



Board Minutes – December 15, 2020

Attendees

1. Chris Smith
2. Terry Plummer
3. Sue Schaffler
4. Barbara Luneau
5. Erica Crosby
6. Sean Cronin (with proxy for Audrey Butler)
7. Chuck Oppermann
8. Kenneth Lenarcic
9. Monica Bortolini
10. Jeremy Reineke
11. Kathy Peterson
12. Eric Smith
13. Jessie Olson
14. Deb Hummel
15. Yana Sorokin
16. Lauren Duncan
17. Joe Ryan

Welcome and Introductions

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

Left Hand Watershed News

- Monica mentioned City of Longmont watershed meeting and importance of collaboration.

DRMS Update

- Erica provided an update about DRMS, described an organization chart and provided program overview. >23,000 abandoned mines in the state. 1,300 miles of impacted stream. Described types of projects. Showed map of known mines in the state and county. Described safeguarding process to finding, recording, and addressing abandoned mines. It's a three-year process. Described construction done in 2020 – James Creek Emergency, Cold Springs, and Yellow Girl.
- James Creek Mines was an emergency closure, people were exploring. DRMS closed it.
- Cold Springs was results of fire near Nederland. Backfilled the mine and closed it.

- Yellow Girl above Jamestown. Joint water sampling with EPA and EPA did soil analysis. Backfilled the shaft and added terraces with straw wattles and planted 250 trees to help stabilize the slope. Also did hand seeding and more hydroseeding is planned.
- For 2021 they are planning to do rehab at Captain Jack and at Upper Fairday Mine. Captain Jack project work will include rehabilitation of existing ground support including removal and replacement of loose cribbing, replacement of mine entrance doors, and installation of rock bolts, mine straps, and welded wire mesh. At Upper Fairday they identified medium risk of radiation at the site and moving forward their goal is to keep people out of the area.
- Future projects include Jamestown (54 mine openings), BEC (33 openings), Licksillet (49 mine openings), and Lost Mule (39 mine openings). Some of these occur in the fire footprint.
- Sue asked about if there are draining adits at Licksillet. Erica noted that she hasn't seen them but they could be there.
- Ken asked about how they access the Upper Fairday. Erica responded that landowners provides access from above via a gate.
- Lauren Duncan provided summary of concerns related to mines at Brooks property. Noted water quality and potential restoration needs. See memo for details. Jessie added that current highway 7 project was planning to avoid work near the mine adit.
- Erica asked about how recent fires are impacting work at the mines. Lauren responded that it emphasizes the priority for work there but they need help with access at Ballarat.

Approval of Minutes

- Sue moved, Monica seconded, to approve the minutes from the Nov 17 meeting; the motion carried unanimously with correction noted by Monica.

Sick Time Carryover

- Kathy moved, Ken seconded, to approve carry-over of additional 20 sick time hours for 2021 and until the situation changes with respect to COVID.

2021 Budget

- Jessie showed the draft budget, noted that she added pending budget sources and that, if awarded, this might result in opportunity to increase staff capacity.
- Jessie reviewed the summary page line-by-line, noted changes from last meeting.
- Sean asked about the office space budget and Chris provided clarification about the amount.
- Sean asked about the board designated reserve related to adaptive management at scale. Jessie explained that it's restricted funding that has been received, carries over into future years, and needs to be reserved for a specific use.
- Sue provided update on the fire district office.
- Barbara asked about if BOD has considered creating financial reserve with annual target. Chris suggested that BOD starts considering this Feb 2021 to develop policy statement and target.
- Monica moved, Barbara seconded to adopt the 2021 budget; the motion carried unanimously.

Fire Recovery and SV Forest Health Partnership Update

- Jessie provided update, describing table that outlines next steps, partners, funders, etc. Noted landownership is simpler than anticipated and most of the ownership is on county property. Also noted that informal models show a significant potential flow increase predicated for Geer Canyon (from 40 cfs to 400 cfs). Discussion ensued about implications.

- Jessie noted that St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership is developing desired future condition statements and made good progress through two highly collaborative stakeholder and community meetings.

Watershed Stewardship Award

- Kathy explained Colleen's nomination for the award.
- Sean moved, Sue seconded to give Colleen Watershed Stewardship Award; the motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion ensued about the award. Jessie and Sean will work together on it.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to executive session to discuss the Executive Director's annual performance review at 3:30 pm.