

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT: Kathleen Murphy; WHWT, Bruce Ban Haveren; Consultant/Volunteer, JB Alexander; Creede, Zeke Ward; Creede, Don Dustin; Creede, Phil Bethke; Creede, Gwen Nelson, WCRC; Rex Sheppard, Creede; Erin Minks; Rep. Salazar, Jeannine Natterman; CDPHE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: postponed to end of meeting

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

Add Ponderosa Pines to Old Business

Add Water Festival to New Business

REPORTS:

Director's Report: Gwen reported she has met with Kelley and has a better understanding of the reports and financials. JB showed her how the Committee collects water samples. They collected a sample at EWA (East Willow just above the confluence). (JB explained that in the past, zinc levels at EWA have been about 200 ppm. The understanding was that the fish were barely hanging on. This April, the zinc levels at EWA reflected 400 ppm at EWA. Over the weekend he went down to EWA and caught some fish. All measured about 8 inches. It's of JB's opinion that somewhere there is some data that is not correct, hence the water sample. The sample was sent to a lab in Alamosa and will be tested for Cadmium, Lead, Zinc, and Copper. Each test costs \$15. \$13.65 was spent to overnight the sample to the lab.) Gwen continued that further clarification is needed as to whom will write the VCUP and shared that the Brownfields deadline is October 15. Based on use in the field Tuesday, she has a recommendation as to which pocket pH the Committee should purchase, if they were to purchase more. WCRC has also been in the local paper a lot lately.

Chairman's Report: nothing

VISTA Report: Kathleen reported that she has redesigned the sticker, John Hickenlooper came and met with WCRC and was VERY impressed with the work the Committee has accomplished. The booth at Rhythms on the Rio (ROTR) was visited by few, mainly, it was suspected due to the proximity to the crowd. However, Kathleen shared that she thought the event was a success because one of the visitors to the booth was curious about reclamation in general. His family has a mining claim with AMD issues. Kathleen and Gwen toured the mining district and Kathleen shared with her the reclamation work at each site. They also collected the rain samples for Tony, the CU grad student working with Mike Wireman and Mike Holmes. Zeke asked Kathleen if she thought ROTR was worth it. Kathleen shared that she thought it was worth it because she had already contacted the South Fork Music Association about WCRC being one of the benefactors

for next year. There were about 1,000 people in attendance and it was \$5/day, and the fact that some people had heard of WCRC was a plus, and reaching out to one person, is one more person to help.

TAC: Bruce reported that August 31st, a group of 7 conducted pH tests of the re-veg test plots. At each of the three test plots, three samples were collected at depths of 0-2 in, 2-12 in, and 12+in. In total, there were 27 points collected. There was not much variability in the locations and depths. The average pH for all locations is 6.2. Most grasses will tolerate this pH. In conclusion, a lot was learned about using volunteers to test for pH, which will allow for the SAP to be expanded upon to include pH meters, depths, volunteers, etc. The TAC also talked some about identifying 10-15 photo points. Kathleen has emailed Gwen the BLM requirements. Money will be needed for the test plots. It is unclear how much CRI will be able to pitch in. Zeke will call Eric Heil, Ingrid, and both Paul's about this and have them contact Gwen, who will in turn disseminate information to the Committee.

Financial Report: We have money. JB reported that at the beginning of August, the local account (Miners and Merchant) had a balance of about \$26,900. After August expenses (VISTA rent subsidy, phone, purchase of canopy, advance to Gwen) the ending balance is about \$21,500. To alleviate writing checks for small dollar amounts, JB suggested that \$100 cash be kept on hand as petty cash. Don motioned that Gwen be responsible for the petty cash in the office, maintain a register of expenses, receipts be kept, and once a month JB reconcile the petty cash account. JB seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

