

WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, November 07, 2007

1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall

Present: Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Charlotte Bobicki, Regional Representative, Senator Ken Salazar; Les Dobson, USFS (US Forest Service); JB Alexander, Creede; Jim Matush, Creede; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; Jeremy Yoh, RGHRP (Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project); Merle Jennings, Creede; Kelley Thompson, Agro Engineering; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

Approval of minutes: No corrections to the October minutes were proposed. Merle moves to approve minutes from October 10, 2007, JB seconds. Motion carries.

Additions/corrections to agenda: "Les' Report" was added under "Reports", and "Hydroelectricity" was added under "Old business".

Reports:

Director's Report

Carishma and Zeke updated the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) about WCRC's summer activities. Zeke updated the Board about the proposed NPL listing of the NT/Commodore pile. Carishma spoke briefly with Dale Pizel, and Steve Vandiver about the RGWCD's annual grant to WCRC. Steve mentioned that the money given by RGWCD was specifically intended for WCRC director's salary. In the past, various other expenses have also been invoiced to those funds. Carishma reported that since May, other expenses charged to that account are less than \$200, but there are other expenses before May. JB moves to offer to reimburse RGWCD for expenses other than salary that have been charged to them in 2007, Kelley seconds. Motion carries. Carishma is meeting with Steve later this month, and will propose this to him. For WCRC, this would mean an accounting adjustment, by debiting WCRC petty cash, and crediting RGWCD monies held at RC&D.

Carishma reported that her mileage reimbursement rate is \$0.435/mi. She requested that it be set at the reimbursement rate as set by the IRS (currently \$0.485/mi). JB moves to set the mileage reimbursement rate for WCRC director at the IRS rate, Rex seconds. Motion carries.

Kathleen Reilly, CDPHE Watershed Coordinator for Rio Grande Basin, and Lucia Machiado, Coordinator, CO Non-point Source Program were in Creede on October 17. Carishma took them on a small tour of WCRC's past and current projects.

Highway cleanup was carried out on the section of Highway 149 adopted by WCRC on October 24. Seven people helped with the cleanup.

Carishma shared an article about WCRC published in Colorado Public Works Journal with the Committee.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported that he been invited to speak to the Wason Ranch Board in Dallas by one of their directors. With the proposed listing of the NT, their case continues to get weaker. Zeke will recommend that the Board drop the suit, and assist WCRC in carrying out stream restoration.

Zeke also proposed staying involved with legislation and Udall's proposed version of Good Samaritan legislation. Charlotte mentioned that if we want to support any legislation, she will pass it along to her office.

Les' Report

Les reported that the Last Chance project was completed successfully by MKX. He is considering construction of an additional wall above the Amethyst 5 portal that would contain waste rock from above. He will get an engineering evaluation and estimate from Jeff, and ask Doug Krohn for an estimate as well for comparison. Les also mentioned re-vegetation, and the possibility of mushroom composting for both the Amethyst and Last Chance projects. Zeke might have access to a hydro seeder. Les shared some photographs of both the Amethyst and Last Chance projects with the Committee.

Old Business:

Fall water sampling:

It was decided to schedule fall water sampling on either the 19th, 20th, or 21st of November. Carishma volunteered to look at the weather forecast, pick a date, and inform Committee.

Commodore/NT:

Zeke called Rebecca Swanson, but hasn't received a response. He also spoke with Barbara Neighbors, CDPHE. Their office hasn't seen the letter yet - it is likely still in the Governor's office. No work will be undertaken on the Commodore pile this fall, but it is online for next spring. Gwen Christiansen updated Zeke that the HRS packet has been completed and submitted, and that it has received a hazard ranking high enough to move it forward.

Hydroelectricity

JB handed out copies of an email sent out by Jim Mietz inviting interested parties to a meeting in early December to discuss the development of hydro energy in the SLV.

New Business:

Willow Creek Stream Restoration

The WCRC discussed the possibility of stream restoration below the town of Creede as a next step, now that the majority of work in the upper watershed has been completed. Kelley raised concerns about the 40% match requirement for 319 grants. Zeke said that the value of the land donation would go a long way as in-kind match. JB moves to allow the Committee to put together a 319 grant based on Steve Yochum's stream restoration report. Rex seconds. Motion carries.

WCRC also discussed the draft Watershed Plan. Zeke would like to organize a work session open to the community and solicit comments for the watershed master plan. JB said that community input will be difficult during hunting season, and that more involvement can be expected after the season.

Adjourn:

Rex moves to adjourn the meeting, JB seconds. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM; the next meeting will be December 5, 2007 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carishma Gokhale-Welch