

# Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

## MEETING Minutes November 11, 2009 4:00-5:30PM Crested Butte Town Hall

**Attendance:** Anthony Poponi, Amy Weinfurter, Scottie Willey, Steve Glazer, Wendy Brown

A sign-up sheet was passed around to record attendance.

### Housekeeping

4:00 Signup Sheet and In-Kind Reporting

4:08 – 4:23 Announcements

- 1) Gay Austin of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has asked the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) to approach the EPA, to see if it would be able to help with the analysis of groundwater samples from the fen. The USFS has had most of their funding for these type projects diverted to beetle kill issues. The group agreed that this was an appropriate act for the CCWC, since groundwater data is rare and valuable to our understanding of the watershed.
- 2) The CCWC and HCCA received 100 free guides from the Colorado Water Assembly and Colorado Foundation for Water Education. The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment funded this distribution of the guides. Eighty-six of these books are copies of *The Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Quality Protection*, and provide a comprehensive overview of water quality protection on national, state, and local levels, as well as identify key aspects of a water quality protection program. These books are available upon request, and will also be distributed to the CCWC's partners and made available in the library. Both HCCA and CCWC will also keep a set of eight books that address additional topics, including:

- Colorado Climate Change
- Colorado Water Conservation
- Where Your Water Comes From
- Denver Basin Groundwater
- Colorado Water Law
- Colorado's Water Heritage
- Colorado's Environmental Era
- Colorado's Interstate Compacts

These will be available to "check out" from HCCA and CCWC.

4:23 Approval of Minutes

There was not a quorum present, so the minutes will be sent out with the other Board of Directors Action Items via email.

#### 4:24 Treasurers' Report

Harvey was not present, so Anthony briefly summarized the CCWC's bank account. Approximately \$4,800 is left in the CCWC's account, including funds from the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District that need to be spent before the end of the year. Five hundred dollars should be arriving soon from the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory for the CCWC's work helping with educational outreach to the Crested Butte Community School.

#### 4:26 Additions to the Agenda

A discussion of the letter supporting the Good Samaritan legislation was added to the agenda under the Board of Directors Formal Actions.

### **Agenda Items**

#### 1. Board of Directors Formal Actions (4:26 – 4:57)

a) Anthony verified the cost for the Network for Good e-newsletter and Donate Now features. The benefits of the newsletter service include the ability to track the responses to the newsletter and the ability to avoid being listed as spam. However, in addition to the setup fee, a monthly fee is charged regardless of whether or not this feature is used. This implies the CCWC would pay for the monthly fee even though our newsletter is typically sent out quarterly.

The Donate Now Button offers online donations and sends out letters with tax return information to the donor. It also has a set-up and monthly fee of \$199 and charges 3% per transaction and a \$29.99 monthly fee.

The group agreed that while the services seemed useful, the cost might be too high for the CCWC's current needs. Wendy pointed out that the new newsletter, which was created without additional costs, met a lot of the same needs as the paid service. Steve noted his reluctance to start a direct donation campaign during this economic time. Anthony mentioned that, depending on the results of several grant proposals, the CCWC might be relying more on fundraising in the future. Also, fundraising events can offer a chance to cultivate donors and volunteers, in addition to being an opportunity to raise money.

b) The board has approved a new pay rate for Anthony, effective November 1, 2009. John and Steve are discussing the revision of the contract between Anthony and the Town of Crested Butte (for Anthony's work under the 319 grant), as well as whether a second contract between Anthony and the CCWC is also necessary,

c) At a recent workshop in Salida, Anthony met Illene Rogensack of Third Sector Innovations. She provides consulting services to non-profits to help with board function, planning and a variety of other services, and after speaking with Anthony about the complexities of our organization, she indicated she might be of assistance. The CCWC came in under budget in its NPS grant under the "Watershed Coordination" section and also has funding from the Colorado Healthy Rivers Grant that could be used towards this project. The total cost would probably be about \$500 for a few hours of facilitation, which would involve a general look at the board's roles and responsibilities, guided by a short survey, and would occur during the CCWC's annual meeting. At the next meeting Anthony will present more details about what Illene would do and perhaps ask her to call into the meeting to explain more about her facilitation process.

