

WRC UCF Minutes

November 7, 2023

Public Meeting

Those Present:

Susie Johnson – WRC, Bruce Thomas WRC/Landowner, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/landowner, Cam Balentine – WRC/MHCD/Landowner, Mark Mariano – MTWW, Will McDowell – WRC/CFC, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Josh Schrecengost – NRCS, Erica Paddock - NRCS, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, 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 Dan McQueary, seconded by Pete Dallaserra and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Project Updates:

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group: Still waiting to hear from the BOR grant that was submitted for the headgate at Racetrack. Flow group meeting will be November 15th at 10:00 am., at the Pen Convention Center.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: WRC approve the Procurement Policy at their Board meeting.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

Garnet Terrestrial - Task Order # 15.25

Van Diest (Gilman Ranch)

Draft project proposal submitted to NRDP.

DNRC/Brock Creek:

Draft bid package for Conifer removal started.

Hollenback Ranch:

Stock water project nearing completion.

Draft conifer removal bid pkg. under development.

Montange Brock Property

Waiting for approval of DNRC contract to complete a bid package for conifer removal project in conjunction with the Gravelly Ranch

Gravelly Ranch

Waiting for approval of DNRC contract to complete a bid package for conifer removal project in conjunction with the Montange Brock Creek property.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant:

Work Contract expected to be signed in November.

Deer Lodge North-South:

Aspen Grove Ranch:

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP.

Beaver Mimicry Maintenance Project

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP.

Habitat Enhancement:

No activity

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:

Project proposal completed & submitted to NRDP.

Browns Gulch

Cam Ballentine Project implementation begun in October. Expected completion the early spring 2024.

NRDP advisory Council approved additional \$200,000 for Browns Gulch. A task order is expected to be in place in early 2024.

Cottonwood Creek

No Activity, NRDP is waiting to see the outcome of the BOR grant which has funds proposed for the Kohrs Manning diversion before deciding on the development of a task order.

Gold Creek:

No change in status. on hold due to landowner issue

O'Neill Creek

No activity, waiting for the land transfer to take place for the new manager prior to reaching out to see if there is still interest in developing a project.

Racetrack Aquatics Project Development TO.5.14-

Field work & write up still ongoing for the required report to NRDP.

Flow Projects

Results for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Water Smart grant for Racetrack Lake which was completed and submitted to the BOR on March 28th are expected to be known in November.

A new BOR grant was applied for in October to create a complete data base of existing research & information for ground & surface water in the upper Clark Fork River Basin.

Discussions are underway with NRDP, the U of M & others for a decision to develop a BOR Cooperative Watershed Management grant to provide ongoing funds to the flow group.

O&M Task Order

Field work has concluded the 2023 project report will be completed in November.

Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:

Waiting for DEQ permit for the landfill to be approved before moving forward with the project.

The result of the new Carcass pickup grant submitted in cooperation with the Heart of the Rockies is expected to be known in November.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Submitted by Susie Johnson, November 16, 2023