



AGENDA

Left Hand Watershed Center
BOARD MEETING
2:00-4:00 pm, March 16, 2021
Via ZOOM call

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6688242485>
Meeting ID: 668 824 2485

Welcome and Introductions	Christopher Smith	2:00 PM
Calwood Fire & Emergency Preparedness (Presentations)	Boulder County/NWS	2:05 PM
Left Hand Ditch Operations (Presentation)	Terry Plummer	3:00 PM
Other Business (as needed)	All	3:50 PM
Adjourn	Christopher Smith	4:00 PM

NOTE: The Watershed Center will make reasonable accommodation for individuals with known disabilities at meeting and events per our non-discrimination notice. Visitors needing accommodation are encouraged to contact any staff member to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of such event.



03/11/2021

To: Left Hand Watershed Center Board of Directors

From: Jessie Olson, Executive Director

RE: March board meeting agenda items

Meeting Minutes

Draft meeting minutes for February are attached (attachment 1) for review and approval.

Board & Organizational Items

- The finance committee met in this month to discuss financial reserve planning. We will bring a proposed policy/resolution to a future meeting.
- We've hired our education and outreach coordinator! Sarah Wegert started part time this week and will transition to full time starting June 15th. She holds a MS in Education and comes from a 15-year career at the St. Vrain Valley School District, where she worked as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math coordinator. She has also worked as a partner and volunteer at Watershed Days the past two years, collaboratively developed K-12 watershed science curriculum for Lyons schools with our staff, and participated as a stakeholder (and Pinewood Springs neighborhood representative) in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership. She is clearly committed to our mission and to the community. We are thrilled to have a new team member with the communications and education skills necessary to bring a new level of professionalism to our community programs. Welcome Sarah!
- We will be finalizing the Social Venture Partners application this Monday. After learning more during the consensus meeting, I plan to update the application to include three projects:
 - 5 Year Strategic Plan Process
 - Including fundraising planning component
 - Communications Plan & Marketing Tools
 - Tools/strategies to help with branding/brand identity and PR
 - Tools/strategies to help become more recognized in community (outside of agency groups)
 - Tools/strategies to help identify and communicate social impact of our work
 - Tools to ensure program activities/events consider diversity and inclusion
 - Internal Operations & Trainings
 - Volunteer, member, donor tracking
 - Program evaluation & design
 - Board fundraising training
 - Staff professional development/leadership training

Project updates

1. Adaptive Management, Stewardship & Monitoring

- Staff are completing the data analysis and reporting phase of our adaptive management process.

Over the next month we will be entering data, analyzing data, and compiling results into our annual state of the watershed report.

2. Adaptive Management at Scale

- Staff completed outreach to lead project partners.
- In partnership with St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, we are procuring a contractor to develop an on-line map showing data. We received four cost estimates for the map development and are currently reviewing and selecting contractor.
- Refined approach for framework development and potential additional tech support needed
- Began outreach to broader stakeholders

3. Bureau of Reclamation Water SMART Grant: Watershed Restoration Plan

- The project will contribute \$100,000 toward development of a Watershed Restoration Plan for the St. Vrain Basin. This project also helps fund organizational development, partnership building and development of conceptual restoration designs. This past month we've continued to meet with partners and continue partnership building.

4. Community Science

- We continue to distribute monthly e-newsletters.
- We are in the planning phases for future stewardship and community science events this spring and summer. We are currently planning to host a volunteer event on earth day, April 22nd from 3:30-5:30 in Left Hand. We will be building fish habitat structures for the off-channel pond at our stage zero site.

5. Mines, Water Quality Monitoring & Analysis

- We plan to have an update on the Technical Assistance Grant at a future board meeting. Staff are reformatting the technical information provided by Pinyon for the purposes of displaying it in an interactive way on the Watershed Center website.
- Deb and Joe Ryan continue to track EPA/CDPHE superfund site remediation activities.

6. Fish Passage Feasibility Study and Education Initiative

- Staff met with Water District, Haldi Ditch Board, Ditch Company, and landowners to discuss project and next steps with conceptual designs.
- Staff implemented edits and suggestions received from reviewers to update draft report.

