

WRC UCF Minutes

August 1, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Susie Johnson – WRC, Bruce Thomas WRC/Landowner, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Cam Ballentine – WRC/MHCD/landowner, Karen Knudsen – WRC/CFC, Andy Fischer – CFC, Mark Mariano – WRC, Glen Green – WRC, Doug Martin – NRDP, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, Nathan Cook – NRDP, Caleb Uerling – 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 Bruce Thomas and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- **Fish Screen Maintenance Discussion: Caleb Uerling/Nathan Cook/Andy Fischer/Mark Mariano.** Everyone thought the fish screen maintenance should be a long-term project and Fish, Wildlife and Parks should be taking the lead since they would benefit the most from the cleaning of the screens. Mark gave a report on each screen and the problems he had with each screen. The group thought it would be beneficial to see what other States are doing with their fish screen maintenance. Caleb thought FW&P could hire an intern to do this maintenance.

Project Updates:

CREP: No activity.

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Around 20 people attend the BBQ at the Thomas ranch. Thought more people would attend if it was moved to the first part of September.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: Work continued for developing proposed bid packages with discussion with Graveley, Montange and Dutton. Continued. 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): Draft project proposal to NRDP under development.

DNRC/Brock Creek: Draft bid package for Conifer removal under development.

Brock Creek Ranch LLC (Cynthia Montagne):

Continue to discuss potential EQIP project. Drafted bid package for conifer removal and sought help from DNRC forester for other forestry activities on the property.

Hollenback: Stock water bid package completed and submitted to NRDP. Draft Conifer removal bid package under development.

Gravelly Ranch: No new update.

Deer Lodge North-South – Task Order No. 16

Aspen Grove Ranch (Sherm Anderson):

Project Proposal completed and submitted to NRDP.

Habitat Enhancement: No activity.

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP.

Browns Gulch:

Ballentine projects Contractor selected. Projects expected to be completed in the fall of 2023.

Cottonwood Creek – Aspen Grove:

No activity.

O&M Task Order –

Work is under way with scheduled field reviews of the established fish screen. Fabrication work completed on one screen.

O’Neill Creek –No activity.

Gold Creek –

No change in status since the May report.

Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO: 5.14:

Field work ongoing for the required report to NRDP.

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 August 1st. Wait to hear about the latest grant submission with Heart of the Rockies.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, August 9, 2023