

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

MEETING MINUTES

Board of Director's and Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 12th, 2011 at 4:00 PM

Location: Town Hall in Crested Butte

Attendance: Anthony Poconi, Nicki Devanny, Ashley Bembenek, Mike O'Loughlin, Jim Starr, Harvey Castro, Scottie Willey, Mark Hatcher, Steve Glazer

1. **Announcements** (4:00 - 4:05)
 - Turn in forms for In-Kind Reporting
2. **Consent Agenda** (4:05 – 4:08)
 1. Approve Minutes from the September Board meeting
 - **Jim moved to ratify the consent agenda, Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Budget Review and Discussion of 2012 Funding Requests** (4:08 – 4:38)
 - Contract for Service
 - Contracts for services will be prioritized based on services that the county would be providing. Jim discussed the importance of our work, county wide, based on being located in the headwaters of the Gunnison River watershed.
 - Steve discussed that the Board of County Commissioners were instrumental in getting the Standard Mine listed as a superfund site, and they should be following through with water quality monitoring.
 - It would also be helpful for the County Commissioners to look at the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report to see what needs to be done to bring Coal Creek into compliance.
 - In our request letter it is important to let them know how much the Town of Crested Butte and the Upper Gunnison River Watershed Conservation District contribute to CCWC.
 - Jim and Steve will help Anthony revise the letter for a Contract for Service
 - Budget Review
 - Some money has been freed up in the discretionary funds by allocating costs to the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) funds.
 - Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (2010) grant money for work on the Confluence Parcel will be used in late 2011 or 2012.
 - Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (2011) grant money for the Halazon Ditch reconstruction is coming in under budget.

- DRMS Slate River funds still need to go towards September water quality sample analysis and Ashley's data compilation report.

4. **Projects Update** (4:38 – 4:55)

- There will be a Mount Emmons Iron Fen (MEIF) meeting at the Gunnison Ranger District office on October 21st at 10:30 for the Technical Committee. Dr. Chimner took a look at the MEIF, and thinks we may need to leave it alone because it could easily be made worse. Andy Herb suggested making a wetland treatment for the gossan, similar to the one at the Standard Mine. CCWC will only work with surface water leaving the fen, as to not disturb the area too much.
- Ditch guards are continually being cleaned, with the excess gravel being dumped in the Town's gravel pit. Scottie found an unidentified plant in the gravel pit, which needs to be preserved until it's identified. Anthony will make sure any materials dumped at the gravel pit do not disturb vegetated areas.
- Western State College students helped plant 750 willows at the Smith Hill Reclamation Site on 10/8. There are still three more days of planting trees and site tours with Tara Tafi.
- Contracts are still being reviewed for restoring the site on First and Sopris where the diesel tank spill occurred.
- Jen and Steve are lecturing for Jeff Sellen on Water Quality issues for a water resource class. It will be at Kelley Hall room 118, on October 19th.
- There was a State inspection of the Waste Water Treatment Plant at the Keystone Mine. They are concerned about meeting the TMDL discharge requirements for waste load allocations.

5. **Fundraising Committee Discussion** (5:00 – 5:15)

- Jim thinks a Fundraising Committee would be helpful to improve our fundraising success.
- The Fundraising Committee doesn't have to necessarily work only on an annual fundraising event. They could look into a variety of events and opportunities like a night of dining out in Crested Butte with a portion of proceeds from all restaurants going towards CCWC, a ski-pass day, and general cultivation of volunteers and donors.
- Steve has found that fundraiser events are beneficial for public awareness. We do need to focus on promoting the education of our work to the public as well.
- CCWC will have a brainstorming session with Anthony, Nicki, Harvey, and Jim.

6. **E. Coli Update** (5:15 – 5:30)

- CCWC collects water samples and has them analyzed for *E. coli* every August. There were an additional six sites in the Slate River this September. Some of the values on Coal Creek approach the water quality standard. A second set of

samples were collect a couple of weeks later to determine if there we still elevated values in the creek but the numbers were much lower in September.

- This may be a reason for CCWC to contribute to Poo Fest next year.
- The CCWC may need to look in to collecting more samples at this site in the future

7. **Additional Agenda Items** (5:30 – 5:40)

- The CCWC/SMTAG would like to formally request a meeting with the EPA for a Standard Mine update.

Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2011 at 4PM.