d) Anthony would like to meet with an ad hoc Grant Committee some time in November, for about an hour, to review the Non-Point Source Grant proposal he will submit by December 5<sup>th</sup>. John and Steve have indicated interest in this, and an email will also be sent out to see if others are also interested in participating.

e) Anthony would like to meet with the Finance Committee at some time in December. The finance committee would meet once per quarter to review the status of awarded grants and the CCWC's internal holdings. December would be a good time to hold the first meeting, as the third quarter report will be finished, and the expenses from the summer should all be in, giving the CCWC an accurate sense of where it stands financially. In the past, Harvey, Steve, and John have been a part of this, and the meeting will also be announced via email.

f) Anthony currently informally discusses agenda items with Steve Glazer and other members of the steering committee before finalizing the meeting agendas. The group discussed the types of triggers that might lead the CCWC to invite guests to attend and speak at CCWC meetings. These included activities with major impacts to the watershed and 404 permits. The group put this discussion on hold, after agreeing that the current guest selection process works well and should be maintained for now.

On the note of talking to other groups in the community, Anthony announced that he and Amy will be attending two snowmobile registration days to hand out literature and talk about how snowmobilers can avoid damaging the Best Management Practices (BMPs) the CCWC installed along Kebler Pass Road.

## **2. Best Management Practices Update (4:57 – 5:15)**

Anthony presented a brief slide show that documented the BMP installation on Kebler Pass road. The first few pictures showed the creation of a series of rock check dams. Each rock check dam includes a small stilling basin to slow down the velocity of water to allow suspended sediments to drop out. A series of larger rocks lead to a gravel filter that continues to dampen the water's velocity. Marlene Crosby has asked that the surface of this check dam be rearranged to prevent damage to plows and to provide a flat surface to any cars that run off of the road and into it. Four check dams were installed between mile-marker 30 and the Keystone Mine road. The dams are designed to be at a lower elevation than the road, so that any overflow will run over the dam, not into the road. At least nine more check dams are scheduled to be installed in the spring. Maintenance includes cleaning the ponds around the dam, and, when needed, removing, cleaning and replacing the gravel.

BMPs were also installed on several slopes, with the help of Robin, Steve Bogott, Anthony, Amy, Gay Austin and another Forest Service employee, and six Western State College students, who participated and recruited others as part of a community service project for class. On the first slope, below the road to the mine, students first used rakes and mattocks to create an even surface, then raked in seed and installed erosion mats. Another steep hillside near the gravel pit was also re-vegetated and partially covered with erosion mats. Twenty willow cuttings were also taken that day, and later installed in wet locations along the road upstream of Splain's Gulch. The County donated the use of 15 orange vests, road signs, and traffic control signs and provided road preparation for this day of work. The town also lent the CCWC shovels, mattocks, hammers and rakes.

The sites will need maintenance, such as regular watering, during the next field season. Anthony has looked into working with a youth conservation corps during the summer, but the price of this is so high that hiring a local contractor could cost the same amount.

### **3. Tracer Study Overview (5:16 - 5:35)**

The group discussed the results of Joe Ryan's tracer study. Wendy created a graph representing the findings for the total metal contributions to Coal Creek in April 2007, which noted the study's finding that the fen contributed around 40% of the zinc and cadmium found in the creek. Anthony, Wendy, and Steve all mention the report's lack of concrete conclusions about groundwater. However, one section from the kilometer distances 4.3 to 5.3, which is from the area between the fen and gossan and the Keystone Mine, has variation without any perennial tributary inflows, indicating some other source of influence that could include groundwater.

Anthony needs approval in order to pay Dr. Ryan once he has addressed all the CCWC's comments on the report. The steering committee members present at the meeting had no objections to this, and a motion about it will be added to the Board of Director's action items to be sent out via email. Other "next steps" include sending this study to the EPA's Christina Proggess, as well as to the Assessment team and TMDL team at the Division.

### **4. Additional Agenda Items (5:35 – 5:40)**

The group did not identify any problems with the letter in support of the Good Samaritan Legislation, which was included in the meeting packet.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:40.  
Next Meeting Date: December 9, 2009 at 4:00 PM