

# WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010  
1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT: Kathleen Murphy; WHWT, John Drake; RC&D, Tim Garcia; RC&D, Ron Stobbe; Creede, Gwen Nelson; Creede, Ed Innerarity; Wason Ranch, Peggy Linn; EPA, Kelley Thompson; Agro, Don Dustin; Creede, Erin Minks; Rep. Salazar, Jim Loud; Creede, Jan Crawford; Creede, Bruce Ban Haveren; Consultant/Volunteer, Mike Wireman; EPA, Susan Griffin; EPA, Wendy Naugle; CDPHE, Mike Homes; EPA, JB Alexander; Creede, Zeke Ward; Creede, Ken Wiley; Creede, Phil Reinholtt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Brian motioned that the February minutes be approved as submitted, Gwen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

## ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

\*RC&D was added under New Business \*HAZWOPER added to old business

## REPORTS:

Director's Report: Kelley reported the checking account has been sorted out. The final MKX invoice and appropriate reimbursement forms have been submitted to RC&D and will be paid ASAP. The forms for the CWCB monies have been signed by the City of Creede.

Chairman's Report: N/A

TAC Report: The TAC Report was given with the EPA Report

VISTA Report: Kathleen reported that it's looking as though the OSM/VISTA Summer Associate program may be available if the group wanted to take part in. Due to a family emergency, Kathleen was out of the office February 11-21. The movie meeting scheduled w Kara, b4 studio has been rescheduled for March 10. Kathleen will also be working to have the Pepsi grant application submitted by the next deadline, March 13. When the rain comes, Kathleen will be collecting a rain sample for the EPA to analyze. Kathleen also reminded folks of the Healthy Rivers Fund (sadly, the Valley Pubs considered the press release for this fund to be an advertisement so it was not published in the paper).

Financial Report: JB reported that nothing has changed. A budget committee of Zeke, Kelley, JB & Don will meet April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Zeke will also find out if b4 studio wants to do the prospectus work. Also, the non salary money (\$10,000-12,000 needs to be transferred from the Community Banks account to the Miner's & Merchant bank account).

EPA/TAC Report: Moving steadily on identifying the hydrology of the Nelson Tunnel. Still on quest to make decision whether hydrologic controls will be applicable and not have to treat the water. There is no guarantee that the water will not need to be treated.

What is known is that the water is entering from below, somewhere near the Amethyst Shaft. What still needs to be determined is 1. Where is the water entering and 2. What is the chemistry of the water coming in? A meeting was held w RGS and the EPA regarding the Bulldog. Since the water levels in the Nelson dropped while the Bulldog was in operation, the idea was to pump the water out of the Bulldog and look at the Nelson Tunnel. However, this will not work since there isn't adequate access to the Bulldog. The EPA has been working w Jeff Graves, DRMS, on a possible option to lower water in the Nelson. There is talk of drilling a well in the Commodore near the Amethyst shaft that will pump at a rate of hundreds of gallons per minute. This will take the water out of the Nelson and provide the opportunity to stand on the floor of the tunnel and see what's going on. A decision cannot be made until the cost of this is known. This should be able to happen in the next year. The EPA is working w a grad student, who is analyzing the data and writing a conceptual model for the Nelson Tunnel ground water. A well will also be installed on the Amethyst vein at Allan's Crossing, and samples will be conducted. Is this water clean or dirty? There is the potential to partner with RGS for this event. This year there will be three sampling events: low flow spring, high flow spring, and low flow spring. JB compiled a spreadsheet showing the original metal loads in 1999 and the current loads from the fall sample event. The drop in load from fall 99 to spring 09 was significant. These results show the effectiveness of the reclamation work that has been completed. Another reason for this aggressive water sample event will help the state to establish new baselines for the Rio Grande and Willow Creek. Mike Wireman also wanted to thank JB and Kathleen for getting flow data to Mike Holmes' contractor. The EPA is of the opinion that it's worth spending money to determine if hydrologic controls are worthwhile.

Mike Holmes reported on the treatability study. The EPA will also be conducting a sulfide precipitation pilot on the Solomon Ponds, since the characteristics mimic the Nelson Tunnel. Mike will be working w Linda Figueroa and the School of Mines for this pilot program. This may actually improve the water discharging into East Willow. Linda will be looking at various substrates and will be looking to locals to monitor this effort.

Susan Griffin reported on the human and ecological study that will occur this year, about three months after the Commodore Waster Rock Pile is exposed. This is different than the report received from CDPHE last year. They will be going out and collecting samples whereas, the CDPHE report was based on historical data. Local help could be needed to conduct soil samples.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Watershed Director: Bruce has drafted a job description. The agreed upon salary range for the director is \$28,000-33,000. Places to advertise: WHWT web site, valley publications, WCRC web site, Peggy was going to check if the opening could be mentioned with some of the EPA publications. Zeke would like a consensus for the job description reached by March 8.

HAZWOPER: Don attended a refresher course on March 2 at no cost to the WCRC. He will be forwarding Kathleen a thank you note to be mailed to Tom, the District Ranger. Phil Reinholtt and Art Burbank were instrumental in Don attending this class at no cost.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gwen-Vegetation: Gwen Nelson, Creede resident, gave a brief presentation to the committee. She would like to conduct a Vegetation Survey for the group. She attended Western State and is currently working for NRCS in Center.

Day's of '92: After a short discussion, the group decided to have a booth again this year. Kathleen will complete form and submit to the Recreation Department.

Any Other Business To Address: Erin wanted to bring the group up to speed regarding the Natural Disaster Mitigation Meeting that occurred in Jan. Clyde has submitted the application to Rep. Salazar's office for a floodplain study. This may get funded by the COE, Mike Gibson will sponsor. The Rio Grande Compact meeting will be March 25& 26 in Alamosa. Next month Willson Engineering will be installing survey monuments for the COE.

Bruce made a motion that Phil, Gwen, Bruce, and Kathleen be appointed to the TAC and be tasked with developing a reveg strategy for the lower floodplain. JB seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Zeke motioned that the committee adjourn, Gwen seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy