



Board Minutes – Feb 28, 2020

Attendees

1. Chris Smith
2. Sean Cronin
3. Mark Schueneman
4. Kathy Peterson
5. Monica Bortolini
6. Ken Lenarcic (with proxy for Colleen Williams)
7. Jessie Olson
8. Yana Sorokin
9. Deb Hummel
10. Chuck Oppermann
11. Lauren Duncan
12. Gabe Tuerk
13. Sue Schauffler
14. Audrey Butler (arrived at 2:15)
15. Julie Trumpler (arrived 2:20)
16. Joe Ryan (arrived at 2:30)

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:05 and went through introductions.

USFS MOU

- Jessie provided update that USFS and Boulder County are creating a MOU to formalize their partnership. MOU describes vision of potential outcomes and other entities have also joined that collaboration. At the last meeting, there was discussion about whether Watershed Center wanted to be a signatory on the MOU. As part of this, we would reach out to Town of Jamestown and Town of Ward as participants and/or signatories.
 - Sue asked for clarification of what had been discussed. Jessie explained that discussions have been generally high level but there is momentum among partners due to influx of joint chief's funding. Chris S added by reading through draft vision and outcomes statements.
 - Board members agreed that this is a good start and more focus will be needed to get projects implemented on the ground.

Update from SVLHWCD

- Sean provided an update about what SVLHWCD is up to, what SVLHWCD is planning to do in the future, and asked for feedback.
- Reviewed SVLHWCD history.

- Described that based on community feedback, SVLHWCD strives to use creative, collaborative, holistic, sensible, a-political, and big picture approaches to address their specific “just-water” mission.
- Described that SVLHWCD is now transitioning from a facilitation role in water issues and challenges to a leader role in water issues in challenges
 - Focus areas include: improve conservation; stream restoration; municipal education; fish passage; forest health; in-stream flows; strengthening agriculture; funding of ditch repairs; water sharing opportunities; creek improvement facilitates; multi-use projects; education at school and adult levels; and water protection.
- Described a new funding plan that requires a property tax increase in November 2020. Reviewed tax amounts for residential and commercial properties, which will bring 4-5 million dollars to SVLHWCD. Described some of the community concerns about property taxes. Asked for feedback and outreach suggestions.
- Sue asked for detail about mill levy and SVLHWCD boundaries. Sean responded that current levy is 0.156 and proposed is 1.5, and described boundaries.
- Audrey asked about maintenance of projects. Sean explained that would be a project-specific decision. Audrey also asked for clarification about the types of projects. Sean emphasized the focus will be on multi-use and multi-benefit.
- Kathy asked if the acreage of productive farming in the basin has changes. Sean said in Boulder County it hasn’t changed but is declining in Weld County.
- Gabe asked is any modeling has been done related to creek improvement facilities. Sean responded that the Stream Management Plan has just scraped the surface at this point.
- Board members asked for additional clarifications about focus areas and Sean explained that most options are still on the table and decisions will be made as the plan develops. Chris S added that the mill levy increase will help support developing plans, investigating opportunities, and matching other funding sources. Chris S added that there has been community support for this increase but outreach is important to grow more support.
- Monica asked about storm water and if it is considered “shared-use.” Sean responded that it has not been a focus beyond education but wanted to follow up.
- Audrey asked if this money could be used to support the Watershed Center. Sean explained that SVLHWCD could be a funding source if work aligns with the focus areas.
- Sean asked for ideas about places where he could go to get community feedback.

Water Quality Data Review

- Deb reviewed water quality data at one site for zinc (see presentation).
- Showed zinc concentrations from 2011-2020, highlighting specific periods that represent notable activities and events. These included pre-remediation, limestone addition, post-limestone addition, release, active treatment, and current.
- Noted that recent samples exceed the concentration that the EPA is using as a reference (the Limestone Addition period).
- Gabe suggested that current samples may be increasing and asked when active treatment should be re-introduced.

- Chris S noted that this data shows the treatment does not suffice and others agreed.
- Jessie noted that this supports our need for an EPA Technical Assistant Grant.
- Lauren added that there may be other effective treatment options to consider that have lower maintenance requirements and have been successful elsewhere.
- Board members agreed that the Watershed Center should send this information to Mary Boardman and invite her to our next Board Meeting to help answer questions.

Approval of Minutes

- Ken moved, Kathy seconded, to approve the minutes from the January 21 meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

2020 Work Plan

- Jessie reviewed the work plan and noted that percentages have been added to reflect proportion of staff work hours sent on each task. Also added next text related to OHV work, water quality, and hosting events to raise funds.
- Chuck asked for an update on the fish passage feasibility study. Jessie gave a brief update, noting that this project is high priority in 2020 but still in early stages.
- Board members noted approval of the work plan.

Summer Contractor Hiring Update

- Jessie explained that there is a need to hire additional contract employees or part-time temporary employees. She reviewed the different roles (see handout). Clarified that these are all worked into the budget already. Discussion ensued about hiring options.

Office Space Update

- Jessie reviewed various office space options (see handout). Sue provided clarification about the Left Hand Fire District office spaces in response to Jessie's questions. Timing would be sometime next year. Also noted that SVLHWCD is increasing office space and may be willing to share space. Timing would also be sometime next year. Reviewed other options and Board provided feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.