

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT:; Kathleen Murphy, WHWT; Jim Matush, Creede; Zeke Ward, Creede; Phil Reinholtz, USFS; Rex Sheperd, Creede; Don Dustin, Creede; Jim McBride, Creede

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

REPORTS:

Director's Report: Kathleen read an email from Kelley. The City of Creede has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the 319 grant along with the CWCB money. They will charge an admin fee of \$35 per hour. The MKX invoices for the work completed at the Last Chance/Amy sight have been paid. Checks were mailed to Kelley which were then sent to MKX via certified mail. On the same topic, Kathleen reported that the final invoice has been received and mailed to RC&D and that it should be paid Jan. 25. The money from the RGWCDBoD was requested and check mailed to Kelley. He suggested that if the Community Bank account had not been closed, that that account be used for salaries, and the RGWCDBoD money be deposited in that account and the local Miners & Merchant account be used for daily expenses. Zeke will transfer all but \$100 from the Community Bank to the Miners & Merchant account. From Kelley's email, "Concerning progression of the 319 grant contract, Lucia requested that we submit a letter from the SLV RC&D requesting that they NOT be the fiscal sponsor and request that the fiscal grant sponsor be changed to the City of Creede. She feels that this is necessary for the EPA. I believe this is a tough request, as we are continuing to work with SLV RC&D, and I think they would chose to keep the grant and the related administrative moneys if they had the choice. I emailed Lucia a request to allow the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee to submit a letter requesting the sponsor changed, but I don't have high hopes that it will be sufficient for her." Kathleen also read an email from Clyde, the City Manager, clarifying that at this time, the City is only interested in being the fiscal agent for grants that apply directly to the Creede Resources, Inc. clean-up south of town. If the City were to accept other grants that do not pertain to the project below town, Trustee approval would be needed before spending, and that could be extremely cumbersome for all parties involved.

Chairman's Report: N/A

TAC Report: N/A

VISTA Report: Kathleen reported on a funding opportunity available by Pepsi. The deadline for submission is Jan. 13, and since projects need to have a 501 status, it was suggested that a request be made to the Mineral County Fairgrounds Association in terms of sponsorship for this funding source. There could be some design work that would benefit both organizations. Rex motioned that this opportunity be perused, Don seconded,

and the motion passed. Kathleen and Kara will be touching base in three weeks regarding the status of the movie. A tree was submitted in the Community Center's Christmas Tree Walk. Finally, Kathleen reported that her VISTA year of service ended on December 12th, and due to circumstances beyond her control, the second year of service will begin February 15th. In the interim, she is serving as an intern to the Office of Surface Mining. Don motioned that the Committee continue to assist with rent during this intern period, Jim McBride seconded, and the motion passed.

Financial Report: n/a

OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed Director: Zeke will email Carishma.

Creede Resources, Inc (CRI) Property : Rex and Kathleen presented on the report Eric Heil presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Eric outlined the process of annexation, which will take about four months. The non-profit will be easy to form; need by-laws and this should be underway in about a month or so to fit in with the annexation. In terms of funding, a letter was sent to CDPH by the City of Creede stating that the city will be the fiscal agent for the 319 money. CRI is more comfortable with this. The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) needs to be updated (along with input from CRI); this will probably take two months. Once the PIP is updated, it will be sent to the CDPH for review, which will take one-two months, and then to the EPA. Since the EPA isn't as busy in April/May, there is a good chance that it will take them one month to review and approve, and then begins the contract process. Ideally, contractors will be in place June/July. Design work may be done during this processes, however, dirt work cannot begin until ownership is in the City's hands (since they are the fiscal agent). The 319 money expires June 2012. While most work should occur in one construction season, it is recommended that two construction seasons be allowed. Another option for the floodplain is a conservation easement, which is okay with the grantors; however, it is in the best interest of the City to own the land. Eric also mentioned seeing some DOLA funds for the design work. Finally, since the plan is to keep the land open space versus residential space, there may not need to be a Voluntary Clean-Up, and due to institutional controls, receive No Further Action status

NEW BUSINESS:

Seedling Program: Don reminded folks of his offer to purchase seedlings from the Colorado State Forest Service and grow them in his greenhouse until they were mature enough for planting. After a brief discussion over which type of seedling to select, the group decided on ponderosa pine. Rex motioned that Don purchase 30 ponderosa pine seedlings and needed fertilizer, which will cost about \$60 and then be reimbursed for that purchase, Jim seconded, and the motion passed. Zeke will contact Catlins in the valley regarding a donation of pots that can be used for the seedlings. The Colorado State Forest Service will be hosting a free workshop addressing care, growing conditions, etc.

Kathleen will contact them regarding the date (Sad news folks, they are not having it this year).

Any Other Business To Address: n/a

Don motioned that the committee adjourn, Jim seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2.20 pm (yes, the meeting was one hour and five minutes).

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy