

## WRC UCF Minutes

July 6, 2023

Public Meeting

### **Those Present:**

Susie Johnson – WRC, Bruce Thomas WRC/Landowner, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/landowner, Danika Holmes – DNRC, Valerie Kurth – DNRC, Andy Fischer – CFC, and Ted Dodge – WRC.

### **Agenda:**

- The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Bruce Thomas.
- **Treasurer Report:** Invoices were reviewed and approved at the previous Board meeting.
- **Minutes:** It was moved by Pete Dallaserra, seconded by Bruce Thomas and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- **Public Comment Period for draft Montana Drought Management Plan – Valerie Kurth, DNRC.** Valerie gave an update on the Drought Management Recommendations. Comment period closes August 4, 2023. You can read the draft plan and submit comments at [MTDroughtInfo.org](http://MTDroughtInfo.org)

### **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, Montange 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. No update from Glen.

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

**Gravelly Ranch:** No new update.

Sandy Gravelly provided the proposed project map & acres. The Gravelley'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 Gravelley'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 16<sup>th</sup>. The USFS has advised Will that their funding is in place as well for the Ballentine projects. NRDP has put \$200,000 in Brown's Gulch.

**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. Need long term maintenance agreement to clean screens.

**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. Ted and Will are scheduled to meet on this task order June 7<sup>th</sup>. No update.

**Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:**

Andy gave an update on Racetrack monitoring.

**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 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:**

Meeting with the Powell County landfill committee is set for August 1<sup>st</sup>. WRC has \$5,000 for this project and Ted would like to offer the landfill \$4,000 and use the other \$1,000 for other overhead cost. The person in charge of the landfill/compost site in Granite County will attend this meeting to answer any questions on the doing the compost site.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 1, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, July 11, 2023