AGENDA
Left Hand Watershed Center
BOARD MEETING
2-4:30pm, September 17, 2019, Left Hand Water District
Office 6800 Nimbus Road, Longmont, CO 80503

Welcome and Introductions
Christopher Smith 2:00 PM

Public comments on items not on the agenda
Christopher Smith 2:05 PM

Left Hand Watershed News
All 2:10 PM

Approval of Minutes
Christopher Smith 2:15 PM

Annual Report Review
Jessie Olson 2:30 PM

CWCB Fall Application Update
Jessie Olson 3:00 PM

Other Projects Update
Jessie Olson 3:30 PM

Education Initiative- Lyons Schools
Colleen Ford 3:45 PM

Adjourn
Christopher Smith 4:30 PM

NOTE: The Watershed Center will make reasonable accommodation for individuals with known disabilities at meeting and events per our non-discrimination notice. Visitors needing accommodation are encouraged to contact any staff member to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of such event.
9/12/2019

To: Left Hand Watershed Center Board of Directors

From: Jessie Olson, Executive Director

RE: September board meeting agenda items

Meeting Minutes
Draft meeting minutes from August are attached (attachment 1) for review and approval.

Organizational Items
- We will have a draft annual report text for your review at the September board meeting.

Financial Report
Quarterly financial reports will be presented at the October board meeting.

Project updates

1. Adaptive Management, Stewardship & Monitoring
- Field season continues for us on both Left Hand and St. Vrain projects. We are collecting annual data at representative sites throughout St. Vrain and Left Hand watersheds related to our adaptive management process.

2. Adaptive Management at Scale
- We continue discussions with partners and are working to develop a collaborative scope for our upcoming CWCB proposal, “adaptive management at scale.” We presented at a Keep It Clean Partnership meeting this week and continue to follow back up with other potential project partners.
- We’ve also been working coordinating with partners in the St. Vrain on a potential second application. I will provide an update on this potential second application at the board meeting.

3. Community Science Strategic Plan & Tools
We’re working with a class at the CU Boulder Center for Sustainable Landscapes and Communities to help compete planning for two additional community science projects related to forestry health and well monitoring.

4. St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan
The team is preparing for an upcoming all-day stakeholder meeting to be held on September 16th.

5. DOLA CDBG-DR Legacy Projects
We are working with Lefthand Excavating and Biohabitats on this design-build project, and Yana is managing the project. Update this month includes:
- Construction is underway in Reach 1!
- Yana will be sending out weekly updates, all info is also posted on the website.
• We also continue to work on Adaptive restoration (experimental) components of the project as well.

• Glenn continues to collect monthly river watch data.
• We are also helping Joe Ryan’s class at CU Boulder with a monitoring project in Left Hand.
• We are continuing to work on a small contract with the City of Longmont to conduct data analysis of their 10-year water quality dataset.
• We recently submitted a Technical Assistance Grant with the EPA to allow us to receive funding to hire technical assistance to ensure oversight on mine cleanup activities.
• Erica Crosby & Julie Annear from Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety will join us at the October board meeting to give an update on mine reclamation activities in the watershed including Bueno Mine, Yellow Girl, Emmett Mine, and Upper Fairday.

7. Fish Passage Feasibility Study and Education Initiative
Yana and Deb continue to work on the biological assessment portion of this project, reviewing existing data from CPW and preparing for fish surveys this fall.

8. SVCC & St. Vrain Partnerships
• We continue to assist St. Vrain Creek Coalition in organizational, maintenance, and monitoring activities.
• Lyons school district leaders will attend our board meeting this month to discuss our partnership & the Lyons school district goals. Staff has already participated in several watershed health school events this fall.

9. Forestry Health
We continue to participate in forestry health meetings within the County and Front Range. Some USFS funding may be allocated to the Watershed Center to help with community outreach in the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watersheds. Details still TBD.

10. Potential New Projects
Update on the two potential projects discussed at the meeting:
• We were not awarded the contract to work for the City of Longmont to develop their channel maintenance plan. Biohabitats was awarded the contract.
• At the request of the CWCB, I visited the Estes Coalition restoration project with the EWP adaptive management team. Our role in the project is still TBD. We may assist with monitoring or overseeing contractors.

Boulder County Buyout Properties
No updates since our site visit.

Update on Fundraising and Outreach
• We’ve been very busy planning details & logistics for our upcoming Watershed Days event. Details can be found on the website https://watershed.center/front-range-watershed-days/. We have almost $8,000 in commitments from sponsors, which will cover the cost of event (not including staff time, which will be billed via grant sources.)
• Much of our other fundraising/outreach updates are integrated above into the project updates.

