

WRC UCF Minutes

April 4, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – WRC, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Bruce Thomas, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Doug Martin – NRDP, Logan Dudding – DEQ, Katie Garcin-Forba – DEQ, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Alex Leone – 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.

Project Updates:

CREP: No activity.

NRDP/DEQ Clark Fork River Operable Unit Strategic Plan – Doug Martin

Doug Martin and DEQ gave an update on this strategic plan. There will be a 60-day public comment period that will end on May 25, 2023. A Public meeting will be held April 25 at the Powell County Community Center at 6:00 pm.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Grant for Racetrack Lake was completed and submitted to the BOR on March 28, 2023. Alex from Clark Fork Coalition gave an update on the grant submitted and future grants.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: DNRC informed WRC that the LSR grant has been approved. Ted began developing potential bid package for projects which fit the proposal. It is expected that the final contract will be completed in late fall.

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.

DNRC:

No change in status since last report.

Hollenback: Glen worked on and completed the draft of the bid/contract documents for the stock water projects. These are four spring developments that include spring developments, pipelines and stock water.

Brock Creek:

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne): Final draft proposed plan submitted to NRDP in March. A meeting with Cynthia is being set up in April.

Finch In Holdings in Brock Creek: The followed up with Kathryn Finch to see if there was any interest in doing some conifer reduction through the DNRC LSR grant. Kathryn will reach out to her children to discuss the subject.

Gravelly Ranch: Ted followed up with Sandy Gravelly to see if there was any interest in doing conifer reduction through the DNRC LSR grant. Sandy said that they would be interested. When the weather clears, Ted will work with Glen to meet with all the potential landowners to finish development of a DNRC LSR bid package.

Deer Lodge North-South – Task Order No. 16

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson):

No change in status since last report.

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project: Ted met with Mile High CD to discuss potential projects for the 2023 NRDP Restoration Plan update. No new projects were submitted to NRDP.

Browns Gulch: Ted met with the Mile High CD to begin the development of proposed additional projects for Browns Gulch in the 2023 NRDP Restoration Plan update. The proposed projects were submitted to NRDP.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove: Ted worked with Will to develop a list of proposed projects for the 2023 NRDP Restoration Plan update. The proposed projects were submitted to NRDP.

O&M Task Order: In March Will did further design work on shade installations. Ted, Andy & Will interviewed potential WRC contractor for O&M Task order. Will and Andy in consultation with TU & NRDP developed a preliminary schedule for screen cleaning. Will met with NRDP and TU for planning & in February, started developing ideas for shade cloth install and contractor fish screen cleaning in early 2023. Ted, Andy, Will, Doug, Nathan & Brian held a

meeting to discuss O&M Task order schedule budget & reporting requirements. After the meeting Ted developed and submitted a proposed scope of Work and budget. Ted also sent a draft contract to Dylan Dallaserra for contract work related to the Task order. It is expected that all required documentation will be in place in April and a kickoff meeting will be held to begin the project.

- **O'Neill Creek** –No activity.
- **Gold Creek** – Will conducted further planning with Matt, Sydney and Bruce Thomas on survey work in March. Consulted with Sydney and Matt Barnes on whole fish screen/diversions concept in Jan/Feb2023. Consulted NRDP on bid walk-thru idea in Dec. Worked with Sydney at NRDP on mapping and clarifying names and data on the key Wall City diversions in early November.
- **Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:** Will began downloading data on water rights and diversions and sorting this data. Goal: Preparing an Inventory and Draft Prioritization of Racetrack Creek Passage & Entrainment report for NRDP for April-May 2023.

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. No change in status. Ted worked with the Heart of the Rockies staffer to begin development of the new National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant request.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: May 2, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, April 13, 2023