

**WILLOW CREEK RECLAMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2008**  
**1:00 PM, Creede Town Hall**

**Present:** Zeke Ward, WCRC Chairman and Mineral County Commissioner; Don Dustin, Creede; Jeff Graves, CDRMS (Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety); JB Alexander, Creede; Rex Shepperd, City of Creede; Tom Simmons, CDPHE (Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment); Laura Archuleta, FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service); Peggy Linne, USEPA; Mark Walker, CDPHE (Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment); Diann Gese, Rio Grande National Forest; Jim McBride, Creede; Bruce Van Haveren, Consultant; Jim Matush, Creede; and Carishma Gokhale-Welch, WCRC Director.

**Approval of minutes:** September minutes will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

**Additions/corrections to agenda:** There were no additions/corrections to the agenda.

**Reports:**

Director's Report

Carishma reported on the biological sampling event that was carried out September 22-24 and thanked all the volunteers that were present. In addition to the usual WCRC volunteers, several people from FS/BLM and Rio Grande Silver also helped out. More details in Laura's report.

Carishma is working to close out the 5 mines project, the Amethyst and Last Chance project and the Watershed Plan. All the goals of the 5 mine project have been accomplished successfully, including finalizing the interpretive signs. There is still some work to be completed at the Amethyst and Last Chance site, but the grant deadline unexpectedly came up, and the 319 grant has to be closed. Since CDRMS and Forest Service grants still have sufficient funds to close out the project successfully, Carishma is trying to facilitate moving the unused funds (close to \$100,000) to the stream restoration project. She is still to hear from Kathleen about the possibility.

Carishma requested a letter of support for the Roundtable grant (stream restoration project) from CDRMS, CDPHE, and FWS. Jeff, Mark and Laura agreed to write support letters for WCRC.

Carishma announced her resignation as Director WCRC. Her husband has been offered a Fulbright scholarship to India, and she is moving with him to India end-November/early December for nine months. Carishma also reported that Kelley is willing to assist with the Stream Restoration project, and other WCRC tasks on a part-time basis. The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring a VISTA volunteer to overlap with Carishma before she leaves. Zeke proposed letting Carishma work from India on final reports and other immediate tasks that need to be completed. JB moves to pay Carishma at an hourly fee for the work she carries out in India; to pay Kelley an hourly fee for his work in the future; and to pursue a VISTA volunteer; Mark seconds. Motion carries.

Jim, JB and Don agreed to be part of the hiring committee (along with Carishma and input from Zeke) for selecting a VISTA volunteer.

Chairman's Report

Zeke reported on the MCFA VCUP. Dirt moving operations will be completed next week; they will plant grass and hydromulch the week after. He also updated the Committee on the settlement on the Wason Ranch lawsuit.

### TAC Report

Tom Simmons, CDPHE is carrying out a health consultation on the NT site. He is collecting data on possible contamination and exposure pathways, and discussed the same with the Committee. The Committee mentioned the pools in the NT and the possibility of blowout being a risk that should factor into the NT solution.

The Committee also reviewed the Roundtable grant and gave their comments to Carishma. The Roundtable "sub-committee" reviewed and commented on the grant end September. Carishma is incorporating the changes, and will be presenting on November 11.

### Laura Archuleta's Report

Laura briefed the Committee on the biological sampling event. There were more fish at all sample points than in 1999. She would like to carry out a sampling event every five years. She will prepare a final report to present to the Committee in December or January. In addition to electro shocking fish, invertebrate samples were also collected, and will be analyzed for metal content

### ERP Update: Peggy Linn

Peggy reported that the ERP work is proceeding as per plan, and that the contractors are waiting to install the culverts, which are yet to arrive. JB asked what the downstream extent was going to be, Peggy will have to confirm and get back to the Committee.

### **Old Business:**

#### Amethyst and Last Chance update:

Jeff updated the Committee on the Amethyst and Last Chance project. A retaining wall is being put in place on the Last Chance slope. Compost is being placed on the bare slopes at both sites.

#### Fall water sampling:

It was decided to sample all the points that were sampled in spring. Carishma reported that Rio Grande Silver is also interested in collecting samples for background data along upper West Willow and Rat Creek, and would like to stay consistent with WCRC's methodology. Fall water sampling was scheduled for October 8.

### **New Business:**

#### Bruce Van Haveren introduction:

Bruce shared his resume and professional experience with the Committee and offered to assist the Committee in any way he could.

### **Adjourn:**

Rex moves to adjourn the meeting, Don seconds. The meeting adjourned; the next meeting will be November 5, 2008 at 1:00 PM, with a TAC meeting preceding it at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carishma Gokhale-Welch