

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition Minutes  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
Crested Butte Town Hall  
Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM

Attendees: Anthony Poponi, John Hess, Robin Jones, Harvey Castro, Rosemary Carroll, Wendy Brown, Mark Hatcher, Steve Glazer, Mike O'Loughlin, Steve Renner

Approximate time dedicated to each agenda item is listed in parentheses.

**Housekeeping**

**(1) Signup Sheet (0)**

A signup sheet was passed around to record attendance at the meeting.

**(2) In-kind (0)**

**(3) Approval of Minutes (2)**

Wendy Brown motioned to approve the minutes as submitted with a second from John Hess. The minutes were unanimously approved with no abstentions.

**(4) Announcements (10)**

Anthony informed the committee that he has been approached by Perry Anderson regarding the soon-to-be-formed Lucky Jack Project's Community Advisory Panel. Perry indicated he would be interested in having the CCWC be a part of the panel. The steering committee indicated it would need more information on the panel's intentions before committing the organization to serving in some role.

Steve Renner indicated the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) would be conducting two projects this spring in the watershed. The first was to conduct mine closures in and around the Standard Mine, plus another 25 closures on United States Forest Service (USFS) land between Elk basin and Irwin. The second project involves drilling at the Standard Mine with the United State Geological Survey (USGS) to figure out the condition of Level 1 with core drilling and to conduct some geospatial studies. Steve asked that this be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

**Agenda Items**

**(1) Acknowledge Our Accomplishments (5)**

Anthony presented a quick summary of the organization's accomplishments for 2007. He initially thanked a core group of dedicated volunteers and other staff members for making time for the organization. Anthony indicated the organization collected 197 samples at 27 sites in 2007 with future sampling in 2008 to likely exceed that number of total samples.

In 2007 the CCWC released its first ever Water Quality Monitoring Report (2006) with the 2007 report due out later this year. Five newsletters were published with approximately 200 copies distributed per issue. The CCWC made 11 presentations throughout the valley at local schools, Western State College, and to civic groups.

Additionally the CCWC added to their capacity building by adding the services of Logan Reese as a VISTA volunteer. The CCWC will possibly be awarded funds in excess of the \$65,000 in funding secured by the State's Non-Point Source program.

## **(2) Adoption of Bylaws and Articles (60)**

Steve Glazer presented bylaws for the steering committee to review. The draft presented had notes in the following particular areas of importance:

- Membership classed and requirements
- Section IV; Advisory committee - to allow for community participation since Board is small, with a minimum of 5 people to allow for quorums
- A work plan will be implemented by the Advisory Board
- Input is needed on how the Advisory Board functions
- Bylaws leave open the opportunity for the CCWC to create membership classes in the future.

The steering committee determined that the Advisory Committee's role makes suggestions to the board with the board formally voting at the end of meetings to adopt suggestions of advisory committee. The Board may meet separate of advisory committee to work on executive items. Officers will serve for one year, and may be re-elected every year.

A discussion ensued about making an addition to the Purpose in the bylaws to include a statement that the municipality of Crested Butte is reliant on the Coal Creek Watershed for a drinking source. A review of the mission statement and purpose of CCWC revolved around the term "environmental integrity" and how it applies to more than just water, but how almost all activities in the watershed are in some way connected to water quality.

The term "protect" was discussed and how the wording "protect environmental integrity" could create complexity in certain situations where we plan to achieve restoration compared to areas where we actually plan to protect existing conditions.

A new mission was proposed by the steering committee: "The mission of the CCWC is to maintain, restore and enhance the environmental integrity of the watershed to provide high-quality water for wildlife, aquatic life, and human life."

Steve Glazer made a motion to ratify bylaws as amended, to be adopted by the officers when they are chosen. Wendy Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously without abstentions.

### **(3) Elect Board Members (3)**

Steve Glazer, Robin Jones, Harvey Castro, John Hess, and Mike O'Loughlin were nominated for board seats. Robin Jones motioned to elect said board members with Steve Glazer as President, Mike O'Loughlin as Vice President and Harvey Castro as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Logan Reese and approved unanimously by the steering committee without abstentions.

### **(4) Photo of Board Members – Short Bios (0)**

Anthony took photographs during the meeting, and advised the committee to write their bios during lunch, or after, or as soon as possible to be returned to him by next meeting.

### **(5) Review Water Quality Monitoring Report - 2007 (2)**

Anthony presented a draft of the water quality monitoring report (WQMR) to the advisory committee with the comments to be provided to Anthony no later than next meeting on March 12, 2008. Changes can be submitted via hard copy or electronically.

### **(6) Survey Results Discussion (54)**

Anthony presented a compilation of the results to the advisory committee. One overall theme was that he was not surprised by grouping of the answers to the questions which helped assure him he was focused on what the steering committee identified as the core tasks of the CCWC. Anthony presented a summary of the results that are contained within the survey printout.

Of note, Anthony, John Hess, and Susan Parker have informally discussed the idea of putting some funds for the CCWC into the Town's Public Works or Waste Water Treatment budget. The advisory committee also discussed having line items in the budgets of the County and UGRWCD for baseline water quality monitoring. Also, a similar level of support will be broached with the Forest Service since they manage the bulk of the land.

A suggestion was made to gather information on other watershed groups that use governmental entities to support their efforts. The WQMR is essential in being distributed to these governing bodies (i.e.- Crested Butte Town Council). Robin also suggests that we don't focus on long-term funding needs, it is just important to support us now in this mission with the current issues, and that we mention things may change; foundations, volunteers, how water quality monitoring may increase or decrease based on available funding.

Anthony was somewhat surprised by the website being ranked lower than the WQMR. Anthony was asked to about website statistics and he promised to add a discussion of the site for the next meeting.

A question was asked about the addition of minor membership of citizens for a nominal due fee. For this fee we would send the annual WQMR and quarterly newsletters.

Additional comments on the survey were discussed. One comment made was to expand the mission and scale of CCWC to other nearby polluted watersheds, such as Redwell basin or the Slate River. Steve Glazer suggested that if we expand, we may lose our focus on the Standard Mine Superfund site, but others suggested we have time because Redwell will likely not be remediated by the DRMS or EPA in the very near future and by that time the Standard Mine will be nearing completion.

**(7) Revised NPS Budget (12)**

Anthony wanted to point out specifically the additions to the last budget, and wanted the committee to review the new budget. The new budget included an addition of \$15,000 to the pilot BMPs line item in the budget. The addition of Line 3, Watershed Coordination was added as well which was approximately \$21,000 in funds. Robin suggested details on the duties for the watershed coordination line item be added to the budget.

**(8) Tabletop Display (0)**

This item was tabled and will be added to the next meeting. Mike Pelletier offered to see if he can open the file to see if he can create appropriate image to show to the committee.

**(9) Sustaining Our Partnerships (32)**

Anthony suggested the committee members share any information on their Steve Renner on agency or entity and how this relates to their relationship with the CCWC both now and in the future. Steve Renner indicated that DRMS has some money available for abandoned mine reclamation and the Forest Queen could be an area appropriate for use of these funds. He envisioned that he would be involved in efforts in the Upper Gunnison for several more years.

Mark Hatcher indicated the USFS Regional Office has developed an internal grant foundation. He indicated he may be able to get money for our budgeted BMPs. He also shared that the USFS wants to remediate problematic dirt roads to reduce erosion.

Someone suggested the CCWC should give a review to the new Watershed Protection Ordinance when it comes out.

Gunnison County is creating a line item for UGRWCD for water quality monitoring under Environmental Health. They are setting a precedent for groups like us to become a line item instead of going through the Community Based Organization funding program each year.

RMBL has not shown any increased interest towards being a larger part of the CCWC. Generally, Wendy says that the National Science Foundation and RBML like to see questions and answers to ecological question, not just requests for money for monitoring. Anthony suggested including Coal Creek in studies to broaden the base of information available to the CCWC.

There was interest in increasing the involvement of Western State College (WSC) programs that can be involved in CCWC research projects? If CCWC were to approach BIO professors towards a student semester project, related to issues/research in the watershed, and create an outline of appropriate projects – would this be helpful/successful. The suggestion was also made to advance this idea beyond WSC, and go to School of Mines, CSU, NCU, etc.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.**