

WRC UCF Minutes

February 6, 2024

Public Meeting

Those Present:

Susie Johnson – WRC, John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Josh Schrecengost - NRCS 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 John Hollenback and motion carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Josh Schrecengost informed the group, that he has taken a new position with NRCS in Alaska. He will be leaving in April.

Project Updates:

Upper Clark Fork Stream Flow Working Group:

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Water Smart grant for Racetrack Lake not funded. A review of the proposal with the BOR was held the grant will be resubmitted.

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.

An additional BOR Cooperative Watershed Management grant to provide funds to the Flow Group was submitted on November 5.

DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant:

Work underway with the DNRC to finalize the contract. The contract has not been executed at this time. We are waiting for the DNRC to send.

Terrestrial Priority Areas:

Garnet Terrestrial - Task Order # 15.25 – Draft 2024 Task Order scope and budget submitted to the NRDP.

Van Diest (Gilman Ranch)

Draft project proposal submitted to NRDP.

DNRC/Brock Creek:

Draft bid package documents for Conifer removal submitted to the NRDP.

Hollenback Ranch:

Stock water project nearing completion.

Draft conifer removal bid package documents connected to the DNRC/Dutton project.

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:

Task Order has been received. The WRC has identified new potential landowners and has reached out to provide information on the NRDP Program.

Aspen Grove Ranch:

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP. NRDP rejected the proposal.

Beaver Mimicry Maintenance Project

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP. NRDP has rejected the proposal.

Habitat Enhancement:

No activity

Aquatic:

Blacktail Creek Riparian Restoration Planning Project:

Project proposal completed and submitted to NRDP.

Browns Gulch

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

NRDP approved additional \$200,000 for Browns Gulch dependent on several factors. WRC will work with the Mile High CD to wait for the final decision.

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-

Lower Racetrack Creek report completed and submitted to NRDP. Any further projects are on hold waiting for review of the fishery by the FWP.

Flow Projects

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O&M Task Order

The 2023-year end report submitted to the NRDP in December, in addition to a proposed budget modification for a 2024 Task Order. No response at this time.

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 signed in late January or early February.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Submitted by Susie Johnson, February 18, 2024