

## WCRC Minutes

December 1, 2004

**Intro of members:** Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Watershed Coordinator; Don Dustin, Creede; Jim Mietz, SLV RC&D; Zeke Ward, Creede; Jeff Graves, CDMG; Jim Herron, CDMG; Chuck Barnes, Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Randy Wood, RW Contracting; Les Dobson, USFS

**Approval of minutes:** There were no suggested changes to the November minutes. Motion to approve the November minutes made by Jim Herron; second made by Don Dustin. Motion carried.

**Additions/corrections to the agenda:** Les suggested that we discuss landowner communications for the planned reclamation work at the Last Chance. He requested that we discuss that early in the meeting in case Jim and Jeff needed to leave. Jim Herron said that he and Jeff would also cover the recent water level measurements in the Nelson Tunnel.

**In-Kind:** Forms were provided in hard copy for volunteers to track time and other expenses. Leigh Ann encouraged monthly submission of these forms so that records could be kept current.

Last Chance Landowners: Les said that to do the engineering, design, and reclamation at the Last Chance, we would need to access the site through Jack Morris' property. Les said that not only did we need to get access permission, but we also needed to discuss with Jack the need for reclamation on his part of the dump. Les said that, as in the past, the Forest Service would use their CERCLA authority to do the clean up, but that he would like to work through the Committee to approach Jack Morris to work in a voluntary and cooperative manner. Chuck asked if there were water issues with the property. Les said that the dump was directly on West Willow Creek and that any water that infiltrated through the dump discharged into the creek. Jim Herron said that there is documented loading in the reach of creek associated with the Last Chance. Les asked how the committee would like to approach Mr. Morris. Zeke said that he thought that he and Les should approach Mr. Morris together. Leigh Ann said that she would meet with Les to determine what other landowners might be involved. Don asked if there were any other access roads to the site. Chuck said that there was another old road that he had found. Zeke said that if we had cooperation from Mr. Morris, then the committee could be involved in the clean up; otherwise, if the Forest Service had to exercise their CERCLA authority to obtain access, the committee could not participate in the same capacity due to the mission of only working under voluntary and cooperative means. Les asked if the committee would then dismiss clean up on the privately owned portions of the dump. Zeke said that even though we know it needs to be cleaned up, it would be moved to the bottom of the list. Jim Mietz asked how the site ranked in terms of contamination. Zeke said that it was the first source of loading on West Willow creek. Leigh Ann said that she thought the loading from the Last Chance alone was enough to put the creek out of compliance with state water quality standards. Zeke said that he and Les would try to arrange a meeting with Mr. Morris at City Hall. Les said that he thought meeting after the New Year would be best.

Water Levels in the Nelson Tunnel: Jeff said that they had taken new water levels in the Nelson

because Jerry Wintz had said that he had noticed a drop. They found that the levels at Daylight Corner and most other places were the same, but at the Javelin it had dropped about 2 feet. There did seem to be a change in one of the collapses, but they did not note any additional water being backed up. Leigh Ann said that she had talked to both Ken Wyley and Jerry recently about the MSHA 8-hour mine safety refresher that she was scheduling for January. Both men questioned the future underground work since the dissolution of their partnership would change how we contracted the work. Leigh Ann told them that the position of the committee would be that any future work conducted by the committee would have to be bid out. She said that the committee would remain impartial and choose a contractor based on the bids received. She also told Ken and Jerry that the committee had no role in what CDMG did in terms of contracting on their projects. Zeke said that we needed to compile all of the underground data and work summaries. Leigh Ann said that she needed Jim or Jeff to help her by writing a summary report of the 2004 underground work to submit to the EPA to close out a grant. Jeff said that he would get that to her in the next couple of weeks.

**Coordinator's Report:** Leigh Ann said that the willow leaf report was in final form and available on the WCRC website. She said that the USGS was reviewing it for publication as an Open File Report.

Spectrum began their work on the Hecla mill site assessment, and had already completed some if not all of the field work. Leigh Ann had received comments on Spectrum's Scope of Work from Mike Wireman, which she forwarded to Spectrum and Hecla.

Leigh Ann turned in a grant application to the Virginia Christensen Trust for \$2,000 to fund outreach and operation of the WCRC. She said that she would give a presentation to the board on December 9.

Leigh Ann worked with Clyde Dooley, Creede City Manager, to submit a grant application to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to cover the remaining funds necessary to complete the Windy Gulch Flood Control project. She and Clyde will make a presentation to DOLA within the next few months, and she thought that the money would be awarded in the spring.

Leigh Ann submitted two grant applications to CDPHE for Section 319 funding. She reminded the committee that one was for reclamation at the Amethyst waste rock pile, and one was to complete the underground pilot dewatering test. In contrast with previous years, we will not have to make a presentation to the 319 council. We will need to contact the Poxsons, as the landowners of the Amethyst, to discuss our reclamation plans.

