

WRC UCF Minutes

February 7, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

Susie Johnson – WRC, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Cam Balentine – WRC/MHCD/Brown's Gulch, Karen Knudsen – WRC/CFC, Glen Green – WRC, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Will McDowell – CFC/WRC, Andrew Gorder – CFC, Andy Fischer – CFC, and Ted Dodge – WRC.

Agenda:

- The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Dan McQueary.
- **Treasurer Report:**
Invoices were reviewed and approved at the previous Board meeting.
- **Minutes:** It was moved by Cam Balentine, seconded by Karen Knudsen and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- **Exempt Well Report:** Andrew Gorder, Legal Director for the Clark Fork Coalition informed the group about his tracking legislation on exempt wells. Andrew handed out a fact question and answer sheet.

Project Updates:

CREP: A meeting was held after January's meeting with Doug Martin, Ray Vinkey, Ted Dodge, Glen Green and Heidi Brewer to discuss CREP. It was decided that Glen Green will take over the field work for CREP and Heidi was given 50 hours as an Advisor for CREP.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Ted reported on the BOR Water Smart Grant application. Andy Fischer is working on cost for a headgate. NRDP will put up the match. Ted also talked about other possible projects for this grant. In a different BOR grant, Ted would like to keep this Flow Group going and be able to pay for Brian's time.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

Garnet Terrestrial – Task Order No. 15.25 2023 task order modification submitted to NRDP

Gough Creek:

Dutton Hereford Ranch:

No change in status since last report. No activity since sending the NRDP landowner agreement up to NRDP in March 2022. Dutton 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.

DNRC:

No change in status since last report. 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. A meeting will take place this afternoon with Ted, Glen, Ray Vinkey and DNRC.

Brock Creek:

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne):

No change in status since last report. Meeting scheduled for January 6th with Cynthia Montagne to review draft management plan.

Deer Lodge North-South – Task Order No. 16 2023 task order modification submitted to NRDP.

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson):

No change in status since last report. No activity. NRDP has not yet approved the landowner agreement. Want to get Amy Chadwick to review the beaver mimicry proposed in Reese Anderson Creek. 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).

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant

No change in status. DNRC submitted final proposal as part of a package to the U.S.F.S. in November.

PBurg West:

2023 task order modification submitted to NRDP.

Meeting being scheduled with NRDP & DNRC on riparian fence issue. Shrub & tree planting project is on hold until the fencing issue is worked out.

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:

No change in status since last report. Harrington CREP proposal delivered. Other Blacktail CREP proposals on hold. Meeting to be set w/NRDP to discuss development of 2023 task order.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:

No activity. Meeting held with NRDP, FWP, and CFC on December 6th to discuss potential future activities. 2023 task order on hold until decision on Kohrs Manning.

Meeting on Cottonwood with Ted, Andy, Will and Dylan to discuss Dylan taking over the fish screen cleaning using the O&M task order. Will need to add Dylan to this task order.

- **RCC-Vineyards Diversion:** No change in status since last report. 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** – 2023 task order modification submitted to NRDP. Still looking at 4 diversions on Gold Creek.
- **Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:** No activity.

Flow Projects:

Racetrack and Dempsey Creek Flow Project Development – Task Order No.6

- No Activity.

Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project: No change in status since last report. County still waiting for the DEQ to approve the expansion of the landfill project. County contacted in November about status report on DEQ permit.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: March 7, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, February 14, 2023