

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

PRESENT: Kathleen Murphy; WHWT, JB Alexander; Creede, Zeke Ward; Creede, Don Dustin; Creede, Gwen Nelson, WCRC; Kelley Thompson; Agro, Laura Archaleta; USFW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Don made a motion to approve the September minutes, JB seconded the motion, and the motion passed. (The August 2010 minutes have not yet been approved)

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

Water Samples was added to New Business

REPORTS:

Director's Report: Gwen reported that she is close to finishing the 5 Mines Report and the Watershed Management Plan. Jim Vanry (spelling?) did some work on both computers. The September clean-up went well, about \$80 was spent on the BBQ and the remaining \$20 was spent on food for the ponderosa pine repotting. The first round of the tracer study went well. The re-veg test plots have been rescheduled for October 20-21, estimated expenses for this is \$1000. There was talk of making a motion, no action taking at this point in the meeting. A final bid for the prospectus has been received by b4 Studio and will cost between \$5860-6385. John Parker will donate the use of his irrigation equipment and capping material that was used at MCFA, if needed. JB asked Gwen to report on the Rio Grande River Relay. Gwen, Kathleen, and members of the Rio Grande Watershed Alliance drove up to Stony Pass and collected water and conducted some "unscientific" water texting. Results will be uploaded on the Project Wet website. Since Kathleen had planned on including the Rive Relay in her report, the meeting continued on to the VISTA report and the Chairman's Report was overlooked.

Chairman's Report:

VISTA Report: Kathleen reported that she and Gwen went to the school and presented the idea of the "Water Festival" to the Lamb Elementary School teachers and they are on board. A date has been penciled for late May. The 2011 Philanthropy Days will be specific to the San Luis Valley. Kathleen shared this would be a fantastic opportunity for WCRC to meet potential funders/grantors for the floodplain project and other projects in the future. Kathleen also reported that she has secured the use of a seeder from the USFS to be used for the re-veg test plots. She also reminded the group of the WHWT training at Winter Park in November. She will be working half a day October 15th and taking some personal time the latter part of that day.

Financial Report: We have money. JB listed items WCRC money was spent on and reported that the petty cash was reconciled.

OLD BUSINESS:

XRF: The license renewal from CDPHE has been received. Since the current XRF (locked in Zeke's gun safe) is not working, Gwen will contact CDPHE and inform them that the current machine is not working (the half life has been reached) and that the Committee is thinking of purchasing a new one and trading in the old one, and if the Committee does not purchase one we are investigating proper disposal of the XRF.

Re-Vegetation Test Plots: JB briefed the group on the discussions at the TAC. At the time of the TAC meeting, the re-veg plan had not been received by Bruce or Ingrid, so the group was unsure if mushroom compost has been added as a medium. In the event that mushroom compost has not been added, JB would like to see a 10x10 test plot of mushroom compost. This will increase the budget for the test plots. Since re-veg test plots are part of the most recent VCTF application, it was decided that some money would be spent, only on the WCRC component of the test plot. Don made a motion that the Committee not to exceed \$1200 on the test plots, JB seconded and the motion passed.

Prospectus/New Printer: The bid from b4 was discussed. Laura motioned to accept bid, provided the contract is amended to reflect the job will not exceed \$6400. JB seconded, and the motion passed. After the motion passed, there was discussion about the Committee proofreading revisions and a timeline. Gwen will talk with Kara (b4 studio) about those items discussed post passed motion.

Virginia Christinsen Trust Fund: Gwen shared with the Committee that reports are due on the 14th along with new requests. The presentations will be on October 20th. There was a brief discussion about requesting VCTF monies for the "Water Festival". \$500 will be requested to cover the cost of t-shirts.

Colorado Brownfields Foundation Conference: Kathleen shared with the group a recent email received from Mark Walker; there are two agenda items that may be of interest to the Committee: the need for the creation of the non-profit for the CRI property by Eric Heil and the Western Hardrock Watershed Team. Zeke asked if anyone is interested in attending. Gwen and Kathleen both expressed interest. Kathleen also suggested an invitation might want to be extended to the city and someone else suggested the invitation also be extended to the county. There was a discussion that not more than four in total attend, and that the Committee covers the conference fee for Committee members (currently \$175/person, we will see if we may receive a group/movie discount) along with mileage reimbursement and lodging. Zeke suggested that the Committee cover Gwen's expenses and that if anyone else wanted to attend, they would need to cover their expenses out-of-pocket. Laura suggested that the Committee also cover Kathleen's expenses since the movie most likely will be shown and since she worked so hard on it, she would get to see the movie come to fruition along with the conference giving Kathleen opportunity to network. Don motioned that the Committee not spend more than \$1000 on conference fees, miles, and lodging for Committee members interested in attending. Laura seconded the motion and the motion passed.

River Watch: They need their equipment back pronto if the Committee will not be participating in the program. Gwen will contact the high school science teacher about getting the school involved with the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Greenhouse: No action required, FYI, the school is interested in growing annuals in a greenhouse to sell to local ranches. There are now three parties interested in having a greenhouse in the area. The partnerships are in development when the time comes to erect the greenhouse.

Chocolate Festival: The Committee agreed to take part again this year. Last year Kathleen spent her own money to make chocolates. This year, Zeke and Gwen said they would spend their own money. (FYI Kathleen has contacted the Chamber informing them of the Committee's interest in participating in the event.)

In-Kind Volunteer Rate: There was a brief discussion as to what rate to use. Gwen will research rates based on activities.

Third Year VISTA: There was some discussion as to whether to continue with the WHWT. Zeke has expressed that he would not like to be the supervisor and feels he did not do an adequate job in that position. Kathleen shared that back in April, the support office had asked her to assist in identifying candidates for the position. Don asked if Kathleen could stay on for a third year, to which she replied, she cannot. Zeke would like Gwen to confirm that CDRMS will still commit to assisting with payment of the third year VISTA. In addition, Zeke shared that he wasn't sure how to go about identifying candidates for the position. He suggested finding out from the Creede community if anyone is interested. He also would like all applications reviewed and approved by the Committee along with the new approved supervisor. Laura suggested there be some overlap between the second and third year VISTAs. She also shared with the Committee the benefits of having a VISTA based on her experience with the three organizations she works with that have OSM/VISTAs, mainly that they are able to get that outreach done that folks are too busy for.

Water Sampling: Kelley wanted to make sure grant requirements were being met and that water sampling was occurring above and below the "Great Wall of Creede". Kathleen shared that yes, samples had occurred there at both fall 2009 and spring 2010. He couldn't recall if he had received the data. Kathleen told him he would email it to him along with the fish census data.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Murphy