

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

Present: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety); Mark Walker, CDPHE (Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment); Erik Sandvik, Creede; Don Dustin, Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Erika McNulty, WCRC Intern; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

Approval of minutes: JB pointed out that some names were misspelled in the July minutes, Betuke was changed to Bethke. Erik moves to approve the minutes from July 11, 2007 as amended, Mark seconds. Motion carries.

Additions/corrections to agenda: "Mark Walker's Report" was added under "Reports", and "Redefine Focus" was added under "New Business".

Reports:

Director's Report

About 11 contractors were present at the pre-bid meetings for the Amethyst and Last Chance projects. The bid submittal and opening was on July 24, 2007.

Carishma attended the Rio Grande Water Conservation District meeting on July 17, 2007. She is considering doing a small presentation at their next meeting, with updates of the Committee's work over the summer.

Erika set up a booth representing the WCRC at the 100 year celebration of the Rio Grande Reservoir event, at Adams State College, and informed the attendants about WCRC's history, and current projects. Carishma reported that the three-panel display needs to be updated, and suggested using some of the money designated to the internship program for material costs. Jeff moves to use some of the internship program money on updating the board, Mark seconds. Motion carries.

A telephone to replace Ali's personal phone was purchased for the office.

Carishma has also been working on the MCFA Brownfields grant, writing progress reports, and working on getting a contractor for the project. EPA will be presenting the MCFA story at the National Summit for Mining Communities in Leadville in September.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported that the City met with the EPA on July 30 to discuss the Nelson Tunnel and Commodore pile. He will be doing a presentation about WCRC on August 3, at the Rock and Mineral show.

TAC Report

Amethyst/Last Chance Bid Awards: It is the recommendation of the TAC to the WCRC to select the lowest bidders for the Amethyst and Last Chance projects, SLV Earth Movers and MKX, respectively. It was also recommended that milestones be placed in each contract so that the projects are completed on schedule. Specifically, if MKX failed to remain on schedule, then it is recommended by the TAC to contract SLV Earth Movers to finish the work on the Last Chance. Mark moves to approve awarding the bid to the lowest bidders with certain conditions, Jeff seconds. Motion carries.

May 2007 Water Sampling Results: The May 2007 water results were discussed. It was noted that the sulfate results for the Nelson Tunnel were not reported on the EPA results. Carishma is going to contact the EPA lab to determine why the results were not included. An increase in concentration in both braids of Willow Creek is apparent.

Fall Water Sampling Event: The advice of the TAC is to come up with a focused Sample Analysis Plan (SAP) for the fall, to help identify the source of the increase. Since the status of the Commodore pile project is uncertain, it would be a better use of WCRC resources to focus on water quality above the Commodore, and water quality of the Creek below town.

Carishma enquired about the cost involved in River Watch (RW) helping out with sampling. Zeke noted that in the past, WCRC has paid RW for assisting with the sampling process. JB reported that RW takes a long time to return sample results. Carishma would ask Mike Wireman if they would be willing to run the fall samples. She would also find out RW's fee. The TAC was given the task of finalizing a SAP for the fall. JB moves to approve conducting a fall sampling event, Don seconds. Motion carries.

WCRC video: The TAC had no recommendations about the WCRC video. Jeff discussed the idea of the WCRC video with his boss, Loretta. She suggested putting out a RFP. Jeff would email a set of guidelines and a list of videographers to Carishma.

Mark Walker's Report

Mark reported that HECLA had recently submitted a Voluntary Clean Up Plan (VCUP), and that it is going to be implementing a VCUP.

Old Business:

Commodore/EPA

The EPA proposed listing the Commodore pile along with the Nelson Tunnel (NT), since NT alone doesn't pose a potential human health risk, and adding the Commodore pile would improve its ranking. The City of Creede is seeking WCRC's advice and comments on their draft letter to the governor. Clyde provided the Committee with copies of the draft letter. The Committee expressed several concerns, and comments and suggestions were made including, protection of the City's water rights, the issue of focused listing by the EPA with reasonable assurances, and the assurance of future funding. Carishma will incorporate the Committee's comments, and email it out to the TAC and Clyde. Don moves to approve the recommendations made by the Committee to the City of Creede, JB seconds. Motion carries. Mark Walker and Jeff Graves abstain from the vote.

MCFA

Bid submittal and opening for the MCFA VCUP project is on August 7 at 1:00 PM in Creede City Hall. Carishma will look into the contract with AGS to determine AGS's responsibilities on commencement of construction. Carishma confirmed that Don is still certified to collect soil samples from the site, and reported that Kelly has agreed to test the samples off-site.

New Business:

Redefine the focus

Due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the Nelson Tunnel, the Committee decided to redefine the focus of WCRC, to ensure that efforts will result in the greatest impact. It isn't cost-effective to do much sampling at the Commodore and Nelson Tunnel, because of EPA's involvement. The focus of WCRC's efforts should be on the flood plain, below town, in the canyon, the head of the flume, and other areas along West Willow Creek.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next meeting will be on September 5, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika McNulty