

White River Planning Advisory Committee
Monday, Feb. 24 Meeting
Notes

Attendees:

Alden Venden Brink	Steve Hale	Colton Brown
Stu Massey	Forrest Nelson	Walt Proctor
Ron Reich	Chris Collins	Deirdre Macnab
David Graf	Brian Hodge	Brett Harvey
Nicole Seltzer	Hannah Holm	Linda Masters
Callie Hendrickson		

Hanna Holm reviewed the attached report with the Committee. She highlighted the following:

- There is definite support for planning but with caution regarding how a plan can be used. Therefore, Hannah suggests strong communications and transparency in the process.
- Priorities that were highlighted included:
 - Protecting current water rights
 - Water Storage – enlarge, new, in-ground
 - Water Quantity with Quality following close behind with people understanding they are connected
- Sub basin highlights:
 - Piceance – current shortages
 - Bufford – transfer from Ag to Recreation
 - Rangely – sedimentation and algae as well as impacts from excess horses on the rangelands
- Hannah’s takeaways
 - People want to know more about the current research and information that is already available
 - People are getting ready for calls and demand management of some type
 - Ditch lining, diversions, recreation access, and sediment traps are some of the items that appear to be important
 - There is strong mutual respect shown between all interests
 - Energy companies can play a large role in these efforts

Nicole Seltzer presented information regarding the Yampa River IWMP process. See attached handout. She suggested that this group identify:

- What problems need to be solved
- What questions to answer
- What capacity do we have to answer the questions
- What we want to accomplish (where do we want to land)
- What stretch of the river should be focused on
- Where to focus time and money:
 - Designed plans
 - Who will do it
 - What geography
- Nicole noted that the Nature Conservancy was hired to review the current Yampa studies and develop a report for the general public

After good discussion the group decided to form a smaller committee to begin developing a general scope of work (SOW). The Committee is:

- Chris Collins – Rancher/White River CD
- Stu Massey - Farmer
- Deirdre Macnab - Rancher
- Alden Venden Brink – Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District
- Brett Harvey & Colton Brown – Up-river property manager
- Brian Hodge – Trout Unlimited
- Other committee members interested who were not in attendance

It was suggested this group review other plans to get a better idea on how we may want to proceed. Those plans are: Upper Gunnison, Middle Colorado, Rio Grande. These and others can be found at <https://www.coloradosmp.org/>

Again, discussion revolved around we need to develop a list of questions we want answered and a list of problems we want to solve.