**Meeting of the**

**Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District**

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**

**1:30 p.m. to 3:30p.m.**

**Rio Blanco County**

**Commissioners’ Meeting Room**

**200 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Roll Call

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| Directors Present:  Kelly Sheridan  Ben Rogers  Mike Brennan  Walter Proctor  David Smith, Jr.  Kai Turner | Staff Present:  Scott Grosscup, District Attorney  Others Present:  Bailey Franklin  Shawn Welder  Brad McCloud, EIS Solutions  Craig Ullman, Applegate Group |

Appointment of Secretary:

Scott Grosscup was appointed secretary of the meeting.

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District

Scott introduced Brad McCloud, with EIS Solutions. Brad is working with the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District (“RBWCD”) on assisting with that District’s proposed Wolf Creek Reservoir. Scott indicated that he and Brad had had some conversations about the Yellow Jacket District’s ability to partner with the RBWCD in some fashion to build or utilize Yellow Jacket District water rights in the new reservoir.

Brad indicated that the RBWCD board has recently received some new members who are in the process of being appointed. He said that the RBWCD would like to continue discussions with the Yellow Jacket District on a collaborative effort to build the Wolf Creek Reservoir. This would include having a joint meeting between the two districts in the near future when the new board members have all been appointed. Brad also described the proposal for the Wolf Creek Reservoir and how it would operate by pumping water from the White River to the proposed location.

Scott presented some ideas on how the Yellow Jacket District’s water rights could be used in the Wolf Creek Reservoir by exchange to serve residents of the Yellow Jacket District. This would also allow the Wolf Creek Reservoir the benefit of using the Yellow Jacket District’s senior water rights to fill the reservoir and also provide a place of storage for these water rights.

Board discussion followed. Questions were raised about minimum flows possible effects of a programmatic biological opinion on the White River. After discussion, the Board’s consensus was to continue discussions on the potential joint operation and to hold a joint meeting of the two boards to discuss

New Directors

Scott reported that he had notice posted in the newspaper of opportunities to fill the three remaining director seats and had received three applications. These applications were from Shawn Welder, Bailey Franklin, and Paul Neilson. He introduced Mr. Welder and Mr. Franklin, in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2015

Director Proctor moved to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2105 meeting as presented, Director Smith second, all in favor.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Proctor indicated that the District had received property tax receipts and the District had a current balance of more than $21,000 in its bank account. He then moved to pay Balcomb & Green’s invoice of $3,514, which included the cost of the District’s Director’s and Officer’s liability policy for 2015. Director Turner second, all in favor.

Yellow Jacket Study Update

Craig Ullman with Applegate Group, Inc., made a presentation on the status of his organization’s project looking at the District’s remaining water rights portfolio and considering alternate storage locations. He said that this study is a follow-up to the District’s previous study that was completed in 2013 in connection with the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Yampa/White/Green Basin Round Table that looked at the needs and demands for water in the White River Basin and possible storage locations for the District’s then existing water rights. This new study pares down the sizes of potential storage sites based on the District’s current portfolio of water rights.

Craig discussed the previous study’s findings on water needs for energy development and agricultural shortfalls as well as future development within the basin. These studies showed that there is a need for additional water storage in the upper basin; many of which needs could be met with smaller reservoirs than had been looked at in that study.

Craig then presented preliminary findings showing a smaller Sawmill Mountain Reservoir that could store 3,000 acre feet on private lands above the Livingston Ranch on Beaver Creek and discussed the possibility of enlarging Lake Avery. He said that a raise of the spillway by 2.7 feet could result in approximately 3,000 acre feet of additional storage in Lake Avery. This may be possible if requirements for spill way construction are modified and it is determined that the current spillway is designed with a capacity that is greater than needed. Discussion followed about the history of Lake Avery and the benefits of additional storage in the reservoir.

Craig next presented several potential off-channel reservoirs that would be located in a basin above the Oak Ridge Park Ditch. These reservoirs would divert water from the ditch through a pump station located on the ditch. These reservoirs have a number of benefits from a permitting perspective and could also allow for recreational opportunities as there is easy access by an existing county road. They could, however, have some operational concerns with pumping costs and releases that would need to be further evaluated as part of this or a subsequent study.

Board discussion followed regarding the potential benefit of these possible storage locations for the District and its constituents. These sites all provide storage in the upper basin and have the potential for increased recreational uses and to provide water supplies. Preliminary consensus is that the reservoirs look to be feasible. Craig will return later in the year with a completed first phase of the study.

New Business:

Scott reported that earlier in the day he had attended a forum on water in the White River produced by Mr. Joe Livingston. He presented on behalf of the Yellow Jacket District to describe what it is, its history and its present planning for water development. He said the meeting was well attended.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Read and approved this \_\_\_ day of October, 2015

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_