

WRC UCF Minutes

June 7, 2022

Public Meeting

Those Present:

Susie Johnson – DLVCD/WRC, John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Cam Balentine – WRC/Brown's Gulch/MHCD, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/Landowner, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Hailey Graf – DNRC, Glen Green – WRC, Stephen Begley – FWP, Will McDowell – WRC/CFC, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, (Teams), Brandon Warner – BSB 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 Pete Dallaserra and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- **New Business:** None.

Project Updates:

CREP Proposal: Kick-off meeting has been set for June 13, 2022 at 9:00 am., at the Pen Convention Center.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Next meeting will be July 12th at 5:30 pm., meeting at Bruce Thomas Ranch. There is a conflict with the same date as the Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District meeting and also being Susie's last meeting with the district, Stephen is trying to get the date changed for the Flow Group meeting.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

- **Garnet: Terrestrial**
A DNRC forestry grant request was submitted in April for conifer encroachment work in the Garnets. No word on the status at this time. Work on the Gilman ranch is moving forward.
- **Gough Creek:**

Dutton Ranch: Glen finished up the landowner agreement and sent it up to NRDP. His project list will include conifer encroachment removal from grasslands (keying in on areas of Antelope

bitterbrush), conifer encroachment removal from the Gough Creek riparian zone, and biological weed control for Spotted knapweed.

Hollenback Ranch: EQIP project underway.

DNRC: Landowner agreement in place. Proposed projects include two spring developments (with short pipelines and stock tanks) and conifer removal from an Aspen clone.

Brock Creek: Cynthia Montagne: Glen Continued work on the Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne) management plan. Property is in sections 14, 23, & 24 T10N R10W in the Brock Creek drainage. This includes some map work, analyzing the inventory data and begin writing the plan narrative. Glen will need to meet with Cynthia soon to review the plan with her and get input from her.

Deer Lodge North & South: Task Order 16

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson): Glen met with Sherm Anderson to review and discuss the NRDP landowner agreement. Overall, he agrees with the proposed projects - he did recommend some minor changes to the cross fence and the stock water pipeline. The proposed projects include a cross fence, riparian fence, beaver mimicry, stream crossings, off stream stock water system (pumping station, pipelines, & summer and winter stock tanks). Waiting for a field review by FWP & NRDP.

Habitat Enhancement: Task Order 13

DNRC: (Brock Creek and Spring Creek sections): Stock Water System Glen was on site with the DNRC in April. The DNRC has propose that they will use their fire crew to complete the conifer removal from aspen clones in the Brock Creek project.

DNRC/Sanders

Fencing contract underway.

Aquatic:

- **Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:** Landowner contracts & development of CREP proposals under way. Eight landowners contacted.
- **Brown's Gulch:** Partial funding for the Ballentine projects has been secured. Additional grants submitted. Waiting for FWP to conduct additional studies on Brown's Gulch before any potential new funding is made available.
- **Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:** Aspen Grove bids received. Contractor selected.

- **Cottonwood Creek, RCC-Vineyards Diversion:** Confluence has finished a conceptual design. No new reported activity.
- **O'Neill Creek** – No activity.
- **Gold Creek** – No activity.
- **Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:** No Activity.

Flow:

- **Racetrack/Dempsey Creek Flow Project Development – Task Order No. 6:** No Activity.

Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project: County still waiting for the DEQ to approve the expansion of the landfill project.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: July 5, 2022

Submitted by Susie Johnson, June 14, 2022