



## Board Retreat Minutes 04-16-2019

### Attendees

- Ryan Golten
- Chris Smith
- Monica Bortolini
- Ken Lenarcic
- Mark Schueneman
- Kathy Peterson (left at 3:30)
- Chuck Oppermann
- Gabe Tuerk
- Chris Carroll
- Audrey Butler (left at 3:30)
- Sue Schauffler
- Sean Cronin
- Jessie Olson
- Deb Hummel
- Yana Sorokin

### Minutes

- Welcome & Regular Business
  - Chris called meeting to order at 9:11 and went through introductions.
  - Approval of Minutes
    - Ken moved to approve minutes. Monica seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - Approval of Financial Reports
    - Kathy moved to approve. Sue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Intro to retreat and goal review for attendees (Ryan). The board weighed in on their goals of the meeting:
  - Find consensus on future direction and vision that we use a science-based approach to address unmet needs (particularly as applicable to other watersheds);
  - Make sure LWOOG will remain relevant for all stakeholder interests;
  - Explore opportunities share our knowledge with others;
  - Find a way to meld old with new;
  - Better understand where LWOOG should head in the future and where fits among other organizations and/or efforts;
  - Address whether there are there opportunities to coordinate and partner with others, Better assess partnership opportunities (e.g. USFS, SVLHWCD, BOCO);
  - Prioritize mining issues;
  - Retaining insights that we gained and wants to be a force for change;
  - Assess whether original mission was accomplished.
- Potential Expansion of Services within Core Mission of Serving Left Hand Watershed
  - Jessie reviewed how we got to where we are now and our history (see packet page 5).
  - Taking stock of our strengths
    - Jessie reviewed our niche (see packet page 5)
  - The group discussed Opportunities and Challenges Regarding Possible Expansion

Key Opportunities and Drivers	Challenges and Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique expertise (+ tools) needed elsewhere</li> <li>• Ability to scale up/respond when needed in the future (capacity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to maintain focus on LH Watershed</li> <li>• Board as accountability tool</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing momentum/interest in thinking organization</li><li>• Building on local mining legacy and water quality work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build into business model/goals (unrestricted funds?)</li><li>• Staff capacity</li><li>• Prioritization</li><li>• Draw distinction between planning (yes) and operations (maybe?)</li><li>• Checks/balances on not expanding for expansion's sake</li><li>• Sustainable growth</li><li>• Partnership considerations</li></ul>
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- Break for Lunch – Answer two questions:
  - What most excites you about our potential future? Examples:
    - Innovation, future potential, progress made, seeing the organization thrive, filling niches that government agencies and private industries can't fill, support for addressing mining legacy issues, strength of staff.
  - What's the greatest contribution you believe that we as an organization can make to the broader community? Examples:
    - Mechanisms that would be useful in the next emergency, elevating interests and concerns about the value of water/watershed, adding to the knowledge-base of resilience, education about watershed health related to things people enjoy and appreciate, opportunity to advance application of watershed science, sharing what we learned with others.
- Discuss (and Confirm) Priorities and Services Going Forward
  - Review List of Current & Potential Future Services
  - Discuss examples of potential services (Yana Presentation)
    - Stewardship and Adaptive Management
    - Watershed Science
    - Adaptive Management
    - Education and Outreach
  - Discuss decision making criteria for considering future opportunities
    - Goals are: (1) Give staff clarity, (2) Maintain board oversight, and (3) Not lose focus on Left Hand Watershed
    - Takeaways: (1) Change surrounding communities in the decision matrix to "St. Vrain Sub Basin"; (2) Addition of four criteria to the matrix (listed below), and (3) Staff have green light to use existing services as long as they are in the St. Vrain Sub Basin.
      - Consider partners (redundancies, gaps, coordination, funding, local deliverables)
      - Existing staff/capacity.
      - Funding.
      - Planning vs. Operations
      - Sustainability of Growth
- Discuss/Confirm Bylaws and Mission Statement



**LEFTHAND WATERSHED**  
oversight group

- Board discussed options for modifying the mission statement. Agreed that most suitable option may be: *“To assess, protect, and restore the quality of the Left Hand Creek watershed, and to serve ~~as a~~ hub for watershed issues through the fostering of stakeholder collaboration a leadership role in watershed science, education, restoration, and stewardship.”* However, the group agreed it should be brought back to the board for further discussion at a future board meeting.
- Board discussed options for modifying the bylaws. Article V (Operational Philosophy) *In its actions, LWOG will embody the spirit of cooperation and community involvement upon which the corporation was founded. In particular, LWOG will emphasize: voluntary participation with landowners and strategic watershed partners; a community-scale approach to its education and outreach; and collaborative coordination with other organizations, entities, agencies, and stakeholders involved in activities within the Left Hand Creek watershed consistent with maintaining the mission and viability of this organization.* Similarly, the board discussed the need to bring this back to a future board meeting for further discussion.
- Discuss/Confirm Potential Name Change
  - Discussion about the reasons: (1) Oversight no longer fits in our name and causes confusion; (2) Acronym is not well received by marketing interests; (3) Want a name that better reflects what we do and gives us credibility.
  - The board narrowed in on the following two options:
    - Left Hand Watershed Center
    - The Watershed Center at Left Hand Creek
    - All voted and the majority voted that “The Watershed Center at Left Hand Creek” was best fit. Following the meeting, Jessie followed up with all participants to recommend tabling the decision until the next meeting to allow for additional time and consideration between the two options.
- Wrap Up and Next Steps
  - Update decision matrix with four criteria and sub-basin text
  - Partnership meeting with SVLHWCD with Four Mile Creek Coalition
  - Discuss the updated mission and bylaws statement at a future meeting
  - Research requirements of changing name both officially and/or using new name in reference to “doing business as.” Research requirements of corporate filing and/or bank and/or other official records related to changing name.