

WCRC Minutes

May 5, 2004

Intro of members: Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Watershed Coordinator; Zeke Ward, Chairman WCRC; JB Alexander, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Don Dustin, Creede; Mark Walker, CDPHE; Marvin Reynolds, CSU Cooperative Extension; Bob Kirkham, Consultant; Sabrina Forrest, USEPA; Mike Wireman, USEPA; Jim Erdman, Crestone

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the April minutes made by JB Alexander; second made by Bob Kirkham. Motion carried.

Additions/corrections to the agenda: No additions or corrections to the agenda were made.

In-Kind: Forms were provided in hard copy for volunteers to track time and other expenses. Leigh Ann encouraged monthly submission of these forms so that records could be kept current.

Coordinator's Report: Leigh Ann reported that she had submitted a grant to the Colorado Watershed Protection Fund for the flood control project at Windy Gulch.

Leigh Ann and Zeke will be meeting with representatives from Hecla (Creede Resources), EPA, CDPHE, and the City of Creede to discuss a transfer of the floodplain and mill properties. The meeting will be May 12th at EPA offices in Denver. This will be an initial meeting to make sure that everyone is on the same page and to discuss options.

Leigh Ann said that the EPA assessment project was moving along well and that they had the goal of providing a final version to the WCRC on August 4th.

Leigh Ann said that our membership with the Colorado Historical Society was to expire soon. She said that the fee was \$65, but the miscellaneous expenses budget was empty. She said that there still was money under the historical task from the State Historic Fund because several years ago there was an error in that more money was paid out of 319 than necessary. Those SHF and 319 grants have since been closed out successfully, so the money could potentially be re-directed to other historic efforts. Zeke said that the CHS membership fee was a legitimate expense, but that we should confirm with RC&D before we use the funds. Motion to renew the Colorado Historical Society membership made by Chuck Barnes; second made by JB Alexander. Motion carried.

The tentative date for the 2nd annual creek clean-up day will be May 20th. Leigh Ann is trying to arrange the participation of city and county crews, and might need to change the date to

accommodate their schedules.

As requested by Keith Weir at the April meeting, Leigh Ann sent a request to Resonant Shock for a proposal to evaluate the feasibility of using Emperious Tailings in their concrete process.

Leigh Ann said that Charles Downing had donated his copy of ArcView 8 to the Committee. Motion to send Charles a thank you letter made by Chuck Barnes; second made by Mike Wireman. Motion carried.

The re-veg shrub planting on April 26th was very successful with 29 participants. Paul Whitmore's 6th grade class participated and the students were well-behaved and helpful. Leigh Ann sent thank you notes to Paul, the superintendent, and the school board thanking them for allowing student participation.

Old Business:

Silver Moon Assessment: Sabrina Forrest introduced herself as being with the EPA Site Assessment and Brownfields Team. She said that they had become aware of elevated lead and arsenic concentrations in a few soil samples from the Silver Moon trailer park. They believe that the best approach would be to do a pre-CERCLIS screening, which would basically be a preliminary assessment of the property. The plan, if the site owner is willing and the WCRC agrees, is to have a contractor come in and design a sampling plan, which Keith Siddel and the WCRC will review. Zeke said that Keith's primary concerns are that he will be able to do the clean up in phases and that no one will have to move out. Sabrina said that the WCRC should do some outreach to Keith, the residents, and others in Creede so that everyone is aware of what is going on. She said that they would have their toxicologist look at the data they generate to determine the risk to the residents. Mark said that the method CDPHE used in Rico for assessment was XRF. Soil samples were run through a #10 sieve, and more than 5% had to pass through for them to take a reading. Mike said that no single standard for lead or arsenic applies yet, and that we should not try to estimate the hazard based on the few samples. Sabrina said that they would probably do field XRF first, then an EPA method for lab digestion. Mark noted that there are state clean up standards, but that they are not under force of law. Sabrina said that the pre-CERCLIS screening is a way to characterize a site without formally putting it on the inventory. It allows one to find out enough to either move on with clean up or leave it alone. Mike said that the EPA would pay for the screening, and Sabrina said that it was unlikely that they would seek cost recovery for such a small project. Motion for WCRC to approve Sabrina to move ahead with Keith Siddel and the contractors to do the assessment this summer made by Mike Wireman; second made by Chuck Barnes. Mark Walker said that he would abstain from voting. JB raised concern that this action would open the door to Superfund. Mike assured him that Superfund was not the EPA's intent. He said that there were no guarantees, but that there is generally no attention paid to projects that are under \$200,000. Max Dodson supported that approach. Leigh Ann asked what would happen under the worst-case scenario- that there was extensive contamination and Keith Siddel backed out of the clean up. Mike said that an emergency response team would do a removal. He said that they have kept their word so far and that Max's word carries power. Mark said that Max does not control the enforcement side. Sabrina said that enforcement could not come in during a pre-CERCLIS process. She said that Superfund had been pushed aside in the past because the work of the WCRC was going well.

