

WRC UCF Minutes

May 4, 2021

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – DLVCD/WRC, Cam Ballentine – WRC/landowner/Brown's Gulch, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Rem Mannix – Powell County Commissioner, Bruce Thomas – WRC/landowner, Eric Hassler – WRC/BSB, Heidi Brewer – WRC, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Glen Green – WRC, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Stephen Begley – FWP, Will McDowell – WRC/CFC, Casey Hackathorn – TU, Morgan Case – TU, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Mary Price – CSK, Andy Fischer – CFC, Matt Vincent – Rampart Solutions, Mark Mariano – WRC/Rampart-Solutions, Paul Grieco - landowner and Ted Dodge – WRC.

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hollenback.

Treasurer Report:

- Invoices were reviewed and approved at the previous Board meeting.

Minutes:

It was moved by Rem Mannix, seconded by Bruce Thomas and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- **TU Update on Flow Targets & Silver Lake release:** Morgan Case and Casey Hackathorn from Trout Unlimited gave a power point presentation on Silver Lake Water Storage. Next steps will be: 1) Negotiate multi-year agreement, 2) Explore cost-share opportunities, 3) Negotiate long-term agreement, 4) Develop management and coordination plan with partners, 5) Look beyond Silver Lake.

Project Updates:

- **CREP:** Heidi gave an update on CREP. Training underway for FSA, NRCS, WRC, and NRDP staff and contractors.

Milltown: Stephen Begley there will be a meeting with the Gold Creek landowners, May 6, 2021 in Gold Creek followed by a tour of diversions and fish screens.

Operation & Maintenance Task Order: This is a new task order to help with fish screens and irrigation structures to provide maintenance of new structures. This is a temporary task order for this irrigation season.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

- **Garnet:** Glen reported that there has been no contract with Graveley's on their conifer encroachment work. DNRC/Dutton's project a fencing contractor has been selected. Stockwater system bid expected to be released in late May. Dutton Ranch project ID underway by NRDP/FWP/WRC. Hollenback Ranch TIP project approved, NRDP project ID underway by NRDP/FWP/WRC,
- **Deer Lodge North & South:** Glen reported that Lampert and Beck stockwater pipeline needs to be completed this year. Contractors bid package will be released in early May.
- **Habitat Enhancement:** DNRC/Sanders project fence contractor selected, well bid selected, water gaps installed, stock water system bid expected to be released in late May.

Aquatic:

- **Cottonwood Creek** – Will reported that there were several in-person meeting this month with Sherm Anderson, Mike Applegate and Jim Applegate regarding Aspen Grove Phase 2. On April 28 (Will, Brian Bartkowiak, Evan Carroll of GWE) met with Sherm and Jim Applegate on site to lay out where the Stejer 21" main pipeline will actually terminate on the ground (this is complicated because it is right at property line between the two families). Also discussed how it will discharge Applegate flood irrigation water, discharge into Sharm's 15" pivot pipeline, and allow for stock water for Applegate's in two separate locations. This specific information allows GWE to go forward towards final design. Also met with Mike Applegate to review details of his fish screen/#1 diversion project on the ground, where we were able to see the need for some small revisions to the 75% plan, which GWE will now incorporate as they go forward into final design. Both these projects are still scheduled for construction in fall 2021.
- **O'Neill Creek** – Will said the conceptual design is done for NRDP by Morrison-Maierle is on hold until it is determined who the owner of the property will be.
- **Gold Creek** – still wanting to do an educational tour to show landowners different kinds of diversions and fish screens.
- **Racetrack Creek:** on hold.
- **Brown's Gulch:** Brother's diversion on hold waiting for landowner to complete work. Balentine diversion is almost done, expecting final design from Confluence in May. Project is on hold pending monitoring of past projects. Brown's Gulch TIP proposal Mark is coordinating with FWP and NRDP to complete a site visit for potential TIP/NRDP projects.

Flow:

- **Racetrack/Dempsey:** on hold.

Wildlife Conflict:

- **Deer Lodge Landfill:** agreement reached with the City of Deer Lodge to accept carcasses from Powell & Granite counties. Contract in place with Cora Helm for feasibility study of a multi county compost site at the Deer Lodge landfill, new funding received from the Heart of the Rockies CIG grant. Grant submitted to Vital ground for additional funding for potential Deer Lodge landfill compost site.

- **Vital Ground Grant request:** Ted submitted this grant to help the landfill cover the cost of fencing and water issues.

Partners reports were given.

Next meeting: June 1, 2021

Submitted by Susie Johnson, May 20, 2021