

# Minutes October 6, 1999

## WCRC Meeting

Meeting held in the Creede Town Hall  
 Called to order by Chairman Zeke Ward at 1:00 PM

Those Attending:

Name	Affiliation	E-Mail
Perry Alspaugh	Div. of Water	<a href="mailto:perry.alspaugh@state.co.us">perry.alspaugh@state.co.us</a>
Marvin Reynolds	Resources CSU-	<a href="mailto:conejos@coop.ext.colostate.edu">conejos@coop.ext.colostate.edu</a>
Frank Sanders	CE MFG Forest	<a href="mailto:fsanders@mfgenv.com">fsanders@mfgenv.com</a>
Les Dobson	Service Resident NRCS Resi	<a href="mailto:ldobson/r2_sjrg@fs.fed.us">ldobson/r2_sjrg@fs.fed.us</a>
J.B. Alexander	dent Resident Resident Resid	<a href="mailto:ldobson/r2_sjrg@fs.fed.us">ldobson/r2_sjrg@fs.fed.us</a>
Steve Russell	ent CDPHE Resident SLV	none
John Howard	Trout	<a href="mailto:russell@amigo.net">russell@amigo.net</a>
Glen Miller	Unlimited Resident SLV	<a href="mailto:jhoward375@aol.com">jhoward375@aol.com</a>
Stephen Wardell	RC&D Creede Resources	<a href="mailto:miller@amigo.net">miller@amigo.net</a>
Zeke Ward	Inc. Soil Scientist	<a href="mailto:wardell@amigo.net">wardell@amigo.net</a>
Kathleen Reilly	Consultant Army Corp Army	<a href="mailto:redmtn@fone.net">redmtn@fone.net</a>
Sandra Wright	Corp MFG Forest	<a href="mailto:kathleen.reilly@state.co.us">kathleen.reilly@state.co.us</a>
Larry Bussey	Service USGS	<a href="mailto:cityofcreede@amigo.net">cityofcreede@amigo.net</a>
Chuck Barnes	(retired) Resident CDPHE Res	none
Jim Mietz	sident	<a href="mailto:chwagon@amigo.net">chwagon@amigo.net</a>
Dave Suhr		<a href="mailto:jmietz@co.nrcs.usda.net">jmietz@co.nrcs.usda.net</a>
David Moorey		<a href="mailto:dsuhr@hecla-mining.com">dsuhr@hecla-mining.com</a>
Gary Rutherford		david-
David Gregory		<a href="mailto:moorey@email.msn.com">moorey@email.msn.com</a>
Maria Sonett		505-342-3361
John Rowinski		505-342-3478
Philip Bethve		<a href="mailto:msonett@mfgabq.com">msonett@mfgabq.com</a>
Christine Funk		
Kathleen Reilly		<a href="mailto:phethhe@usgs.gov">phethhe@usgs.gov</a>
Susan Baxter		<a href="mailto:kathleen.reilly@state.co.us">kathleen.reilly@state.co.us</a> <a href="mailto:susanb@fone.net">susanb@fone.net</a>

### Chairmans Report

Zeke reminds everyone to fill out their time sheets for *in kind* match and also spoke of the visit by Barry Levene, Dale Vodehnal, and Sonya Pennock from the Superfund program of the EPA. They had never been to Creede and decided to see the area as part of their trip to Summitville. Zeke, Sandra, and Chuck gave them a tour of East and West Willow and showed them such community projects as the underground Fire House, Community Hall, etc. They communicated the need and uses for which the town of Creede has for the

land that Hecla seeks to donate. Before leaving, Barry assured Zeke that Creede is not presently on any list of any kind for any superfund activity other than the pre-purchase agreement with Hecla and that he doesn't anticipate any superfund activities taking place in the near future in this area. Chuck Barnes pointed out that they were very impressed with the fact that this community is capable of accomplishing big tasks such as the Underground Museum, Firehouse, and Community Center. Zeke spoke about the meeting with the CDPHE sec. 319 funding board that he and Glen attended. Kathleen Reilly said that things went well and prospects for getting our year 2000 money look good. Our proposal will now be sent to the State Water Quality Board and then on to the EPA for final approval. Zeke thanks Kathleen for all her efforts on our behalf. Report from Steve Russell

The NRCS has a program to encourage volunteers to work with the environment and do conservation work and it is called the Earth Team. This program periodically awards groups or individuals for conservation efforts. Steve announced that we won at the State level and presented a framed certificate to the committee which honors The Willow Creek Reclamation Committee as the Colorado Earth Team group of the year.

*The Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service would like to recognize the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee for its outstanding efforts to conserve natural resources and its contributions to the Earth Team in 1999.* There is a general applause in approval of this award. Zeke asks Glen to go to Colorado Springs on November 15<sup>th</sup> to the awards ceremony and accept this on behalf of the committee. Zeke thanks the NRCS for all that they have done to help this committee achieve its goals. TAC committee Report by John Howard John pointed out that the Creede Historical Society is prepared to evaluate the contracted historical characterization work performed by the WCRC. The TAC committee is waiting for data from our recent low flow sampling event in order to make recommendations for future action. There is a TAC committee meeting scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> (in the evening, after the regular WCRC meeting in the afternoon) We will spend some time this winter reviewing what to do with the Solomon wetlands come Spring time.