Leigh Ann said that a meeting was scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> for the EPA to meet with Keith Sidell and the residents of the Silver Moon Trailer Park to discuss the results of the assessment. Mark Walker (CDPHE) is also planning to attend to discuss the Voluntary Clean Up Program with Keith. Leigh Ann said that she would be going, but that the meeting was closed to the public.

Leigh Ann said that the EPA's Consolidated Funding Process grants would be due on December 15<sup>th</sup>. She said that she would discuss the details of the proposal later in the meeting.

The Finance Subcommittee, consisting of Leigh Ann, Jim Mietz, and Kathleen Reilly, will meet tomorrow, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, to continue discussing long-term financial planning for the committee.

Leigh Ann said that she thought that John Parker was probably finished with his clean up for the year due to the snow and ground-freezing temperatures. Leigh Ann thought that the remaining work consisted of some additional clean up at the far west end of the site and some re-shaping of the pile. Leigh Ann said that she thought John had done a thorough job and that it was unfortunate that he could not get everything done before winter came in.

Leigh Ann is still working on the Request for Proposals for the fairgrounds clean up. She said that she had talked with Dan Heffernan with the EPA, and he had said that he would like to review the RFP before it was sent out. He would send some examples so that Leigh Ann would have a better indication of what needed to be in the RFP. Dan had said that they were still on schedule to do work next year. Zeke added that December 4<sup>th</sup>, the MCFA would be hosting a gathering at Baxter Hall to display the designs of the architectural students who had taken the fairgrounds on as a class project.

#### **Old Business:**

McLaughlin Nelson Tunnel Feasibility Study: Leigh Ann said that the TAC had met with Ron McLaughlin to discuss the Scope of Work for the feasibility study. Ron had said that evaluating the use of heat for the City's sewage lagoons should be omitted because it would not be effective. Don suggested that Ron note that in his study and discuss why, so that we will have justification for excluding that option in the future. Leigh Ann said that Ron had suggested evaluating the use of heat pumps with Nelson Tunnel water instead. She said that Ron thought a six-month timeframe was reasonable because that would give him time to meet with the committee again to discuss his progress and address additional ideas from the committee. It would also give him some time in the spring to do field work if necessary.

OilTrap Report: Leigh Ann said that she had received a report from OilTrap regarding their treatment of Nelson Tunnel water and the results. She said that the initial sample had 65 mg Zn/L, and the treated sample had 4 mg Zn/L. Because this was still about two orders of magnitude from the desired levels, OilTrap proposed further treatment and testing. JB said that based on their cost estimates, a treatment system for Nelson Tunnel would cost \$32,400 per month, or about \$1,000 per day. He thought that any additional treatment that they evaluated would only increase the baseline cost of operation. Leigh Ann asked that if we thought this method was cost prohibitive, should we put it on the shelf. Otherwise, should we pursue the proposed additional processing to meet standards? Zeke said that \$1,000 per day was cost prohibitive and that we should put it on a shelf for now. Leigh Ann asked what we should do with the Powell EC results. She said that she had sent the data to Frank Satterlee and requested a proposal for a next step to get their treatment to meet standards. Zeke said that he had spoken with them and they had said that they should reconfigure the machine to deal with the high

conductivity of the water. Zeke said the ball was in their court to come up with a proposal for the committee. Zeke said that he originally thought the Powell system had promise because the end product was a non-hazardous oxide, and since the system ran on electricity, any hydropower generated could be used as the power source.

**New Business:**

Underground MSHA Refresher Course: Leigh Ann said that she had talked with John Barton about teaching the course. He said that he could do it for free if there were at least six people. Leigh Ann had tentatively scheduled the class for January 11<sup>th</sup>. Potential attendees would be Ken Wyley, Jerry Wintz, Zeke, Jim Matush, JB, Bob Kukuk, Stephen Wardell, and Harold Brink. Leigh Ann said that she had talked with Condor Geotechnical about teaching the class again, but if the committee could get it for free from Mr. Barton, that would be preferred.

CFP Grant for 2005: Leigh Ann said that several months ago Mark Walker had suggested applying to the CFP for Coordinator salary. Leigh Ann said that the only other potential CFP project they had discussed was the completion of the underground pilot dewatering. Because that project was proposed for 319 funding, she thought that applying to CFP for salary was a good option. Motion to apply for funding through the 2005 CFP to cover some of the coordinator's salary made by Zeke; second made by Don. Motion carried.

**Other:**

The next meeting will be January 5, 2005.

Meeting Adjourned 2:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh Ann Vradenburg