

Minutes April 5, 2000 WCRC Meeting

Meeting held in the Creede Town Hall
 Called to order by Chairman Zeke Ward at 1:25 PM

Those Attending: Name	Affiliation	Address
John Howard	Resident Resident	jhoward375@aol.com
Glen Miller	Resident Resident	miller@amigo.net
Zeke Ward	Resident EPA Trout	redmtn@fone.net
Peter Ismert	Unlimited Resident	ismert.peter@epa.gov
Larry Bussey	Resident EPA Resi	Box 503 Alamosa 81130
Denise Uhleman Armstng	dent Resident Fore	P.O. Box 266 Creede 81130
Rex Sheppard	st	Box 146 Creede 81130
Bill Schroeder	Service USGS Resi	sschroeder.william@epa.gov
Gerold Schlough	dent EPA SLV RC	Creede 81130
Phil Bethke	& D USFWS CSU	pbethke@usgs.gov
Les Dobson	Co-op	ldobson/r2_riogrande@fs.fed.us
Rodger Ortiz	Ext. EPA Army	fortiz@usgs.gov
JB Alexander	Corp CDPHE	Box 428 Creede 81130
Keith Lucey		kjlucey@usgs.gov
Dave Suhr		dsuhr@hecla-mining.com
Laura Coppock		laura_higgins@fws.gov
Marvin Reynolds		conejos@coop.ext.colostate.edu
Mike Wireman		u
David Gregory		303-312-6719
Kathleen Reilly		505-342-3478
		kathleen.reilly@state.co.us

Chairmans Report (Zeke Ward)

CDMG will be offering a course for free of charge to six or more people to learn safety procedures for working underground. Zeke says we shouldn't have any problem finding at least six people that would be interested in taking this course. Dave Suhr says the licence lasts for one year after which a short refresher course of 8 hours is required on a yearly basis.

Glen spoke of the grant proposal for doing underground mapping & reconnaissance on the Amethyst and Holy Moses veins. The proposal was for just over \$25,000 and would include four phases... 1) An initial rough reconnaissance and water field parameters measurements & establishment of sample sites. 2) A program for thorough water testing. 3) A precise mapping and

determining of underground elevations (connecting to outside USGS monuments) 4) A report of access areas to the Nelson workings and what construction if any, is needed for next year. Glen asked Kathleen that if we don't get the above mentioned grant, could we use some of our 319 money to do the inexpensive phase 1 reconnaissance? Kathleen said that if it is part of our overall characterization plans then it could be used. Zeke pointed out that since our surface water investigations have identified that 60% or so of our problem comes from one source (the Nelson adit) that we need to make this a priority within our characterization program and allocate money as necessary.

Flow Measurements on the Solomon

Bob Kirkham has concluded that we can get a parshall flume installed at the mouth of the Solomon adit for under \$1,000. We just finished (about an hour ago) a recon of the adit opening and Bob was happy with conditions there and thinks we should be able to install something that works well. Glen spoke that it is very important that we fix the Solomon because since West Willow is so bad below the Nelson, we may never be able to establish a viable fishery but we can for sure have a sustainable fishery in East Willow if we fix the Solomon. Airport Corner Land Mr. Parker has offered to donate some of the land near airport corner to the county or city. The question of liability must be addressed since much of land may be contaminated with tailings. The city & county would like this land for several reasons i.e., for a water-sewer line to Creede Haven and a possible county fair grounds. We are in the process of working with CDPHE within their "Voluntary Cleanup Program." Also, the Army Corps has indicated that this area may work with their RAMS authority. There will need to be a characterization program to identify contamination sources and then a program to isolate or remove these contaminants. John Howard asked about the data that Mr. Parker has already obtained about contamination. The good news is that even though there are high concentrations of arsenic and zinc, they are very near the surface. Glen asked about what we could do to get the ball rolling very quickly about the 17 acres on the east side of the road that the fairgrounds committee is interested in. Mike Wireman said we need to first focus on that 17 acres but that we will still need to do a systematic approach to characterizing the whole thing including groundwater influence. Zeke stated that we first need to determine if this is a worthwhile goal for the committee to engage in and if it can be naturally incorporated into our overall objectives. Zeke said that from conversations with Mr. Parker that it appears he is willing to give everything on the east side of airport road to the city or county and that after contamination investigations, he could decide how much (if any) he might be willing to donate on the west side of the road. John Howard made a motion that the WCRC get involved with this project and that the TAC committee take the lead on producing a program that would decide what needs done as far as characterization activities are concerned. Several people seconded and everyone was in favor. Re-vegetation program

Marvin Reynolds spoke about the re-veg meeting that was held in March. We are looking at expanding our test plots and trying some different amendment regimes, maybe the use bio-solids, and a combination of other treatments. We will be cutting several different sub-species of willows near the Rio Grande on the 24th of April and then on the 25th we plan to get a crew together and plant them in different soil conditions on the upper floodplain. Creede Resources is financing the event. High Flow Sampling Event

Zeke spoke of the importance of narrowing the window of sampling activities each day so we are getting roughly the same flow volumes. There is likely to be a big difference in flow between early morning and late evening. It is clear that the WCRC needs to have all the equipment on hand, all the time so that an episodic event can be sampled at a moments notice. This will require a multi-parameter meter. As far as our May High Flow event, Bill Schroeder of the EPA will furnish these meters for two teams. Rex Sheppard motioned that we move quickly on getting whatever equipment we need before the May 3rd meeting so that no time is wasted. This includes equipment for episodic events up to the amount of \$2,000 (not including general supplies for the high flow event which should not exceed \$1,000). Many seconded and all were in favor. Mike Wireman commended the committee for having the foresight to make these episodic events an integral part of our characterization program and preparing for them well in advance. September 1999 Biological Sampling Report (Laura Coppock) Few fish were found in main-stem Willow. Also, few fish were found from the East-West Willow confluence up West Willow to the Amethyst. East Willow had a healthy population for its entire distance as well as West Willow above the

Amethyst. Mayflies, Stoneflies, Caddisflies were detected as expected in the same areas where fish were prevalent. Mayflies are the most intolerant species of metals contaminated water. Stoneflies are moderately tolerant of metals. Some sub-species of Caddisflies are very tolerant of metals conditions and will have a tendency to proliferate in these waters. They are sometimes used as an indicator of water quality. Water quality below the Solomon could affect trout populations given an episodic event where metals content increased above the 200 ppb point. Also, as JB pointed out, an influx of clean water can cause fish to rapidly un-acclimate to high metals conditions and then if things return quickly to a "normal" 200 ppb of zinc, there could be a fish kill. It is agreed that this volatile condition on East Willow Creek below the Solomon is where the WCRC needs to address a major part of its reclamation effort. Areas above the Solomon appear to be in great shape. Almost all fish are Brook trout with the odd Brown trout in the mix. Brook trout are more tolerant of metals than other species. We will not do a fish count during our May High Flow sampling event. We will again be sampling for macro-invertebrates at the same sites as last September because it has been shown in other areas that fluctuations due to seasonal differences can be significant. Laura pointed out that we obtained good data at our September Low Flow event but that this was just one sampling at one time and that as we continue through our characterization process, a clearer picture concerning the biological health of all portions of the creek will steadily develop. Photocopies of this fish and macroinvertebrate data will be available at the next meeting. Meeting adjourned shortly after 3:30 PM
Minutes submitted by: Approved and accepted: _____

Glen Miller
Project Watershed Coordinator

Zeke Ward

Chairman Next meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday May 3rd at 1:00 PM at the Creede Town Hall.