Frank Sanders spoke of a meeting he has arranged with Dr. Novotney at his office on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 PM at Adams State College (room 303 science building - across the street from the Texaco station) about the Solomon Wetland system. It is hoped that John Howard and members of the TAC can attend, especially Bob Kirkham, Jim Lewis, and others. The Forest Service may be interested since part of this system is on Forest Land. Coordinators Report Glen Acknowledges the outstanding efforts by the Volunteers, in particular JB Alexander for organizing the event, Frank Basset, Eric Sandvick, Perry Alsbaugh, Cody Adelman, Seth Miller, Joe Fox, and James Larimore. Glen bragged on the demeanor of Sean Covington and Pam Anderson of MFG for combining quality and professionalism along with fun for the successful completion of this sampling event. Frank Sanders spoke of the outstanding efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in helping with this activity. JB pointed out that Laura, Andrew, and Clay came to do biological sampling but also worked for days with chemical analysis sampling. This above and beyond any call of duty is much appreciated by the committee. There is a general round of applause for all the volunteers and it is agreed that they need to be officially thanked by a letter from the committee. Glen thanked Jim Mietz for making sure that the WCRC was involved with philanthropy days. Glen attended one day and

Susan Baxter attended the next day on behalf of the committee.

This was a great opportunity to meet with people from foundations and funding agencies. Rio Bravo event is scheduled for Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Frank offered to send a map for our table display. Glen made a motion that we hold our pot-luck dinner on Saturday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. (The other possibility was Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>). The vote was for Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> even though hunting season will cause a conflict with some people.

Zeke asks all the different stakeholders to provide a table that explains their agencies activities.

Kathleen advised that we videotape the event. Glen agreed to have a camera there. Zeke called for a discussion about housing our lab equipment. Sandra said we could house our lab equipment in the fish hatchery building as long as we understood that we may have to leave at any time should they decide to do renovating in the building.

We should at least be able to use it for the winter. JB has received in donation to the committee a counter and sink. We might use the homestake building but the road is not always plowed in the Winter. Army Corp Report David Gregory stated that legislation (Abandoned mine restoration Act of 1999 or Water Resources Development Act section 560 the amendment is HR2753) has been passed in the last 45 days that gives the Corp a tool to work with abandoned mine sites. There is 45 million dollars appropriated for this and the scope goes beyond investigations to engineering and remediation of toxic waste. With political help, the Creede area could get earmarked for funding from this source since this funding is appropriated on a project specific basis.

Les Dobson voiced concerns as to how the Forest Service would deal with changes brought about by Army Corp involvement. David stated that he can't imagine that the purpose of this legislation is to pay bills and exonerate responsible parties, but to enhance communities in dealing with mine waste problems. All such funding would require a 35% non-federal match; *in kind* is acceptable. No match is required for work on federal land. Glen & JB concluded that any possible money from this probably wouldn't be available until 2001. Zeke voiced that if we can become an official project for this funding, then the money may become available right when we have most or all of the characterization done and are ready to move forward with reclamation projects in a major way. Gary Rutherford spoke of section 205 flood control funding. A feasibility study of problems with the flume would involve nothing up to the first \$100,000 and then would require a 50% match (in kind) after that. He said that a study of the Creede flume would probably go over \$100,000. They would first need to determine if there is going to be a federal interest. They would need to know the flood potential on a 10 year event or possibly a 100 year event. This number needs to exceed 800 CFS. It was pointed out that Les Dobson and Hugh Kendrick computed the flood potential of 10 year events on West Willow. It is thought 800 CFS is out of reach for a 10 year event but we don't know about a 100 year one. Perry said that we have flow data from 1951 to 1982 but since then there has been no data collected at the gauging station until we started it up again a few months back. According to old data it could cost about 2.4 million dollars to redo the flume through town. The cities share of this would probably be in the neighborhood of \$800,000 which is owed at the time of construction. Sandra asked about possible FEMA money. Glen stated that potential money from FEMA's preventative flood program should become more clear after they have a series of October meetings. Dr. Moorey put on a slide show about revegetation of toxic waste piles with a minimal of expense by way

of planting naturally and artificially selected sub-species. A tour is planned with Dr. Moorey tomorrow to evaluate the sites. Marvin Reynolds, Steve Russell, Tim Ouellette, Steven Wardell, JB Alexander, and Glen Miller plan to attend. Meeting adjourned shortly after 4:00 PM Minutes submitted by: Approved and

accepted:

\_\_\_\_\_ Glen Miller

Zeke

Ward

Project Watershed Coordinator

Chairman Next meeting is scheduled for

November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Creede Town Hall. Willow Creek Reclamation Committee Pot-Luck dinner is scheduled for Saturday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Plan to attend. Thank You.