She will leave a copy of an access consent form for Zeke to get Keith Siddel to sign. She will also leave a fact sheet and questionnaire on pre-CERCLIS screening. Zeke took a vote on the previous motion. Motion carried (Mark Walker abstained). Mike asked what the timing of this process would be. Sabrina said that she would like to get her contractors out for on-site recon in the next 2-3 weeks. Zeke said that he would talk to Keith about being available to meet the crew.

Powell EC Treatment System: Zeke briefly described Powell EC water treatment system that uses electrocoagulation to remove contaminants from water. He said that we need to start doing some tests to see what will work for treating Nelson Tunnel water. The Powell system is currently being used in Denver to treat carwash waste at a licensed central wastewater treatment facility. Zeke encouraged Mark, Mike, Jim Herron, and Jeff Graves to visit the site to see the machine. He gave them contact information for Frank Satterlee, a representative for Powell. The basic principle of the machine is to convert sulfides into oxides, which then settle out. These oxides can then be disposed of in a landfill. Frank Satterlee can bring a 1.5 liter unit to a WCRC meeting to run a test on Nelson Tunnel water. Zeke would like the Committee to authorize the expenditure for lab analyses for before and after treatment water samples from the Nelson Tunnel. Frank will pay his travel expenses to come to the WCRC meeting. Don Dustin suggested that we also look at TCLP studies from the oxide precipitates. Zeke suggested that we commit ~\$160 for water samples and invite Frank Satterlee to the June 2nd meeting.

Solomon ideas: Leigh Ann informed the Committee that Jennifer Bush, the student from the School of Mines who was to do the internship on the Solomon wetlands, did not get her funding through the Sussman Fund. Bob suggested that we could still use the expertise of Ron Cohen, who is still interested in the project. Bob said that he had been talking to Ron about coming down in early June to give an overlook and his impressions on the wetlands. At that time they might want to sample the substrate in the cells. Marvin said that he had a hay sampler that might work to collect a core sample from the bottom of the cells. Bob said that the cells originally had additions of hay in the 1st one, woodchips in the 2nd, and mushroom compost and woodchips in the 3rd. Leigh Ann said that she would verify with Kathleen that funding Ron's efforts would be an appropriate expense under the new 319 money. Mike said that he was meeting with an attorney on Tuesday about an AOC (administrative order on consent) for the Solomon. Bob said that Ron would probably come down on the morning of 6/1 to visit the site, and then stay for the meeting on the 2nd. Leigh Ann said that she would check on accommodations.

New Business:

Virginia Christensen Trust: Leigh Ann said that she had applied to the Virginia Christensen Trust for funding outreach efforts for the project. The Trust is organized and run through the City. The proposal is for \$1,500 that will go toward office supplies for outreach materials; phone, website, and email fees; and travel expenses for presentations. Zeke reminded the Committee that Trust money was the first funding that the WCRC received and it was used to hire MFG.

Other:

TAC Recommendations: Zeke said that the TAC had met with Ken Wyley to discuss the

purchase of pipe to carry water from the Nelson Tunnel into the West Drift. Motion to authorize the purchase of pipe for pumping to the West Drift, pending approval of the pipe selection and cost by Jim Herron, made by Chuck Barnes; second made by Mike Wireman. Motion carried. Zeke also said that Ken had been getting bids for a pump and power unit. He found that they could rent one for \$2,600/month. The pump unit sells for \$7,500 and the power unit sells for \$26,000. Ken thought that he could build one for \$7,000. That would make the setup available to the Committee at any time and with no mobilization. Ken's setup would also be multi-purpose with a power take-off. Mike asked if Herron approved of this idea because there would be obvious safety concerns. Zeke said that the TAC asked Ken to get quotes on comparable units and put a proposal together for his costs and time. Mike suggested that we defer to Jim Herron on this. Bob asked what would happen if we abandoned the project mid-way through, and Ken had unrecoverable time and money in his setup. Zeke said that the TAC had also requested that Ken identify other potential uses of his machine. Mike said that we would not be able to make Ken any guarantees.

XRF: Leigh Ann said that the TAC had discussed using field XRF for necessary soil analyses. One idea that Zeke had brought up would be to purchase an XRF. The justification would be that it would have uses in the future for assessment, clean-up, and long-term monitoring of reclamation sites. He said that we would need to identify future uses and evaluate funding options before we could proceed. The Committee decided to gather more information for the next meeting. Leigh Ann said that she would be attending an XRF training on May 11th, and that she would have a better idea of what they were looking at following the training.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2004.

Meeting Adjourned 4:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh Ann Vradenburg