



## Board Minutes – August 20, 2019

### **Attendees**

Chris Smith (with proxy for Sean Cronin)

Kathy Peterson

Jim Bryant

Chris Wiorek

Jessie Olson

Yana Sorokin

Sue Schaffler

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 ensued 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 from 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 then 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.