

WCRC Minutes September 6, 2006

Intro of members: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Kathryn Mutz, C.U. Natural Resource Law Center and Co. Riparian Association – South Fork; Don Dustin, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Phil Bethke, Retired USGS – Creede; Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Dept. of Reclamation Mining and Safety); Marvin Reynolds, CSU Extension; Les Dobson, US Forest Service; Kelley Thompson, WCRC Director

Approval of minutes: Kelley posted the August minutes the night before the meeting. Therefore, approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Reports:

Director's Report:

Kelley reported that members of the committee helped present a very successful field trip with the Colorado Field Institute on August 26. Members provided numerous presentations throughout the watershed to 46 participants, and it was great way to get out the word about the activities of the committee. The CFI was going to share half of the income (about \$500) with the committee, and there was interest for future presentations. The committee could potentially try to facilitate a trip more for Creede summer residents.

Kelley and Les worked with an excavator to build up a bank to prevent East Willow Creek from entering the old channel by the outlet mine. Les would like to plant willow throughout the old channel next spring. They also placed some rock reinforcement down the new channel, and placed some rocks to prevent camping at "JB's" park. Kelley took the excavator to work on the culvert crossing below the Phoenix Mill Site, but realized the county had just removed the beaver dam and fixed the road. Kelley also had an excavator work on the channel below the Windy Gulch culvert and on the levee extension. Kelley still needs to do some hand work on the channel, resurvey the area, and write a final report to finalize the Windy Gulch project.

Kelley mentioned that he had received the Forest Service Cost Share Agreement for the Last Chance / Amethyst project. Kelley also mentioned that the EPA is accepting proposals for large grants to improve water quality due in November. Without Good Samaritan, it would be tough to start on the Nelson, but potentially it could be used for the stream restoration. The project is a little premature without having Steve Yochum's report or the watershed plan completed, but we could potentially think about trying to compete for the grant. Zeke recommended talking more to Mike Wireman, Mark Walker, or Steve Yochum about the project.

Old Business:

Director Hiring:

Kelley advertised the position in the Valley Courier for 20 days and through the CWA, River Network, CSU, CU, and Rio de la Vistas local email list. Rio just learned that none of her emails had gone out for the past month, and resent the email the previous week. We received 2 applications by the original deadline. The committee recommended extending the application deadline to give people contacted through Rios list sufficient time to apply. Zeke asked for volunteers to be on the hiring committee to interview applicants. Don and Les volunteered and suggested that Merl Jennings had hiring experience and would be good. Zeke would contact Merl to see if he was willing to help interview. Ali Morse, one of the applicants, was leaving

soon and hoped to have an interview within the next week. Zeke was busy but could potentially be available late in the next week. Zeke would call the two applicants to have initial conversations and see when they might be available for interviews.

Dewatering Project:

Jeff discussed the progress of the dewatering project. He talked to Ken Wyley about the project. Jeff is worried that Ken doesn't currently have insurance, but he's working to try to connect him with some carriers. Jeff is still trying to discuss the contracting details with Jim Mietz.

Stream Gauge Station:

Kelley tried to dig out the plugged low flow pipe from the gauge station by hand, but hadn't been able to find the pipe. The stream cobble was more difficult to work through than Kelley envisioned, and he was frustrated that he didn't have the excavator try to scratch around although it may be difficult to get a machine in. Jim thought that we could use a pump and a water nozzle to try to clean out the pipe.

New Business:

Water Sampling and Supplies:

Mike Wireman is thinking of sampling for isotopes at locations underground and around the Commodore pile. Barb Horn with Riverwatch wanted to know if the committee wanted to do a fall low flow sampling. Flows have remained relatively high with the rain, and Kelley would not be available in October. The committee didn't feel it really had pressing questions at this point to evaluate through a large scale water sampling, and decided not have a water sampling event this fall.

Kelley mentioned that he was thinking that we could use remaining funds in the Forest Service Characterization Grant to replace some water sampling supplies. The committee thought that was a good idea. It was also suggested to use the funding for air meters for underground work.

The next meeting will be October 4, 2006. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Thompson