

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, September 3, 2008
1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

Present: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Ginger Alexander, Creede; Don Dustin, Creede; Erik Sandvik, Creede; Jim Mietz, SLV RC&D D (San Luis Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council); Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety); JB Alexander, Creede; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; Laura Archuleta, FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service); Mark Walker, CDPHE (Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment); Phil Bethke, Creede; Charlotte Bobicki, Regional Representative, Senator Salazar; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

Approval of minutes: JB moves to approve the minutes from August 6, 2008, Erik seconds. Motion carries.

Additions/corrections to agenda: "Targeted Brownfields Assessment" was added under New Business.

Reports:

Director's Report

Carishma and Jeff did a site visit to all the Forest Service projects along with Diann Gese and Phil Reinholtz for two Forest Service Region 2 staff on August 12. Suzanne Buntrock is the environmental engineer of the program that funds the Last Chance, and Holly Filniau is the CERCLA field manager.

Brianna Gunn and Tim Bosco from URS had a meeting to go over the Commodore ERP design. Zeke, Jim Matush, Rex and Carishma were present. Carishma shared the designs with the Committee. Jeff had some concerns with the design, including the design of the wall just upstream the Commodore. He will follow up with URS and Mike Wireman directly.

Carishma asked for comments on the interpretive signs before they are finalized. She is working to finalize the 319 Stream Restoration Project Implementation Plan. Carishma and Jeff also updated the Committee on the Amethyst and Last Chance work.

Chairman's Report

Zeke was intermittently present at the meeting since he was working on the VCUP at the MCFA site. He reported briefly on the progress at the site.

ERP Update:

No one was present from EPA, but Carishma updated the Committee that the NPL listing of the Nelson Tunnel has been finalized.

Old Business:

Biological Assessment: Carishma shared the quote from ACZ labs and Laura briefed the Committee on the number of volunteers required, gear, etc. required for the biological assessment. Creede Resources made a donation of \$5,000 to the Committee and requested that part of it be used to carry out biological assessment, which is scheduled for the week of September 22.

WCRC Celebration: Ginger presented the catering plans for the upcoming celebration, and will let Carishma know if she needs any help. The Committee finalized the speakers and logistics for the site tour in the afternoon. Kevin Hintz will not be able to help with the event, but will be present later in the afternoon. Carishma had an exit interview with him before he left.

JB moves to give Kevin an Appreciation Award of \$500 for his enthusiasm and willingness to work, Erik seconds. Motion carries.

Lower Willow Creek Stream Restoration - Re-vegetation plots: Carishma requested Laura Archuleta to head up the team focusing on establishing a nursery and other re-vegetation efforts in the floodplain. Laura reported that she is involved with similar re-vegetation efforts in other watersheds, and would be happy to take the lead.

Carishma reported that she will be presenting at the Roundtable meeting on September 9. It will be a brief presentation to familiarize the Roundtable with our project, before the final presentation.

New Business:

Targeted Brownfields Assessment: Mark Walker reported that there is no definite settlement in the Wason Ranch lawsuit as yet. CDPHE still does not have access to the property to undertake characterization. He is in conversation with Paul Glader, and is hoping to come to an agreement with Hecla lawyers soon.

Adjourn:

Don moves to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconds. The meeting adjourned; the next meeting will be October 1, 2008 at 1:00 PM, with a TAC meeting preceding it at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carishma Gokhale-Welch