

WRC UCF Minutes

May 2, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – WRC, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Bruce Thomas, Cam Balentine – WRC/MHCD/Brown’s Gulch, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/Brown’s Gulch, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Glen Green – WRC, Will McDowell – CFC. Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Ben Masters – CFC, Stephen Begley – MT FWP, Brad Balis – MT FWP, 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.

Project Updates:

CREP: No activity.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Next meeting will be May 10th at 10:00 am.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: Glen & Ted met to discuss the DNRC Forestry Grant. Discussed the plan for moving forward with meeting with interested landowners and discussing details of the potential vegetation (conifer encroachment removal from grasslands and Aspen clones) management work that can be done on their properties. Discussed potential projects on properties of Dutton Ranch, Graveley Bros. and Brock Creek Ranch (Montagne). Ted developed a WRC procurement policy for the board to approve to allow for the WRC to handle all of the bidding & contracting for projects funded by the DNRC.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

Garnet Terrestrial – Task Order No. 15.25

Gough Creek:

Dutton Hereford Ranch:

No change in status since last report.

DNRC:

No change in status since last report.

Hollenback:

Glen continued to work on the bid/contract documents for the vegetation management (conifer removal from native grassland/bitterbrush acres and Quaking aspen clones). Completed edits/revisions of the bid/contract documents for the stock water projects. These are four spring developments that include the spring developments, pipelines and stock tanks. Included in the bid documents are the Scope of Work (SOW), Bid Items sheet and the State eMACS Bid Items sheet.

Brock Creek:

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne):

Ted and Glen met with Brandon McMahon (Cynthia Montagne's son) to review the conservation plan document and give them a copy. Also discussed possible funding sources they could look into to assist them financially with implementing the recommended projects in the plan. They will be looking into all of the possible funding sources, and will let us know if they decide to seek funding from NRDP. Ted made them aware of the DNRC Forest Grant funds and what projects it could fund if they wanted to consider that funding source.

Finch In Holdings in Brock Creek:

Ted followed up with Andrew Finch the son of Kathryn Finch the Finch Trust does not want to engage in conifer reduction through the DNRC LSR grant.

Gravelly Ranch:

Sandy Gravelly provided the proposed project map & acres. The Graveley's do wish to move forward. They also expressed an interest in applying for EQIP, Ted let Montagne know about the potential interest in having a NRCS TIP project in conjunction with the DNRC funds. Brandon McMahon will follow up with Graveley's about the potential joint effort. Ted left it up to the landowners to contact the NRCS if they want to move forward with an EQIP application.

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:

Roosevelt Drive Landowners Alne, Brewer & Schoonen contacted to determine their willingness to do new beaver mimicry projects. All are ready to do so. Ted met with Mile High CD to review the status of the Blacktail Task Order. Amy Chadwick also contacted of her availability. Ted then contacted Ray V. to update him on the potential projects.

Browns Gulch:

No change in status since last report except for the potential for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife providing funding for the Ballentine projects. Will stay on this opportunity in addition reapplying to Future Fisheries to obtain funding for all of the Ballentine projects.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:

No change in status since the March report.

O&M Task Order –

The Task Order for the project was signed and is in place. A meeting was held with Dylan Dallaserra, Susie, Will & Andy to get a contract in place for the summers work. Dylan has expressed concern about the required time necessary to complete the work. At this time the contract with Dylan has been placed on hold until he goes to the field with Will the first week of April. Ted & Susie have placed an ad in the Silver State Post for the position. The status of Dylan will be known by the end of the first week in April.

O’Neill Creek –No activity.

Gold Creek –

No change in status since the March report except for the report that DW Beck is not interested in the potential fish screen project. The scheduled field work was stopped for the potential project.

Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:

No change in status since the March report.

Flow Projects:

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

- No Activity.

Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:

Powell County is still waiting for the DEQ to approve the expansion of the landfill project. No change in status. Ted has been in discussion with the FWP Bear technician about the potential for other project sites if the landfill project falls through.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: June 6, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, May 17, 2023

