

Minutes June 7, 2000 WCRC Meeting

Meeting held in the Creede Town Hall

Called to order by Vice-Chairman Chuck Barnes at 1:10 PM

Those Attending: Name Affiliation Address

Larry Bussey	SLV Trout	P.O. Box 503 Alamosa, CO
Glen Miller	Unlimited Resident	miller@amigo.net
Chuck Barnes	Resident EPA SLV	Box 638 Creede, CO 81130
Peter Ismert	Earthmovers Resid	ismert.peter@epa.gov
Tim Scanlon	ent Resident Resid	719-852-2760
Erik Sandvick	ent Colorado	esandvik@aol.com
Rex Sheppard	Geologic	Box 146 Creede 81130
Frank Bassett	Survey Resident Fo	719-658-0603
Bob Kirkham	rest	rmk@amigo.net
John Parker	Service Resident R	Boxd 728 Creede, CO 81130
Les Dobson	esident Resident SL	ldobson/r2_riogrande@fs.fed.us
Stephen Wardell	V RC &	wardell@amigo.net
JB Alexander	D Resident CSU	Box 428 Creede 81130
Rod Wintz	Co-op	Box 220 Creede 81130
Dave Suhr	Ext. Resident NRC	dsuhr@hecla-mining.com
BJ Meyers	S CDPHE Resdiden	Creede CO 81130
Marvin Reynolds	t	conejos@coop.ext.colostate.edu
Sandra Wright		cityofcreede@amigo.net
Steve Russell		srussell@amigo.net
Kathllen Reilly		kathleen.reilly@state.co.us
Jim Matush		matush@amigo.net

Introductions (Chuck Barnes)

High flow water sampling event summary (Glen Miller)

Glen thanked all the water sampling volunteers. Creede resident volunteers were Jim Matush, Frank Bassett, Zeke Ward, & Casey Adelman. Others were Tina Laidlaw, Mike Wireman, & Bill Schroeder (EPA); Laura Coppock & Tyler Abbott (US Fish & Wildlife); Barb Horn (CDOW), Bruce Stover (CDMG), & Bob Kirkham (CO Geologic Survey). The unanimous opinion is that things went nearly perfect. We even finished a day early. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun especially during the late night titration and bull sessions that went on at Glen's house. Flow measurements were taken on the Rio Grande at Deep Creek and the Wasson Bridge by the USGS as well as 11 water quality samples at each of those sites (10 across and 1 composite). It would have been nicer if we would have had higher water. The event was planned for the 15th of

May and once this was entered into everyone's schedules, it was more or less set in stone. If we had done it one week earlier or one week later, there would have been higher water. As it was we had about 47 cubic feet/second (CFS) at the Creede Gauging Station whereas last September we had about 33 CFS. Glen hopes that from now on, with this *high flow* data and our last September *low flow* data, that we will have enough baseline information to narrow down our sample sites from 62 at present to about 30 or less. This way, with future sampling events, the local Creede volunteers and maybe a few agency people who might have room in their schedules could quickly collect the samples when the water is at its best condition. In other words it would be nice if we could work with Mother nature instead of against her. We could treat future high and low flow sampling events as just a glorified episodic event of which the local volunteers are able to take care of. Episodic Events (Glen Miller)

Question: When do we call an episodic event an episodic event as apposed to just a rainstorm? It is important to define this. Rex Shepperd spoke of the importance of looking at water color. It is after all the increased surface runoff that we are trying to measure and this will show up as yellowish water from the mine dumps or probably browner water from increased storms higher up in the basin. JB spoke of the importance of gathering flow data when we get these samples, at least at the bottom of West and East Willow and one on the mainstem. We probably wouldn't need to take the time to do flow on all the other sites. Re-Veg (Steve Russell)

Because of the extremely dry weather, plants from last years re-vegetation trials are doing poorly. Hopefully they are in a state of dormancy and not just dead. JB advised that since the City of Creede owns a water right, we might in the future be able to install a sprinkling system to get the plants going. Steve checked out the Willows that we planted in April and reported that about 90% of them are looking good. However, the ones that were planted horizontally have yet to sprout. The cottonwoods that Marvin got from the Colorado Forest Service are doing well. Tailings Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP)

Glen put together a preliminary Sampling & Analysis Plan using information provided by Bruce Stover from CDPHE, Mike Wireman provided information from a consultant in Vancouver, B.C., John Parker's consultants known as Enviro-group sent their State approved SAP, Peter Ismert from EPA sent one of theirs. From all of this Glen condensed a SAP for our own use and presented it to the TAC committee this morning (June 7th). The TAC made a number of changes and then voted that it be approved. This is all with the understanding that the floodplain is much different than tailings piles and various methods will need to be employed such as the use of the XRF machine (X-ray fluorescence) to narrow down our areas of concern. Glen motioned that the above Sampling & Analysis Plan be accepted. Numerous people seconded and all were in favor. Alluvial Groundwater & Stream Tracing

JB Alexander explained what stream tracing is all about. The purpose is to identify groundwater inflows into the creek. By dripping a salt tracer into the creek over a period of time, we sample different sites along the creek and check for dilution. If there is an inflow that cannot be accounted for on the surface then it must be coming from underground. We are in the process of allocating \$39,000 to pay USGS to perform this study in late August or early September.

JB motioned that we go ahead with this program, try and come up with the \$39,000.

Erik Sandvick seconded and all were in favor. Underground Mapping & Reconnaissance
Phase I: Rough reconn. map 1) Oxygen levels 2) water inflows 3) conductivity & pH on any water that we can reach 4) cave ins and access 5) Select water sampling sites. Phase II: Water Sampling on maybe 20 or 30 sites. Phase III: Establish exact levels on tunnel floors and produce accurate maps that tie to surface USGS survey points and map this on our GIS system. Phase IV: Final Report of all investigations by CDMG. Watershed Coordinators meeting in Denver

Rex motioned that Glen go to this course, numerous people seconded and all were in favor. Hecla Land and the Senior Citizens Center

Yesterday, Glen walked the site with Mark Walker from CDPHE and the conclusion is that if we can get some maps of the site along with the history and a drawing of where we want the building to go and get this to Mark then the state will detail a characterization plan. At that time we (the city) could either enter an agreement with Hecla or not. Dave Suhr spoke that they are willing to separate this chunk of land from their other land below on the floodplain so things could work faster.

BJ Meyers (Creede Mayor) spoke of the importance of getting this done as soon as possible

because for some eight months we have had a plan and the more that time elapses, the more the price goes up. Meeting Adjourned at 2:55 PM Minutes submitted by:
Approved and accepted: _____

Glen Miller
Project Watershed Coordinator

Zeke Ward

Chairman Next meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday July 5th at 1:00 PM at the Creede Town Hall.