

# WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT: JB Alexander, Creede; Kathleen Murphy, WHWT; Phil Bethke, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Jan Crawford, Creede; Jim Loud, Creede; Kelley Thompson, Agro/WCRC; Phil Reinholtz, USFS; Zeke Ward, Creede; Peggy Linn, EPA; Bruce Van Haveren, Volunteer; Steve Way, EPA; Marianna Young, SLV RC&D; Jim McBride, Creede

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Phil B. motioned to approve the minutes, JB seconds. The motion passed.

## ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

- SLV RC&D Report to be presented with Financial Report
- EPA added under reports, item F.

## REPORTS:

Director's Report/Chairman's Report : Zeke has been in contact with Carishma. Her husband's scholarship has been extended for three additional months. They would like to return to the Valley provided her husband is able to find work. She would like to return as the Director, and understands if the Committee wants to fill the position. Kelley is available to be a part-time director. The discussion will continue under old business: VISTA year 2. Zeke also reported that the Colorado Water Conservation Board awarded WCRC \$200,000 and WCRC received \$50,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Fund Account. The CWCB did have some concerns with RC&D being the fiscal agent. The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association has offered to act as the fiscal agent, in the event that a non-profit is not created between the City of Creede and Creede Resources, Inc. Zeke met with the City of Creede Mayor, City Manager, and Creede Resources, Inc and hopefully the non-profit will be created by the end of October. Zeke will also be reaching out the CWCB regarding upcoming deliverables regarding the \$200,000. Carishma is still working a few reports for WCRC. In addition, Kelley will email Zeke and Kathleen the revised grant applications that Carishma has been working on. Kelley feels they may need an additional revision.

Chairman's Report: combined with Director's Report.

TAC Report: The EPA Lab has a new director. Going forward, WCRC should contact Mike Wireman six weeks prior to water sampling events so that the lab may be prepared and the proper paperwork is submitted. The lab is looking for the WCRC coolers; going forward it was suggested that water samples should be submitted a Styrofoam cooler. There was a discussion as to where to sample additionally.

VISTA Report: Kathleen reported that the contract with b4 studios has been signed and that work on the movie (which is using Virginia Christian Trust Fund

monies) is underway. They have pinpointed local footage area and are working on creating the storyboard along with finalizing the interviewee list. Kathleen also spent time working with Don and Phil preparing for the Annual Meeting. A lesson was learned, going forward, since the WCRC by-laws state that there will be an annual meeting, that these types of public meetings have more of a turn out when they are on a work night versus a Friday night.

Financial Report/RC&D Report: “We have money” JB reported. JB motioned that both bank accounts be combined. Kelley seconded. Zeke will ensure that there are not any auto drafts that need to be transferred to the Miners & Merchant account before the Valley account is closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Marianna Young reported that according to RC&D, they had \$16,585 of WCRC monies (VCTF and RGWCBoD). Zeke and Kelley will be meeting to determine the amount of monies RC&D should have according to WCRC records, and then meet with RC&D to discuss, since Kelley thought that WCRC had almost double that amount. Zeke will also contact RGWCBoD to determine where and when the \$20,000 they approved to give WCRC for 2009.

Marianna also informed WCRC that Jim Meitz retired in July; she will be in this position till November. SLV RC&D is in the process of interviewing applicants to fill this position, and should have a full time person by December.

EPA Report: Steve Way reported that the channelization is underway. They are about half way done around the dump and are also working up from the lower end. Drop structures will help dissipate the energy during high water events. Rip rap is being installed to help stabilize the bank. They hope to be finished by the end of the month. Also, all construction of the channel has been completed by the inlet.

Peggy Linn reported that they are about to begin the Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and that contractor(s) are in place.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

VISTA Year 2/Director: Kelley can act as an acting director, would like to focus more on project management of the lower floodplain project, in the event that Carishma doesn't return.

Zeke pointed out that the VISTA contract could be modified at any time and that they didn't have to continue with the program if they were to hire a full time director. Two decisions needed to be made: should WCRC continue with the VISTA program and should Kathleen be the second year VISTA. A discussion ensued regarding the roll of the VISTA. Jan motioned that the contract not be modified and that WCRC continue with the VISTA program. Jim McBride seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Bruce suggested upon the start of year two the contract be reviewed along with the VISTA Assignment Description

to ensure obligations are being met. There was one negative vote. WCRC will continue with VISTA. Jim McBride motioned that Kathleen be kept as the VISTA, Jim Loud seconded, and the motion passed.

CWCB : In the event that monies awarded were not mentioned, this was on the agenda to ensure that communication.

NEW BUSINESS:

Colorado Watershed Assembly Board Vote: Since WCRC is a member of CWA, they have been asked to take part in the upcoming board vote. Kathleen will forward the email to the group, the group will provide insight, and Zeke will cast the WCRC vote.

River Rally 2010, Snowbird UT: Workshop proposals are due October 22. WCRC decided to not take part in this event.

Before conclusion of the meeting, Kathleen mentioned that the interpretive signs should come down for the winter and may be calling upon some folks to help.

Jim Matush motioned that we adjourn, Jim McBride seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy