

## **WRC UCF Minutes**

April 2, 2024

Public Meeting

### **Those Present:**

John Hollenback – WRC/DLVCD, Dan McQueary – WRC/landowner, Dave Torell – Powell County, Ray Vinkey – NRDP, 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.

### **Project Updates:**

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

This group will meet on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Powell County Community Center.

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

Planning activities underway. Meeting set for March 7<sup>th</sup> with DNRC staff to review contract management and project requirements.

#### **Upper Clark Fork Conservation/Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

Reviewed the status of CREP.

#### **Low Tech Restoration Project**

Meeting held with Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CWEP) staff, MT Tech professor and others on March 9<sup>th</sup> to begin development of the Low-Tech Restoration project design. Draft concept paper developed and out for initial review. Additional meeting to be scheduled for April for further development.

### **Terrestrial Priority Areas:**

#### **Mule Deer Foundation:**

Meeting held with the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) staffer and USFS staff. A proposal for cross boundary work with the UDFS, MDF and NRDP in Deer Lodge North and South Terrestrial area under development. WRC has reached out to a private landowner to see if there is interest in participating. The landowner Baker View Limited Partnership (Rick Harvey) has responded and wants to work with the project. Glen Green and Ted will attend a site visit with

the Forest Service and MDF in April. Ted will work with both to determine if MDF funds or Forest Service funds can be used on the private lands and the contracting design. WRC is also finalizing a proposal to the MDF for conifer reduction work in the Garnets in conjunction with DNRC and NRDP funds.

**Garnet Terrestrial - Task Order # 15.25** – Draft 2024 Task Order signed. Planning activities underway.

**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**

Planning underway. Bid package development underway.

**Gravelly Ranch**

Bid package development underway. Waiting for response from Graveley Brothers as to agreement to the use of mastication.

**DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant:**

Planning activities underway. Meeting set for March 7<sup>th</sup> with DNRC staff to review contract management and project requirements.

**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**

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.

## **O&M Task Order**

Task Order modification submitted. NRDP has approved waiting for the final document.

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

Waiting for DEQ permit for the landfill to be approved before moving forward with the project. Heart of the Rockies staff is expected to finalize the recent grant contract in April.

Partners/Board Members reports were given.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Submitted by Susie Johnson, April 8, 2024