Attachments:
1. BOD Meeting Minutes
Attachments 1
BOD meeting minutes
Board Minutes – August 20, 2019

Attendees
Chris Smith (with proxy for Sean Cronin)
Kathy Peterson
Jim Bryant
Chris Wiorek
Jessie Olson
Yana Sorokina
Sue Schauffler
Monica Bortolini
Gabe Tuerk
Chuck Oppermann
Ken Lenarcic
Roger Loving

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:05, and led a round of introductions.

Public comments on items not on the agenda

Chris S asked for additional items. No additional items were requested.

Left Hand Watershed News

- Jessie did not have any news to add besides what is in the packet already but asked others for any other news.
- Chuck noted that we have a bear in Left Hand.
- Sue asked about metal levels in the creek. Jessie responded that Glenn hasn’t seen an increase but is ordering new kits for more testing. No other updates from DRMS have been received.
- Jessie mentioned that Glenn has noted an increase in bug populations in the creek.
- Gabe noted an opportunity to add a Watershed Center logo at Buckingham Park. Jessie mentioned that we could also post construction signage there for our Canyons project.
Approval of Minutes

- Ken moved, Monica seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 18 meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

Quarterly Financial Report

- Jessie reviewed financial reports (see packet).
  - Started with review of project and program revenue focusing on what specific activities were completed for money that was spent.
    - Chris S. noted correction of year from 2019 to 2018 on page 12/25.
    - Kathy asked that headers are carried between pages in the future.
    - Chris S. asked for clarification on corporate fundraising goals for unrestricted funds. Jessie explained that a packet is the works for Colorado Gives Day but so far focus has been on specific groups. Jessie described how we can get to $90K of unrestricted funds with board and community contributions.
    - Chris S. noted that we are successfully closing out DOLA grants. Jessie noted we only have one left.
    - Jessie added that with closeout with the Capacity grant we will have a better idea of specifically how much unrestricted money is needed.
  - Chris S. moved, Chuck seconded, to approve the financial reports; the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Mission & Goals

- Kathy provided two suggestions for how to keep/update our mission statement moving forward. Discussion ensued on potential wording options.
- Sue suggested another option: “To assess, protect, and restore Left Hand Watershed and serve as a resource for other watersheds, using a collaborative, science-based approach.”
- Kathy moved, Sue seconded, to approve the noted change to the mission statement; the motion carried unanimously.
- Chuck asked how we will address the fact that there are parts of Left Hand Creek that are not habitable due to lack of water. Jessie explained that we are working with the Left Hand Ditch Company, Water District, and SVLHWCD to review barriers and discuss what’s possible in terms of passage of sediment, fish, and water. Jessie added that this group identified several opportunities to change operations at some diversions using automated gates by delivering water down the river rather than going circumventing. Chris S. described these as “operational strategies” and cautioned about what we mean by “restoring” Left Hand Creek noting Bob Crifasi’s presentation. Chuck added the he is referring to maintaining balance rather than going back. Jessie referenced Management and Monitoring Adjustments in Adaptive Management Plan packet. Chris S. noted that corporate groups may be interested in this too citing Noosa and Glade Reservoir.
Adaptive Management at Scale

- Jessie provided overview on new proposal and scope of work, and reviewed outcomes of partner discussions. Discussion ensured about the Adaptive Management Plan packet.
  - Gabe suggested adding a hypothesis about monitoring around diversion operations to benefit fish populations. For example, suggested potential actions could be relocating fish when water is diverted (trigger).
  - Chris S. noted that the architecture of the adaptive management framework is applicable to other systems.
  - Chuck asked for clarification on monitoring. Jessie explained that we are focusing on representative areas in the watershed that reflect watershed conditions in particular zones or critical areas.

Watershed Days Update

- Jessie described the event plan (see handout) for bioblitz and celebration. Reviewed all partners and sponsors that are involved. Discussion ensued about event, activities, food, transportation, etc.
- Ken asked for clarification about how the event will be advertised and Jessie described the website.

New Initiatives- Forestry Health & Education

- Jessie provided update on Lyons schools incorporating adaptive management into all grade levels. Jessie is working to help them achieve this within their standards.
- Jessie described Front Range Round Table, CFRI, Fireshed, and Boulder Forestry Collaborative efforts and how staff has been engaging in these efforts.

Projects Update

- Jessie noted that we received a PO from CWCB to do adaptive management in the St. Vrain.
- Chris S. noted that we have not heard anything back form the County regarding buyout properties. At the last meeting it Chris S. and Sue suggested that we lease the property for education rather than own the property. Jessie the noted the benefit is that we could bring school groups without conditions, have a consistent site for data collection without needing access, and there’s access to a trail into forest service land.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.