

Willow Creek Reclamation Committee

Meeting Minutes--June 2, 2010

Attendees: JB Alexander (Creede), Don Dustin (Creede), Jan Crawford (Creede), Jim Loud (Creede), Ed Innerarity (Wason), Zeke Ward (Creede), Mark Rudolph (CDPHE), Jenny Inge (Creede), Mike Holmes (EPA), Erik Sandvik (Creede), and Kelly Thompson (Agro Engineering).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zeke Ward at 1315. Attendees were introduced and asked to sign the attendance roster. JB moved to approve the minutes of the April and May meetings, Erik seconded, motion passed. There were no additions to the agenda. Zeke asked everyone to fill out in-kind forms.

Chairman's Report: Zeke reported on a potential bio-char pilot study that the USGS would like to undertake in Creede. The study would entail small test plots of soil enriched with bio-char material (like charcoal) to enhance plant growth. The pilot study may evolve into a larger scale study. USGS has requested a letter of support from WCRC. Erik moved to send such a letter, JB seconded, motion passed. Zeke will prepare the letter.

Vista Report: Kathleen was attending a training conference in Gunnison and filed her report electronically. She had spoken with Commissioner Carl Kolish about the County's removing debris from the upper pond. The work had not yet been accomplished. The spring water sampling activity on May 20th went well. Eight bags of trash were picked up from Hwy 149 during the clean-up held on May 22nd. About 2200 seedling trees were planted in Lake City as part of AmeriCorps Week. There will be a public meeting on June 7th to discuss plans for the annexation of the HECLA property into the city limits. A total of six resumes has been received for the position of WCRC Coordinator.

Director's Report: Kelly reported that he had been in contact with Carishma and that we would not have a decision on her career plans until after July 1st. Eric Heil had been in contact with folks in Denver regarding CWCB funds for the initial design of the flood plain remediation. The 319 SOW process will be used to solicit potential bidders. Solicitation for the final engineering and construction work will follow the RFP/RFQ process. Ed reiterated Wason's desire to support the effort fully and would be willing to provide their fair share of the financial support provided that their water rights were not abridged. WCRC may need to hire a construction coordinator once work actually begins. Kelly should be given first right of refusal.

Financial Report: JB reported that \$20K remained in our checking account after \$8800 was transferred to the account in the Miner's and Merchant's Bank in Creede. WCRC received \$1500 from Mineral County and \$2000 from the Virginia Christianson Fund. WCRC still has an \$8000 commitment to Kara Brittain for the prospectus video and expects obligations of about \$2600 for rent and utilities for the remainder of the year. Our remaining balance should be about \$14K. The committee had previously

approved \$200 to purchase two portable pH meters. Ed requested that we purchase a third pH meter at Wason's expense. JB moved and Ed seconded that we reimburse Kelly \$1600 for his work as acting director, motion passed. Zeke was also reimbursed \$38 for his expenses.

EPA Report: Mike Holmes reported that EPA had enlisted the support of Linda Figueiroa (sp?) from Colorado School of Mines to help evaluate Nelson Tunnel remediation options. CSM will have access to information from the exploratory drilling operations currently underway. They are interested in whether water is found in the drilling samples since Nelson Tunnel dewatering is still an option. EPA has also looked into revitalizing the Solomon treatment ponds to include methods of odor control. EPA is preparing a report of treatment alternatives which is nearly completed. EPA will be conducting synoptic sampling of Willow Creek during the week of June 7th.

Old Business:

Watershed Director: A meeting will be held on June 9th at 1PM in the Town Hall to review the six applicants for the position. Don, JB, Zeke, and Jim Matush will participate. Don will send an e-mail to the applicants informing them that the selection process has been delayed for a few weeks. Two of the applicants are from out-of-state while the remaining four are local.

Duck Race/Days of '92: Kathleen will dump the ducks to start the race, and JB and Erik will function as duck catchers at the end of the flume. A pop-up tent is needed for the WCRC information/duck race ticket sales booth. Don will ask Ladies Aid if WCRC can use their tent. UPDATE: Ladies Aid will loan their tent to WCRC for the July 4th weekend. Jim and Jan volunteered to help man the booth. Ed committed that Wason will sell 25 race tickets. WCRC will not have a float in the parade. A special July 4th coordination meeting will be held on June 28th at 10 AM at the Town Hall to make final arrangements for the weekend.

New Business:

Equipment: Three pH meters will be purchased by JB. The XRF meter has expired and will have to be returned to the manufacturer for disposition as its source is a mixed waste (both radioactive and hazardous). A replacement meter is expensive (\$15K) and will not be purchased in the immediate future. There is no immediate need to purchase GPS devices or to replace the ArcView software.

Colorado Watershed Assembly: Don moved and Ed seconded to renew WCRC's membership in the CWA. Motion passed

The meeting was adjourned by Zeke at 1540.

Submitted by Don Dustin