

WRC UCF Minutes

June 6, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – WRC, Bruce Thomas WRC/Landowner, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Autumn Harris – Bruce’s Intern 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 Bruce Thomas, seconded by John Hollenback 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 July 20th at 10:00 am.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: Work continued for developing proposed bid packages with discussion with Graveley, Montagne and Dutton. The proposed WRC financial procurement policy document sent to DNRC for review.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

Garnet Terrestrial – Task Order No. 15.25

Van Diest (Gilman Ranch): Glen completed narrative portion of this proposal and still working on updating the cost estimates for the proposed projects.

Brock Creek:

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne):

Project Proposals for Dutton Hereford Ranch, DNRC-Gough Creek, Glen completed narrative portion of the proposal and still working on updating the cost estimates for the proposed projects. Glen went up and checked condition/status of the spring development and riparian fencing. These projects were installed in 2022 and the spring provided inadequate water for the livestock later in the season and the fence was built after livestock were in the section. Spring is functioning and both tanks were full, but still may not be enough as the season progresses. The fence was good except for a small section that needs some maintenance and gates were still

open. Dutton doesn't plan on putting livestock in the section until July sometime. The fence charger was still in place and had been left out there over the winter. Glen talked with Dean briefly about these projects and informed him that the gates on the fence will be closed this year. He asked who he needed to talk to about when he could graze the riparian area and Glen referred him to Brian Robbins with DNRC. He said that Ables' property has sold and he is hoping to lease the acres he sold to Able back from the new owner. If he gets that done then it would give him more available stock water in the uplands, especially later when the new spring development starts to drop in production. When asked he told me that he is still interested in getting some projects done on his own property.

Hollenback: Project cost estimates updated in the Hollenback Landowner agreement for Ray Vinkey.

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):

Project Proposal – started on and worked on the proposed projects to NRDP. Still have the project list cost estimates to update then will submit to Ray Vinkey.

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:

Work under way with Amy Chadwick to develop a NRDP draft proposal for the Roosevelt Drive Landowners, Alne, Brewer & Schoonen. It is anticipated that the proposal will be completed and submitted to NRDP in early June.

Browns Gulch:

Projects were presented at the May NRDP Advisory Council meeting. At this time, it appears that funding for the Ballentine projects construction will be secured in June. Will -will present the Ballentine projects to Future Fisheries on June 16th. The USFS has advised Will that their funding is in place as well for the Ballentine projects.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:

Aspen Grove project completed.

O&M Task Order –

Mark Mariano is now under contract to carry out the Task Order in coordination with Will M. and Andy F. Work is under way.

O'Neill Creek –No activity. Will and Ted are scheduled to meet on this task order on June 7th.

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. Ted and Will are scheduled to meet on this task order June 7th.

Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:

No change in status since the April report. Ted and Will are scheduled to meet on this task order June 7th.

Flow Projects:

No word from BOR on the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Grant for Racetrack Lake which was completed and submitted to the BOR on March 28th.

Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:

Meeting with the Powell County landfill committee is set for June 6th.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, May 17, 2023