

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Don Dustin, Creede; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Bruce Van Haveren, Consultant; Mark Walker, CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment); Laura Archuleta, FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service); Jim Matush, Creede; Kelley Thompson, Agro/WCRC; Phil Reinholtz, USFS (United States Forest Service); Diann Gese, RGNF (Rio Grande National Forest); Kathleen Murphy, OSM/Vista- Western Hardrock Watershed Team, WCRC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December minutes were amended. The TBA update: Mark Walker was changed to "The purpose of the sampling efforts was to give the City of Creede a better understanding of the extent of contamination in the floodplain area. Based on Steve Yochum's aeriels, 25 samples were taken every 100 feet on the west side of the floodplain. Mark shared the results of the sampling effort with the Committee. ***In short: no hidden banks of tails were uncovered, but numerous sample location had stratified lenses of tailings, none in excess of 12 inches thick.***

Rex moves to approve the November minutes and the amended December minutes. Don seconds, and the motion passes.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: Floodplain nursery sites were added under old business and administrative procedures/checking account signatures was to be included in director's report.

REPORTS:

Director's Report:

Kathleen has been getting out to various county and city meetings to feel the pulse of the community. In addition she has been reading various materials around the office to familiarize herself with the committee and projects.

Kelley has been handling the accounting side, working on 319 grants- RC&D need to pay MKX about \$10,000, and he has been working on the watershed plan.

It was decided to add a second signer to the Miners & Merchants bank account. JB volunteered. Mark moves that JB be the second signer, Don seconds, and the motion passes. It was also decided that a financial report/budget would be prepared monthly by JB and/or Don and passed out with the agenda each meeting.

There was a brief discussion about some of the problems with RC&D. The Committee would like to change the financial institution to the City of Creede. Zeke

will discuss this option with Pam and will present this possibility of the City Council on January 13.

For the floodplain project and 319 grant, the floodplain land cannot belong to a private owner. The Committee has been approved for \$398,000, provided the floodplain land is not privately owned. The Committee would like to see the land transferred to the City of Creede. Another possibility is the creation of a 501c(3), which would serve as an extension of The Committee. It was suggested this non-profit would include a representatives from Hecla, Creede Resources, and WCRC. Zeke will discuss with the City the transfer of land and Mark will talk with Kathleen Riley about the possibility of a Hecla rep sitting on the Board of Directors.

Chairmen's Report: The monitoring of the Nelson Tunnel continues. The EPA has left for the season and will return in the spring. Less then 3 months of work for emergency response. The Creede EPA funds will not be diminished because of the Leadville project.

TAC Report: Kelley presented some of his watershed plans. There was discussion about Wendy Gulch and where it disappears to. IF a reasonable assumption can be made that the illumination inflow from Wendy Gulch will improve, then Wendy Gulch will be considered as part of the watershed plan. The TAC will present final report to The Committee. Individual comments will be included in watershed plan, and when applicable, modifications will be made based on new data. The TAC also discussed the idea of a liner, and decided it was not a good idea. Kathleen will be composing a letter to send to the round table, and circulate to the TAC for comments prior to submission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nursery Sites: GPS coordinates of 5 sites for plantings were sent to Carishma. Kathleen will produce map of locations. Zeke is looking into Willow balls to transplant, since they have big root masses they will provide stability. Stewart Jennings is THE riparian vegetation stability guy and is very intrigued by the WCRC project. Laura suggested he may be interested in visiting in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

External Hard Drive: The current hard drive is on the fritz. JB moved that The Committee spend up to \$200 for a new external hard drive. Rex seconded, and the motion passed. Kathleen will work w Kelley and Jim on the specifics of the hard drive.

Rent: It was suggested that The Committee pay the rent at the forest service bunk house for the VISAT. Rent is \$4.50/day. JB moves to pay the rent, Jim seconds and the motion passes.

Workshops/Training: Reminder of the RGWCD BoD meeting Jan 20th in Alamosa. Kathleen and Zeke will attend.

Great Outdoors Colorado will be hosting a free grant writing workshop Jan 14th in Durango. Kathleen would like to attend. Rex moves that The Committee reimburse Kathleen for mileage. Don amends motion to also include lodging for one night since the workshop begins at 9am. Laura seconds the amended motion and the motion passes.

There will be a Western Hardrock Watershed Team training for VISTAS and two members of the watershed community April 27-29. WHWT will cover mileage reimbursement along with lodging.

Don reminded folks that HAZWOPER re-certification will probably be held in Durango in Feb, for those interested.

Bruce is finishing work and will finalize in the spring the comparable streams and Willow Creek relation. Kathleen will email The Committee his findings thus far.

The next Committee meeting will be February 4th at 1pm. TAC TBD.

Rex moves to conclude meeting and the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy