



Board Minutes – September 15th, 2020

Attendees

1. Chris Smith
2. Monica Bortolini (with proxy for Kathy Peterson)
3. Jessie Olson
4. Sue Schaufler
5. Barbara Luneau
6. Mark Schueneman
7. Chuck Oppermann (joined 2:15)
8. Ken Lenarcic
9. Audrey Butler (joined 2:25)

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:05.

Public comments on items not on the agenda

- Chris S asked for comments not on the agenda. Ken asked to give an update/ask a question about the USFS MOU under LH watershed news agenda item.

Left Hand Watershed News

- Ken gave an MOU update for Jamestown and asked about the procedure for signing. Jessie confirmed that the MOU could be signed by Jamestown the next time the group decides to make an update (TBD). Ken said they could sign an MOU in November. Can be sooner if needed.
- Jessie mentioned that we've been doing weekly water quality monitoring and we have noticed an increase in pH at the big 5 tunnel from 4.2 (8/22) to 6.1 (9/14). Glenn also observed BMI at California Gulch for first time in over a year.
 - Glenn was able to talk to one of the contractors working at Captain Jack Mine and learned they injected a single dose of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) into the tunnel two weeks ago. Since there is some water backed up in the mine pool behind the bulkhead, it continues to have some lasting effect.
 - They are still working on the plumbing system for a continuous feed of both sodium hydroxide and methane, which will begin sometime during the next two weeks. The methane to serve as a carbon source to promote some bioremediation. They expect the continuous system to be in operation by September 28. The hope is that they will be able to bring the pH of the tunnel water up to 7 and also reduce the metals concentrations.

- They plan to monitor the effectiveness of the continuous feed, and if they ever need additional treatment, the external treatment system that they used last year is in standby mode and can be brought on line if needed.
- Sue asked for clarification on the methane. Jessie will follow up on the EPA/CDPHE and email the board. (Following the board meeting, Glenn clarified that it's methanol, not methane, that will be injected to help stimulate bioremediation.)
- Ken mentioned that Colleen and Mark will be leaving Colorado moving to Montana. They are unsure what will happen to JCWI but will let us know when there is a plan.
 - Jessie mentioned she would like to recognize Colleen and Mark and their contributions to the watershed and asked if the board had ideas. Barbara recommended creating a recognition award for people that have done exemplary work in the watershed. Chris suggested staff bring a couple options for this idea to the board next month.
- Chuck: Map with diversions. Does it exist? Yes, Sean will send out to the group.
- Chuck: Are there naming conventions that we should be using for the creek reaches or should we continue using project names? A discussion ensued regarding the various naming conventions by various groups and how they are used. Jessie mentioned the AM at scale project and how this might be an opportunity to work across municipalities to use the same naming conventions.

Approval of Minutes

- Barbara moved, Sue seconded, to approve the minutes from the August 18 meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

Update from St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District

- Sean gave a presentation on the St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District's five point plan and upcoming ballot measure (see presentation). Sean also included this link for more information: <https://svlhwcd.org/vision/>
- Monica asked what green water systems are. Answer: Deliver water in a "greener" way. Maintain wetlands, while also improving water delivery efficiency. The idea might be more feasible with smaller ditches.
- How was dollar amount decided? 1.5 Mil originally. Polling indicated that it would be more favorable to ask for less, so they decided to ask for a 1.25 Mil tax increase. Sunset clause also was added as a result of polling.
- Sean and Chris recused themselves from the vote. Discussion ensued as to whether we should support measure 7A. Mark made a motion to have Left Hand Watershed Center endorse 7A. Ken Seconded. All board members present were in favor.

Projects Update

- Jessie gave an update on watershed days event that was held last weekend- it was a success! 40 volunteers joined us across 4 watersheds. Volunteers were from: Lyons elementary, Niwot HS Environmental club, boy scouts, CU Boulder students, folks interested in networking (careers), home school families, and TU volunteers. Feedback from volunteers and leaders was very positive and requests that we host more events like this. Quote from a volunteer: "The Watershed Days event was amazing. Thank you to all the informative group leaders and organizers. I learned a lot and have a newfound appreciation of the value of water in our community."
- We will be advertising two additional after school events this fall.

- Jessie mentioned that St Vrain Forest Health Partnership project charter was included in the packet. This will be an exciting (and important) focus over next two years. Charter defines the project/partnership process, roles and responsibilities and tasks that we will undertake. General approach is to:
 - Achieve broad support among basin wide communities by working collaboratively to develop a shared vision and desired conditions statement(s) to ensure the long-term health and resilience of our forests. Throughout the process we strive to include diverse scientific and community perspectives.
 - We expect to select priority restoration locations with a range of representative conditions within the watershed (from upper to lower montane and from developed to undeveloped) to describe the range of desired future conditions within the watershed and/or the expected ecological trajectory.
 - Following development of the desired conditions statements and project prioritization, landholding entities will work to collectively develop implementation (restoration) plans. NEPA timeline and process was also defined in the charter.
 - Partners will also collaborate in developing an adaptive management framework, to assess how well restoration efforts achieve the desired future conditions and/or are on the trajectory toward achieving the desired conditions.
- Jessie asked if the board had any questions, comments or feedback on the plan/approach. Sue commented that this was a big and important effort. Managing the large group of stakeholders will be particularly challenging and she appreciates that we are taking on the task.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.