

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

Present: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Mark Walker, CDPHE (Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment); Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety) Don Dustin, Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Tom Schillaci, Durango; Jim Matush, Creede; Merl Jennings, Creede; Les Dobson, USFS (US Forest Service); Jim Mietz, SLV RC&D (San Luis Valley Resource, Conservation & Development); and Ali Morse, WCRC Coordinator.

Approval of minutes: There were no corrections to the February minutes; the motion to approve them was made by Merl and seconded by Don. Motion carried.

Reports:

Coordinator's Report

Ali reported that she attended the SLV Wetlands FAC and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meetings in Alamosa. At the latter WCRC was added to the list of priority projects. Don, Les, and Ali attended a free HAZWOPER refresher course in Durango, which was very informative.

The renewal for the Colorado Riparian Association membership has come due. The committee asked Ali to investigate the benefits of the membership before paying the \$150 renewal fee. Mark W. made a motion to table the decision until Ali heard back from the organization regarding the benefits of membership. Don seconded and the motion carried. Ali then asked the committee if they would prefer a cash refund of \$225 or a credit with MSA for \$360 for the three recalled self-contained self rescuers devices WCRC owns. Jeff made the motion to take the cash, Merl seconded, and the motion carried.

Ali shared Leigh Ann's Christmas card and photos, which she admitted was long overdue. She also mentioned the article in the *The Mineral County Miner* on the Nelson Tunnel Dewatering, and an upcoming article in the *Creede Magazine* covering the activities of WCRC. There is an upcoming Colorado Watershed Assembly Mining Subcommittee meeting for group coordinators on March 26, which Zeke said he was planning to attend. Ali then reported that to use the drawing of the Commodore from CPI (Commodore Preservation, Inc.) would cost \$100 for a "single use copyright." Merl made the motion to pay the \$100 to get the copyright, Mark W. seconded it, and the motion carried. Ali also mentioned that WCRC has paid sales tax on purchases in the past, but she has used SLV RC&D's sales tax exempt certificate to avoid paying sales tax in all transactions, saving the committee hundreds of dollars. Mark W. thought there was some problem with just giving a vendor the sales tax exempt number and will report back with details at the next meeting.

Lastly, Ali informed the committee of her resignation; she will be leaving the end of April. Carishma Gokhale, who was the committee's second choice for Kelley's replacement, is still available for full-time employment. The committee agreed to ask Kelley first if he wanted his job back. Ali said she had ordered the all-in-one machine but she would take it with her, so there is no additional cost to WCRC.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported that the Hitchcock Foundation will pay for the publication a WCRC prospectus. David and Amanda Basler of *Creede Magazine* will be working on the prospectus and a new logo.

TAC Report

Zeke reported that the VCUP application for the MCFA (Mineral County Fairgrounds Assoc.) is in its final stage of correction input. Jeff, Les, and Ali will discuss Amethyst details via phone and email over the next few weeks. Regarding the Rio Grande water standards and the WQCC (Water Quality Control Commission), we currently don't have enough data to make a strong case to recommend changes. The TAC will put together a sampling and analysis plan with input from Kathleen Reilly and Phil Hegeman at WQCD. For 2007 water sampling on Willow Creek, about 20 sample sites were identified by the committee, with costs estimated at \$1000 to sample one metal. Jeff made a motion to spend up to \$1000 on spring water sampling, subject to approval from the EPA lab to complete the analyses for free. Don seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Nelson Pilot Dewatering Project

Jeff stated that the dewatering project was overall a success; they were able to dewater the Del Monte winze (shaft) and a good portion of the crosscut, but were unable to access the Nelson/Wooster Tunnel due to a collapse. This prevented them from accessing the upper mine pool, though they did take many water quality samples. The flow within the mine essentially did not change, though the Berkshire Shaft demonstrated a subtle draw down and then recharge. Jeff discussed many options to be considered.

Tom Schillaci video

Tom showed the 9-minute "first draft" of his Nelson Pilot Dewatering video. A few corrections were noted. Tom had offered to do this first video without charge but did submit an invoice stating the total project value at \$3,044.18. He is out of pocket \$1006.68 and Ali felt it was important to find funds to pay Tom for his time and expenses.

Fundraising

Mark W. reported that the committee had not met in a while, admitted it had not been very successful in fundraising, and didn't have any plans at the moment. Ali added that SLV RC&D has a grant writer available for WCRC. Jim Mietz said the charge is \$30/hour. Zeke said the prospectus would be helpful.

Internship

Ali had spoken with two professors at Adams State College, as well as an interested student. She published announcements of the internship in the local papers and secured housing at the USFS bunkhouse for \$135/month. The \$5500 from Loretta Pineda is still available for the internship.

New Business:

Adopt-a-Highway

There is a segment of Highway 149 between mile markers 20 and 21 that is open for adoption. The adoption requires watching a safety video, following safety rules, and cleanup 2-4 times/year. Don moved to adopt the highway, JB seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ali Morse