EPA/CDPHE Report: Jaennine reported that a detailed tracer study of flow rates/retentions times in the three mine pools will be conducted by CU in conjunction with the USGS in September. This study will build upon the results of the previous tracer test, using three different tracers and using new equipment for more detailed sampling designed by the USGS. Work continues on both the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study. All of the data from the spring sampling have been analyzed and the results are being incorporated into the documents. CDPHE is setting up a contract with the Colorado School of Mines (Linda Figueroa) to conduct pilot testing on a sulfate reducing bioreactor. The pilot test will be conducted at the Soloman Mine because of space restrictions and logistics at the Nelson. Water quality at the Soloman is very similar to the Nelson Tunnel discharge. The Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety is beginning a project to provide a cost estimate and conceptual design for installation of an underground well within the Commodore Mine to dewater the upper mine pool.

OLD BUSINESS:

Movie: The completed movie was shown to the Committee. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of a public viewing, and extending person invitations to the Virginia Christianson Trust Fund advisory. It was suggested that most folks would not come out for a short viewing, and that perhaps the viewing could piggy back another event in town. Erin suggested that it be shown at the next Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Board of Directors meeting, October 19th. Zeke will contact them and request a 15 minute block on the agenda, and will also introduce Gwen to the BoD.

Denver Gem and Mineral Show: There is a 50/50 chance that Zeke will be installing wind turbines, if not; he will attend the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Gwen and Kathleen both expressed interest in attending. The conversation shifted to display boards. JB and Don will review bids and select someone to build the boards. The specifics from the committee are: tri-fold boards with piano hinges (nut and bolt/machine screw). Two boards will be made from one 4x8 sheet of plywood. A clear finish is also being requested. Don will bring stands.

September Creek Clean Up/BBQ: Kathleen reported that CRI has granted permission to access their property for the clean-up. MDS will donate the use of a roll-off. The clean-up has been registered with the National River Association; they have provided 3 dozen snacks, t-shirts, and trash bags. The event is also listed on the Chamber of Commerce's web page, along with the WCRC web site. The city will donate a backhoe and an operator. JB will get with Danny Rodgers to see if Rocky and the front end loader will be available. JB had suggested that prior to the big clean-up event, that the few large pieces of wood are removed from upstream, this way all efforts on the 11th could be focused on the lower floodplain. A BBQ to thank volunteers will be at the Gazebo. Rex motioned that the Committee not exceed \$100 for the post clean-up BBQ, Don seconded, and the motion passed.

"Annual Meeting": Zeke motioned that this year there not be an official meeting, Don seconded, and the motion passed.

XRF: Kathleen shared with the group the info she had received thus far regarding Niton and Innov-x. A hard file will be created with all data collected on this subject matter. An XRF will be needed to evaluate work on the lower floodplain.

Sticker Approval: The Committee was happy with the updated design, stickers will be purchased through gotprints.com (1,000 stickers/\$35)

Ponderosa Pines: The remaining ponderosa pines will be repotted at Don's September 28th (after the planting on the re-veg test plots) and there will be a BBQ at Don's after.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rio GrandeLandTrust : Gwen will take this on, partaking in the water relay on October 6.

Test Plot Budget: Pending.

Colorado Brownfields Foundation Conference: This year's conference will be in Golden, November 15 & 16. Kathleen has corresponded with Mark Walker about this. The conference fee is \$175; however, if WCRC sends a few people, there is the possibility of a volume discount. Also, depending on space, there may be a possibility to showcase the

WCRC movie. Kathleen will email the Committee and find out how many are interested in attending.

Brochure Printing: Kathleen shared two quotes regarding outsource printing of brochures. Rex motioned that the committee go with the cheaper, gotprints. com, Don seconded, and the motion passed.

Mining Field Trip: Gwen reported that the School of Mines will be hosting a field trip to Creede on September 11, at 4pm in the Community Center. They would like someone from WCRC to give a presentation. Zeke said he would do it.

Water Festival: Gwen gave a brief overview of the water education day she and Kathleen have brainstormed on. The Committee was supportive, so the next course of action will be for team Nelphy to talk with the school and start applying for grants.

Don motioned that the committee adjourn, Jeannine seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy