

WRC UCF Minutes

March 7, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – WRC, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Karen Knudsen – WRC/CFC, Glen Green – WRC, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Doug Martin – NRDP, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Will McDowell – CFC/WRC, Amanda Cooley – Po. Co. Planner, Andy Fischer – 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 Karen Knudsen and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Project Updates:

CREP: No activity.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Ted presented the board with a draft resolution for approval of the application for grant funds from the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Environmental Water Resources Project. It was moved by Karen Knudsen, seconded by Dan McQueary and motion carried to approve the resolution as presented. A letter was drafted to Doug Martin (NRDP) and presented to the board to seek the Natural Resource Damage Program commitment to providing matching funds support for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Environmental Water Resources grant request by the Watershed Restoration Coalition. It was moved by Dan McQueary, seconded by Karen Knudsen and motion carried to approve this letter. Next Flow Group meeting will take place March 15, 2023 at 10:00 am. at the Pen Convention Center.

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.

Since DNRC doesn't want to maintain DNRC projects, Glen suggested that the Lessee be added to the landowner's agreement and also sign the agreement with DNRC and have the Lessee be responsible for the maintenance of the project.

Brock Creek:

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne): Cynthia Montagne's plan is finalized and Glen gave her a list of funding sources. Glen will meet with her in April.

Deer Lodge North-South – Task Order No. 16 Glen gave a report on projects that are not being maintained.

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 activity.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:

No activity.

O&M Task Order: Cottonwood and other drainages were maintained (9 fish screens). Will is working on shading for screens to prevent algae from occurring.

- **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** – Still looking at 4 diversions on Wall City.
- **Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:** Will and Andy are working on prioritizing flow and riparian issues on Racetrack Creek.

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: April 4, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, March 14, 2023