

<p style="text-align:center">Yampa River Basin Partnership 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes September 21, 2006 Yampa River State Park Headquarters Hayden, CO</p>

Dinner provided by C's Catering. Dinner and friendship enjoyed by members.

The Annual Meeting of the Yampa River Basin Partnership was called to order by Chairman, Tom Gray, at 6:30 pm.

The YRBP 2007 Executive Steering Committee was approved with the following changes in addition to the 2006 Executive Steering Committee:

Environment - Geoff Blakeslee, The Nature Conservancy and
Federal Government - Dave Blackstun, BLM

Financial Report: \$225.02 cash on hand before small annual expenses and dinner costs.

Approval Items:

2005 Annual Meeting Minutes of September 2005 were approved.

Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2006 were approved.

Election of Officers:

Chairman for 2007: Tom Gray, Moffat County

Vice Chairman: Routt County to be asked to serve as vice chair. Dan Ellison will be resigning in January 2007, as he will no longer be a county commissioner. Thank you to Dan Ellison, Routt County Commissioner, for his many years of service.

Tom Gray will be listed as the primary signor on the checking account at Bank of Colorado. Our account requires two signatures. Audrey Danner will be listed as the second signor.

Purpose of Yampa River Basin Partnership

Discussion was held on the history of YRBP with the purpose of 'working with citizens of the Yampa River Basin to balance natural resource and social issues to protect and enhance our quality of life through open communication, education and coordination of efforts'. At this time YRBP does not have an issue or project that seems appropriate to consider. However, the value of the partnership is important to maintain. At this time there will not be a project for YRBP participation, but YRBP will serve as a communication link on issues common to the membership. Yampa Valley Partners will continue assisting YRBP as a 'communication' organization by offering items of note to keep YRBP membership informed.

Northwest Weed Project – Jeff Comstock, Moffat County Natural Resources

Moffat County landowners and federal and state agencies noted an increase in noxious weeds in northwest Moffat county. Weed regulation management rules were not set up for the noxious weed issue occurring in northern Moffat County. A 'partnership' was set up with BLM, Moffat County, affected landowners and major energy exploration companies and State Land Board supporting the concept of weed management.

The participating members identified the manner they wanted to address the weeds with alternative management, inter-seeding grasses on private lands, limit and contain current weed patches and annihilate other areas depending upon the circumstances. Initial mapping has been done by Moffat County and other project partners, but additional mapping will be necessary. Gary Brannan, Moffat County, will assist with coordination of the project. All partners are considering a part time person to manage the project, seek funding and implement goals. This partnership is a supplemental project in addition to current weed management projects in place that none of the current requirements are meeting. The process included dividing Moffat County into four areas. The interest in managing the weeds differently and including a public/private partnership has been well received. The partners have noted that this project has enthusiasm and interest based on past success and funding and will continue to develop. The partnership is currently advertising for a part time position as a manager of this project and if hired, would be an employee of the partnership, not the federal or local government. As the program grows, the employee would have potential to grow the project and their position as determined by the partnership. Discussion continued on ideas for experimental ideas on chemical applications to use while appreciating the current native plants and replanting options in place.

Routt County Weed Project – Ken Shackleton

Routt County is continuing ‘meadow knapweed’ infestation. ‘Leafy spurge’ beetles were spread over six sites and have been successful in eradication. Routt County is working to develop beetle breeding sites to use this type of weed management. White top treatment on private land is usually by private contractors. An ongoing education process continues with private landowners.

Moffat County Fire Policy – Tom Gray

It is reported that there area over 1,000 lightning strikes daily during the months of June through September and increase in dry years. The potential increases for wild land fires that may be near structures and homes in western Moffat County.

Moffat County funds the sheriff budget for the resources to fight land fires and the BLM has in the past assumed responsibility for fight the fires. Individual counties are now responsible to a greater degree with changes mandated from BLM. Moffat County developed a fire fighting policy to protect sheriff and employees on public lands. The ‘Greystone Fire’ threatened the small community in western Moffat County and was high priority for decision making by County Commissioners. Moffat County was able to secure Emergency Fire Funds to cover some of the ‘Greystone Fire’ costs.

Moffat County has a ‘Fire Plan’ in place and that included the Greystone area – public and private lands. Fuel reduction efforts in place from the fire plan contributed to the lesser impacts of recent fires. This ‘Fire Plan’ offers a proactive approach in high risk areas of Moffat County. Four area communities are planned for and have an active plan in place if they choose to implement. Some area land owners have been active in brush cutting to manage fire risk. Fire breaks are essential due to nature of large fire management.

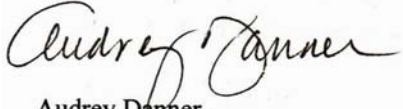
A 'cooperative agreement' for wildland firefighting is in place for coordination when fire occurs and is necessary due to limited resources and importance of protecting homes and human life at risk. Road and bridge director and commissioners will actively be involved in decisions and funding approved. The Moffat BOCC to approve all further costs and will actively participate in fire management team decisions.

Update on Yampa White Inter Basin Roundtable – Tom Gray

The next meeting will be on October 18, 2006 in Steamboat Springs. Projects are now available to be considered under the Charter. The needs assessment data developed within each basin are considered in decision making. Water agreements will include participation by each basin for a comprehensive look at water resources.

The annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Yampa Valley Partners.



Audrey Danner,
Executive Director