

**WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**  
**1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall**

**Present:** Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Don Dustin, Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; Jim McBride, Creede; Bruce Van Haveren, Consultant; Jim Matush, Creede; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

**Approval of minutes:** Don moves to approve the minutes from September 3, 2008 and October 1, 2008, Rex seconds. Motion carries.

**Additions/corrections to agenda:** No additions/corrections to the agenda.

**Reports:**

Director's Report

Carishma reported on the water sampling event that was carried out 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October and thanked all the volunteers that were present. In addition to the usual WCRC volunteers, several people from FS/BLM and Rio Grande Silver also helped out. More details in Laura's report.

Carishma is working to close out the 5 mines project, the Amethyst and Last Chance project and the Watershed Plan. All the goals of the 5 mine project have been accomplished successfully, including finalizing the interpretive signs. There is still some work to be completed at the Amethyst and Last Chance site, but the grant deadline unexpectedly came up, and the 319 grant has to be closed. Since CDRMS and Forest Service grants still have sufficient fund to close out the project successfully, Carishma is trying to facilitate moving the unused funds (close to \$100,000) to the stream restoration project. She is still to hear from Kathleen about the possibility.

Carishma requested a letter of support for the Roundtable grant (stream restoration project) from CDRMS, CDPHE, and FWS. Jeff, Mark and Laura agreed to write support letters for WCRC.

Carishma announced her resignation as Director WCRC. Her husband has been offered a Fulbright scholarship to India, and she is moving with him to India end-November/early December for nine months. Carishma also reported that Kelley is willing to assist with the Stream Restoration project, and other WCRC tasks on a part-time basis. The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring a VISTA volunteer to overlap with Carishma before she leaves. Zeke proposed letting Carishma work from India on final reports and other immediate tasks that need to be completed. JB moves to pay Carishma at an hourly fee for the work she carries out in India; to pay Kelley an hourly fee for his work in the future; and to pursue a VISTA volunteer; Mark seconds. Motion carries.

Jim, JB and Don agreed to be part of the hiring committee (along with Carishma and input from Zeke) for selecting a VISTA volunteer.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported on the MCFA VCUP. Dirt moving operations will be completed next week; they will plant grass and hydromulch the week after. He also updated the Committee on the settlement on the Wason Ranch lawsuit.

ERP Update: Peggy Linn

Peggy reported that the ERP work is proceeding as per plan, and that the contractors are waiting to install the culverts, which are yet to arrive. JB asked what the downstream extent was going to be, Peggy will have to confirm and get back to the Committee.

**Old Business:**

Roundtable grant

Discussed under Director's report.

Future water sampling protocol

Discussed under Director's report.

**New Business:**

No new business.

**Adjourn:**

Rex moves to adjourn the meeting, Don seconds. The meeting adjourned; the next meeting will be December 3, 2008 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carishma Gokhale-Welch