

WRC UCF Minutes

September 6, 2022

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Bruce Thomas – WRC/landowner, Rem Mannix – WRC/Landowner/Powell County Commissioner, Cam Balentine – WRC/MHCD/Brown's Gulch, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/Landowner/MHCD, Karen Knudsen – WRC/CFC, Amanda Cooley – County Planner, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Glen Green – WRC, 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 Pete Dallaserra and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- **New Business:** None.

Project Updates:

CREP Proposal: A revised draft project proposal has been developed on the potential Harrington CREP and submitted to NRDP for review. In additions a draft power point has been developed and submitted to NRDP for review. The other three potential CREP projects on Blacktail Creek are on hold. Ray noted that we need a clearer process for landowners (the one Heidi submitted wasn't clear enough). Ted asked if the Board should see Heidi's power point and Ray thought it would be a good idea. Ray will do some more edits for Heidi and then in the next couple of weeks have the board review for their comments.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: This group will meet September 14, 2022 at 9:00 am., at the Pen Convention Center in Deer Lodge.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

- **Garnet: Terrestrial**
- **Gough Creek:**

Dutton Ranch: No activity since sending the NRDP landowner agreement up to NRDP in March 2022. 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: No activity on a landowner agreement since March 2022. Landowner agreement still draft and has not been submitted to NRDP for review. Proposed projects include two spring developments (with short pipelines and stock tanks) and conifer removal from an Aspen clone.

Brock Creek: No activity since March 2022. Have been trying to connect with Cynthia Montagne to set up a meeting to review the draft management plan. Hope to do that in September.

Deer Lodge North & South: Task Order 16

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson): Aspen Grove projects are proceeding. New headgate and fish screen are in. Pipeline installation started. Should be done in October.

Monitoring Activities: Discussions with Ray Vinkey about monitoring of projects previously installed to get an updated status on existence, condition, functioning or not, etc. Reviewed a monitoring form he developed. Reviewed a landowner and project list; started gathering information from project files in the office.

The following are the landowners and projects that have been looked at in the field so far: H Double C, LLC (Hoyt): spent a day looking at the multiple Quaking aspen clones that were enhanced by removing encroaching conifers (Douglas fir and Rocky Mtn. juniper) from within the clones. This project was completed in 2019.

Habitat Enhancement: Task Order 13

DNRC/Sanders: Dry Cottonwood Creek and DNRC/Sand Hollow: The following are the projects completed (year): Slash Filter Windrows (2018); Beaver Mimicry; Conifer encroachment removal from Aspen; Riparian Fencing; Stock water well; Bio-weed control (Leafy spurge). Spent a day looking and collecting information on these projects.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration grant:

DNRC has selected the Garnet proposal as one of that will be submitted to the U.S. Forest Service for funding. We are currently working with the DNRC to revise the original proposal to meet the required information for the submission. The final draft will be submitted to DNRC on Sept. 15th

Aquatic:

- **Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:**
Draft CREP proposal under way on four landowners. Field review by NRCS and NRDP completed July 1. Eight landowners contacted. All except Harrington proposal on hold. Draft Power Point and revised project proposal completed for Harrington pending review by NRDP.
- **Brown's Gulch:** Task Order cancelled due to lack of funds.
- **Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:** No change in project status.
- **Cottonwood Creek, RCC-Vineyards Diversion:** No new reported activity. Confluence has developed a concept plan. Currently waiting for Rock Creek Project manager to make contact with Joe Dippold.
- **O'Neill Creek** – No activity.
- **Gold Creek** – Sydney Stewart from DNRC and Will talked about fish screen work in Gold Creek (Wall City). They are working on a scope of work now.
- **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. New grant request budget submitted to the Heart of the Rockies.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: October 4, 2022

Submitted by Susie Johnson, September 9, 2022