

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

Present: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety); Les Dobson, USFS (US Forest Service); Don Dustin, Creede; JB Alexander, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Erin Minks, Regional Representative, Congressman John Salazar; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

Approval of minutes: No corrections to the September minutes were proposed. Don moves to approve the minutes from September 5, 2007, JB seconds. Motion carries.

Additions/corrections to agenda: "Erin Minks Report" was added under Reports.

Reports:

Director's Report

Carishma attended the Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) event in Alamosa and approached El Pomar Foundation and Gates Foundation, among others, for funding opportunities. She presented the stream restoration project below town, as well as the possibility of funding for a summer intern in 2008.

She also attended the Watershed Conference in Breckenridge, October 2-4, which was very informative. The keynote speaker, Rick Cables, Regional Forester, US Forest Service, highlighted WCRC, its partnerships, and success, in his speech.

Carishma reported that a report to VCT was due on October 16, and that she would request an extension on the recent VCT grant for the production of a video, since we have not spent the money yet, but do intend to make a video. She mentioned that VCT may request the money back, and ask us to put in a new application.

WCRC has been invited to be part of a Leadership Program by the Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council, chaired by Barb Horn and Vic Lucero. The other representative from the Rio Grande basin is Mike Gibson.

Carishma notified the Committee that she will be on vacation in India from Mid-January to February.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported that no work would be undertaken by the EPA on the Commodore pile (under ERP) this fall, but that they would likely start work as early as possible in spring. He also mentioned that the City of Creede approved to send the letter to the governor, and that the County was to discuss the issue at their upcoming meeting.

Erin's Report

Erin reported that John Salazaar is co-sponsoring H.R. 2262, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007. Among other things, it would update the 1872 law, establish environmental protection standards, and establish the Abandoned Locatable Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund and the Locatable Minerals Community Impact Assistance Fund. Erin would send the actual press release to Carishma, who would forward it on to the Committee for their information.

Old Business:Fall water sampling:

It was decided to sample the following points along East Willow Creek: upstream and downstream of the Outlet mine, upstream and downstream of the Solomon mine, the pond discharge at the Solomon, and the water in the portal at the Solomon.

Amethyst/Last Chance:

The work on the Amethyst has been completed. Les reported that the work on the Last Chance from below has been completed, and that MKX is working on reshaping the dump on the upper part of the Last Chance. They put in an interceptor ditch, but Jack Morris is unhappy with its location, and wants the ditch to be on the other side. If this has to be done, the contract with MKX will have to be modified. Les also notified the Committee that he was able to get an extension to the Forest Service money for the project.

Adopt-a-Highway

Due to the weather, highway cleanup was cancelled on September 29, and rescheduled for October 24, 2007 at 10 AM.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Adjourn:

Don moves to adjourn the meeting, Rex seconds. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM; the next meeting will be November 7, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carishma Gokhale-Welch