

WCRC Minutes
February 1, 2006

Intro of members: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; JB Alexander, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Merl Jennings, Creede; Jeff Graves, CDMG; Jim Herron, CDMG; Mark Walker, CDPHE; Kathleen Reilly, CDPHE; Cindy Villa, NRCS; Phil Bethke, USGS; Mike Wireman, US EPA; Max Dodson, US EPA; Nat Miullo, US EPA; Kelley Thompson, WCRC Director; Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Director Emeritus

Approval of minutes: No corrections to the January minutes were proposed. Motion to approve the January minutes made by Merl; second made by Mike. Motion carried.

Additions/corrections to the agenda: No additions/corrections to the agenda were proposed.

In-Kind: Zeke encouraged monthly submission of forms to track in-kind time and expenses.

Reports:

EPA Award:

The EPA representatives presented an EPA Environmental Achievement Award to Leigh Ann for her dedicated work for the committee and for Willow Creek. Max Dodson, Mire Wireman, and Nat Miullo all talked about their experiences with Leigh Ann and how impressed they were with her work. They presented a Leigh Ann a signed certificate and a plaque.

Director's Report:

Kelley thanked Kathleen for facilitating the purchase of the pH meter to replace the broken meter using the 319 characterization funds. Kelley and Merl recently collected TMDL samples from the Bachelor Shaft and Nelson Tunnel portal. These were potentially the last TMDL samples needed, and Mike Wireman will pass the data on to Kathleen and Andrew Ross as soon as it is available. Andrew will produce a draft TMDL document that will be presented to the committee for review. In July 2007, the Rio Grande segments will come before the Water Quality Control Commission for reauthorization, and then be recommended to the EPA.

Kelley presented the final reports of the Nelson Tunnel Water Management Feasibility Study from McLaughlin Rincon. McLaughlin made a few changes from the draft; Kelley will discuss with Jim Herron McLaughlin's responses to his comments. Kelley had McLaughlin produce 10 paper copies for distribution. Kelley is about half done with the XRF analysis for the soil samples from the fairgrounds site collected by AGS. He will hopefully finish the samples in the next few weeks.

Old Business

Stream gauge:

During January, Les Dobson worked to gain approval to use a portion of the Forest Service characterization funds for a stream gauge for the existing gauge house at the flume entrance. Steve Yochum and Kelley investigated prices for electronic float-type, pressure transducer - datalogger, and gas bubbler - datalogger systems; as well as pH and conductivity sensors in conjunction with datalogger systems. There was a concern about the long-term reliability and maintenance of the pressure transducer and gas bubbler systems and the pH/conductivity sensors. Jim Herron made a motion to purchase an electronic float-type stream gauge system, and Merl seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kathleen abstaining. There was also discussion about the need for a better access bridge and a heater potentially on a solar cell to keep the well

from freezing. It was decided to further investigate these options before making a decision. JB will consider bridge options.

MCFA Wetland Issues – CDOT, grants:

Zeke reviewed the possibility of installing mitigation wetlands for CDOT and wetland banking on the fairgrounds property. Kelley mentioned that CDOT was also looking at wetland mitigation on property that they owned further down in the valley, and CDOT had some concerns over whether they could actually make a payment to the WCRC or MCFA to construct and monitor the wetlands. The MCFA would also like to move the strip of wetlands that has grown in the city's wastewater effluent. Kelley will help document the area of wetlands using the infrared imagery that he took, and the MCFA hopes to build an equal area of wetlands closer to the lagoons. Kelley noted that the Colorado Coalition of Counties was accepting applications for a wetland construction grant that could potentially be used to move and protect these wetlands. The application is due in early March. The committee thought Kelley could try to submit an application for this grant on behalf of the MCFA.

New Business:

MCFA soil sampling funding:

Kelley recently received an invoice from AGS for fairgrounds work that was presented to the MCFA in October. The majority of the invoice referenced tasks in the EPA brownfields grant and could be paid from that source. However, \$816 was for soil sampling that could not be paid by the grant. As this bill was for work prior to December 31, Kelley wondered if the remaining 319 characterization funds could be used. He will talk further with Kathleen about this issue. Kelley also had to purchase about \$300 in supplies to run the samples through the XRF machine. Kathleen moved and Jim Matush seconded to have the committee pay the AGS bill on behalf of the MCFA with the possibility that the WCRC potentially may not be reimbursed for the soil sampling expenses. The motion passed with Mark Walker abstaining.

Colorado Preservation Luncheon:

Kelley noted that the Colorado Preservation Luncheon to announce the list of Most Endangered Historic Places will be held on February 10 in Denver. An announcement asked for RSVP's for representatives of the committee who wanted to attend the luncheon. Zeke mentioned that he and several others from Creede had already RSVP'ed for the luncheon. Mark Walker asked Kelley to RSVP for him so that he could attend.

Bench Scale Lime Treatment:

JB had previously described his expected activities to test the effectiveness of lime to remove zinc from Nelson Tunnel water during the discussion of the McLaughlin report. Kelley noted that he was hoping to use funds remaining in the Nelson treatment grant to pay for expenses and lab analysis for a limited number of metals by Sangre de Cristo labs. JB would try to do much of the experiment during February.

The next meeting will be March 1, 2006. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Thompson