

## WRC UCF Minutes

August 3, 2021

Public Meeting

### Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – DLVCD/WRC, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/landowner, Bruce Thomas – WRC/landowner, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Rem Mannix – Powell County Commissioner, Eric Hassler – WRC/BSB, Georgina Kennedy – NRCS, Maxwell Bucher – NRCS, Stephen Bagley – FWP, Bill Snoddy – DEQ, Heidi Brewer – CREP Coordinator, Joel Chavez – DEQ, Alanna Zubler – NRCS, Kristin Fischer – NRCS, Casey Hackathorn – TU, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Beau Downing – NRDP, Will McDowell – WRC/CFC, 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 Dan McQueary, seconded by Bruce Thomas and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- **Clark Fork River Update:** Joel Chavez gave an update on the Clark Fork River Phase 3 work on the Lampert and Kelley property.
- **CREP Proposal:** Draft planning process documents developed & submitted to FSA for review. Site visit with landowner on Blacktail Creek is scheduled for August. Meeting is being setup with Graveley's to discuss potential CREP on Brock creek. The Marshall Creek Ranch in Granite has requested a meeting in August to review the CREP potential for their ranch. Still waiting for FSA to scheduled training session for NRDP partners & presentation of new rental rates.
- **Milltown Water Right/Drought Plan:** There was a good meeting in Deer Lodge on July 27<sup>th</sup> to talk about a working group to look at the bigger picture. The group would like to meet quarterly. NRDP and MT Resources has reached an agreement with BSB on leasing Silver Lake Water. Some of that water has be released down Warm Springs creek and into the Clark Fork River.

## Project Updates:

### Terrestrial Priority Areas:

- **Garnet:** Gough Creek (Hollenback property) -Working on finalizing the NRDP Landowner Agreement document. The final proposed project list becomes part of the NRDP Landowner Agreement that needs to be finalized and submitted to NRDP for review and approval. Glen met with John to review and discuss estimated cost and amount (acres) of biological weed control needed before finalizing the proposed project list. Worked on updating cost estimates for the proposed projects. (Costs of materials and labor has increased significantly). Held a tour of the property with T. Dodge, G. Mullen, D. Martin, and Torrie Ritter (FWP) looking at the proposed projects. Good discussions about what is being proposed and NRDP will be considering the funding request (amount and what projects they are willing to fund). Could not get into the higher uplands to look at the encroachment removal from Bitterbrush stands so Greg and Torrie want to do that on another trip in July.

Sandy Gravelly will be setting up a meeting with Ted, Heidi& Glen to discuss the proposed conifer encroachment work as well as a potential CREP on Brock Creek.

Ted is working Cynthia Montagne a new landowner in Brock Creek to set up a meeting with NRDP to discuss restoration work on her land which adjoins Gravelly & Dippold.

Dutton Ranch: Contacted Dean Dutton and met with him to see if he is still interested in participating and he is. Practices he may be interested in installing are biological weed control and conifer removal (from the Gough Creek riparian zone and some of the upland Bitterbrush stands). Glen told him I will get started on developing a project list with quantities and cost estimates to be a part of the landowner agreement he would sign with NRDP.

DNRC: No contact made – no activity.

- **Deer Lodge North & South:** Ted Beck: With Greg Mullen and Doug Martin to the Ted Beck stock water pipeline project site to meet the contractor. Contractor had just moved on site and was getting started with installation. Communications with K. Bossert (NRCS Technician) concerning project installation and conducting a construction inspection. Kevin conducted a final construction inspection and will provide a copy of his final construction inspection notes. I made a site visit to the project to check the installation and take photos for documentation.

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson): Made contact with Sherm Anderson about his interest in participation on terrestrial projects. Glen explained briefly the program and

what Fred Staedler had completed last year and that we want to continue on with that. He is still interested, and we set up a meeting to sit down and discuss that next week. Informed him that I will need to spend some time out in the field on the ranch. Glen will meet with him to get an idea of what proposed projects (Fred's list) he might be interested in and that I should do more planning on.

- **Habitat Enhancement:** No activity this was reported under the Garnet Terrestrial area of this project.

**Aquatic:**

- **Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:** Reviewed and commented on project engineering. Discussed engineering considerations with GWE, NRDP, and both landowners. Also discussed concerns of the irrigation equipment supplier regarding the final designs. Worked with DNRC to provide data and interpretations needed by DNRC Lewistown office in their preparation of a “Correct and Complete” technical report for the Aspen Grove water rights (two water rights changes). We received this report on July 27, 2021 from DNRC and are reviewing it—15 days for review allowed. Aspen Grove project is moving towards a contract for construction by the landowner, starting in early September 2021.

**Applegate Diversion/Fish Screen #1:** Supervised monitoring and landowner communications (for July 15 to Sept 15 shutdown). Consulted with GWE and NRDP on final designs. Bids gone out for this project on State eMAC website. Walk-through for potential contractors is August 11 at 3pm.

**McQueary Fish Screen:** Visited screen with consultant (and inventor) Brent Mefford and Grant Flaming, the intern for TU who is doing flow measurements on these screens. Coordination with water commissioner and landowner on cleaning and performance of screen. This is part of O&M contract.

**The Rock Creek Cattle/Dippold upper diversion upgrade, with screen,** is still on the docket, while waiting for landowner confirmation from Dippold.

- **Operation and Maintenance:** Work on McQueary screen is ongoing. Andy Fischer performed cleaning, maintenance and monitoring on the Alvi-Beck, Mill Creek and Cottonwood Creek screens. Work involved driving to the project sites, brushing screens, flushing debris, removing sticks, adjusting boards to improve performance and communicating with the operators.
- **O’Neill Creek** – No updates due to unresolved landowner change.
- **Gold Creek** – No activity.
- **Racetrack Creek:** No update.
- **Brown’s Gulch:** Follow up meeting rescheduled of October 5.

**Flow:**

- **Racetrack/Dempsey:** No update.

**Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:**

- The draft feasibility study was delivered to the Deer Lodge Landfill. We are waiting for their reply.

Partners reports were given.

Next meeting: September 7, 2021

Submitted by Susie Johnson, August 4, 2021