emery Co. Water conservancy) in Utah that are involved that will be continued this winter – no major obstacles so far. This approach was presented as an ‘opportunity’ at this point in time, which Kevin and Jana committed to explore farther.

7) Tom Pitts updates – CFOPS further delayed; draft will be submitted by end of January 2014.

Next meeting: Jana will doodle for a meeting in mid-April. (post D.C. trip)