

## **WRC UCF Minutes**

December 5, 2023

Public Meeting

### **Those Present:**

Susie Johnson – WRC, John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Karen Knudsen – WRC/CFC, Bruce Thomas WRC/Landowner, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Pete Dallaserra – WRC/MHCD/landowner, Cam Balentine – WRC/MHCD/Landowner, Glen Green – WRC, Will McDowell – WRC/CFC, Brian Bartkowiak – NRDP, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, Casey Hackathorn – TU, Andy Fischer – CFC, Cathy Johnson – DLVCD, 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:**

#### **Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group:**

The WRC was notified that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Water Smart grant for Racetrack Lake which was completed and submitted to the BOR on March 28<sup>th</sup> was not approved. A debriefing with the BOR is set for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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.

A BOR Cooperative Watershed Management grant to provide ongoing funds to the flow group will be submitted on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant:**

WRC was notified that the Contract is under development. WRC will be sending the required insurance info to the DNRC once it is updated by Payne West.

#### **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. On hold until a new Task Order is approved by the NRDP.

**Montange Brock Property**

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

**Gravely Ranch**

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

**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-**

Draft report submitted to NRDP and others by Will McDowell for comments.

### **Flow Projects**

#### **O&M Task Order**

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

#### **Deer Lodge Landfill Compost Project:**

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

The new Carcass pickup grant submitted in cooperation with the Heart of the Rockies has been approved. We are waiting for the contract meeting to move forward.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Submitted by Susie Johnson, December 12, 2023