

WCRC Minutes June 7, 2006

Intro of members: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; JB Alexander, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Erik Sandvik, Creede; Les Dobson, US Forest Service; Jeff Graves, CDMG; Marvin Reynolds, CSU Cooperative Extension; Kelley Thompson, WCRC Project Director

Approval of minutes: No corrections to the May minutes were proposed. Motion to approve the June minutes made by JB; second made by Erik. Motion carried.

Additions/corrections to the agenda: JB suggested additions of Goose-banding, WCRC Officer Attendance, and Senate Bill 179 to New Business.

Reports:

Director's Report:

Kelley mentioned that Zeke had a great interview about the Good Samaritan legislation that was broadcast on the Colorado Matters program of Colorado Public Radio. Kelley put a link to the interview on the WCRC homepage and recorded a copy of it if anyone wants it on CD.

Kelley, Marvin, and Ray Hinton planted the cottonwoods the committee had purchased in the floodplain. With the dogwoods that JB and Merl Jennings had also planted, this finished the tree planting in the floodplain.

Kelley discussed several interesting water quality results that had been received for samples taken this spring.

Kelley had taken a sample from the seepage under the new Windy Gulch culvert. Zinc concentration was 3746 mg/L compared to only 2390 mg/L at the bottom of West Willow and 1275 mg/L in Willow Creek near the flume. The high zinc could be from a vein source or from backfill used for the old Creede water pipe or the road. The sample did not rule out all the water originating from a pipe water leak, but indicates a possibility that much of the water is coming from something other than the city pipe. This seepage may also be responsible for the load increase that we have seen, and Kimball saw, between the confluence and the flume.

To look at the possible use of pure settling to treat Creek water, Kelley had taken a bucket of water from near the flume and let it settle for a week before sampling. Iron concentrations remained unchanged, indicating the colloidal forms of iron were not settling, and zinc concentrations were reduced by about a third to 879 mg/L. So, some zinc must be in particulate form and settleable, but it doesn't appear that settling alone will get zinc to where we need it.

The 47gpm seep coming from under the Commodore pile had 2518 mg/L zinc, similar quality to the creek after it mixed with Nelson Tunnel but much higher than water seeping from the upper wooden flume at 97 mg/L. It was interesting that the seep was at 3.8 degrees C while the Creek was at 7.9C and Nelson Tunnel is around 17C.

For the creek samples, it was notable that dissolved zinc went from 1275 mg/L at the flume to 1714 mg/L in the east fork at the Rio Grande. Total lead went from 45 mg/L at the flume to 278 mg/L in the east fork. Probably, the noticeable zinc increase is from the plume related to the

Emperious pile, and the lead increase is resuspension of lead from the sediments during high flow while particulate lead often is settling out during lower flows.

Old Business:

Trainings:

As far as the eight hour refresher for the Hazwopper training, Condor training could mail a book and home based test that would cost \$95 for one person or \$75 for 4 people. This would be cheaper than having to go to Denver. The committee again discussed that if we supported Don Dustin to get the training, than he could potentially cover any sampling needs during the fairgrounds cleanup. JB motioned and Jim seconded to have the committee pay for Don Dustin to take the eight hour Hazwopper refresher by mail, motion passed.

Condor can't send a mailed version of the MSHA refresher and we would have to go to Denver or pay on the order of \$600 for them to come here in the fall if we wanted the refresher. Jeff will talk to Kim at CDMG to look into the state helping with MSHA training and maybe having a course at Adams State next fall. Jeff will also help us look into getting an appropriate oxygen meter before the dewatering project.

Commodore Project

Kelley has been thinking more about the cheapest way to replace the wooden flume at the Commodore and still try to protect for a 100-year flood. A similarly sized precast concrete trench to replace the current flume would provide about 10 year protection, and a reinforced levee placed along the east side of the flume for about 50 to 100 feet would direct water from a 100 year flood that can't be forced into the flume entrance back into the open flume. A temporary pipe would have to be used for construction. The project could potentially be done for \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Kelley had talked with the CWCB, and they were originally OK with the use of extra Windy Gulch funds at the Commodore. There may be about \$5000 extra. He also talked with Deb Downs, who said we could use the extra \$18000 DOLA funds for Windy Gulch for "qualifying" invoices for the project that had already been paid for by the CWCB, potentially opening \$18000 in CWCB funds for use at the Commodore. Kelley also talked more with the CWCB who thought they may be able to come up with as much as \$25000 more for the Commodore if it was passed through the city. However, the CWCB then said that we would have to have a letter from the EPA saying that the state funding would not place any CERCLA liability on them. Zeke said he would look into the potential to get a letter like this from the EPA for the CWCB. Kelley also wondered if the city would be willing to pass the CWCB funds through for the Commodore.

New Business:

Watering

Kelley explained that a very limited amount of grass had sprouted in the reseeded compost at the Phoenix and Midwest sites after the last big rain, but that they had pretty much dried up. Also, it is looking like he won't be able to directly spend 319 money on the revegetation until July. So, he was wondering if the committee thought it would be better to try to get some water on the sites now, or wait until July to reseed the sites and irrigate them once we had better access to the funding. Marvin mentioned that if we can get water on now than he would recommend that. Kelley also has had trouble keeping the aspen alive watering them once a week, and wonders if it would make more sense to plant a couple big aspen with some decent root balls. Kelley will need some help at some point to try to keep things watered.

EPA Water Sampling

Jeff explained that Mike Wireman would like to do some water sampling in the mine, deep wells, and surface water around the Commodore in August or September, and analyze for water isotopes and tritium. Jeff had some doubts over how much we can gain from the limited locations where we can get decent water samples in the mine, and he suggested the deep wells as a place to get more information. Jeff is trying to get together a list of potential sample locations for Mike.

Zeke brought up the underground dewatering and suggested a TAC meeting to discuss the technical goals of the dewatering. Jeff will see if he and Jim can make the next TAC meeting.

Goose Banding

JB mentioned that Brent Woodward was looking for help on Wednesday June 14th to do goose banding. Potential banders can meet at 8am at the La Garita ranch road, give Brent a call at 850-6366, or call Merl Jennings.

WCRC Officer Attendance

JB brought up that the current committee vice-chairman hasn't attended a meeting for quite some time. He wondered if an officer should be removed from lack of attendance. Zeke didn't think our bylaws had any provisions for officer attendance or for officer terms. However, the bylaws currently posed on the internet mention that term lengths are four years and if a board member misses three meetings in a row a vote shall be taken to possibly remove that person from office. Zeke will discuss with the current vice-chairman if he wants to keep serving, and suggested circulating through email or bringing to the next meeting any suggested bylaw changes.

Senate Bill 179

JB discussed the Senate Bill that will open up funding for water projects. The projects may be oriented towards water supply, but the committee will keep an eye on it as a potentially funding source for big projects such as the Nelson Tunnel or floodplain restoration.

The next meeting will be July 5, 2006 with a TAC meeting at 10AM. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Thompson