7. SVCC & St. Vrain Partnerships

- We expect to receive our permits for the Apple Valley repair project this month and mobilize for construction next month.
- We continue to assist the SVCC in flood recovery oversight and administrative tasks.

8. Fire recovery

- Our work identifying unmet needs related to the fire recovery continues. As discussed at our last board meeting, we submitted a request to the Boulder Community Foundation to fund urgent short-term tasks that need to take place prior to monsoon season. This request is looking favorable and we should hear back in the next few days. We're also prepping to submit a request to CWCB for the remaining unmet needs and working with City of Longmont and St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District to see if they can also fund a portion of the unmet needs.

9. St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership.

- We continue to lead the St. Vrain Forest Health partnership. We've focused on our work within

two committees this past month- The Science & Planning committee and the communications/outreach committee. We will have draft communications plan ready to share by next month as well as draft desired future conditions. It has been awesome to see the collaborative support come through within these two committees, with our partners from USFS, NRCS, CFRI, and town of Lyons taking a huge role in developing draft documents.

- I've been working on developing an annual budget for Left Hand Watershed Center's role in leading the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership. We have this partially funded by:
 - Boulder County (20K)
 - CWCB (new grant award of approx. 120K, expected to be under contract by July)
 - USFS (requested 50K annual support, current funding is nearly all spent)
 - Community Foundation already contributed 10K, additional funding may be provided; we should know soon.
- We also continue discussions with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District in regards to how they may be able to help cover a portion of the annual funding needs for the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership.

Other Items

- Mark your calendars, the Watershed Center will be the recipient of tips at the August 25th Lyons Farmette dinner.
- We're beginning stages of planning our annual Watershed Days event and look forward to bringing the "Days" back into the Watershed Days event. In the next couple of weeks, our new employee will reach out to schedule the first planning committee meeting.

Attachments:

1. BOD February Meeting Minutes

Attachment 1
Board meeting minutes



Board Minutes – February 16, 2021

Attendees

1. Jessie Olson
2. Barbara Luneau
3. Sue Schaffler
4. Kathy Peterson
5. Roger Loving
6. Sean Cronin (with proxy for Chris Smith and Audrey Butler)
7. Mark Schueneman
8. Eric Smith
9. Yana Sorokin
10. Lauren Duncan
11. Chuck Oppermann (joined at 2:15)

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:02.

Left Hand Watershed News

- Sue mentioned that LHFD had groundbreaking ceremony for new fire station.

Approval of Minutes

- Kathy moved, Barbara seconded, to approve the minutes from the Jan 19 meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

Other Updates from Jessie

- Noted virtual audit will be underway next week.
- Processing applications for Outreach and Education Coordinator Position with many good applications.
- Terry Plummer is giving a presentation next month on ditch system operations so we will advertise that more widely.
- Noted that work on EPA technical assistance grant is being shifted and we are transitioning information in a web format.
- Gave update on Social Venture Partners grant and Thursday orientation to take an organizational survey. Provided background info on grant.

Forest Program & Fire Recovery Update

- Jessie reviewed the org chart from Fireshed to SV Forest Health Partnership (see ppt slides).
- We apply Fireshed tools/information/models at the local level.
- Sean asked for Jessie to clarify where there may be areas of efficiencies or inefficiencies as the org chart grows. Jessie explained that it's growing quickly and feedback is welcome. She also noted that org chart structure decisions need to happen at the MOU level. Sean and Lauren noted importance of the BOD in a communications role. Jessie agreed and explained that a plan is in the works. Sean discussed legislators' role in supporting efforts at a local level. Sue mentioned the upcoming Wildfire Summit. Additional discussion ensued about feedback and questions for the legislators.
- Jessie showed spreadsheet outlining unmet needs and potential funding sources.

Fish Passage Update

- Yana reviewed bullets from Board packet.

Other Items

- Kathy noted that we don't yet have a representative on the BOD from Ward and JCWI. Kathy added that JCWI might need help from us because Colleen and Mark moved. Roger added that Jamestown is considering ways to help with JCWI. Discussion ensued about potential BOD members. Sue will reach out to a few individuals from Ward to see about potential representatives.
- Lauren noted that her team is meeting with Ballarat and EPA in early March. Also provided an update on sampling that took place and next steps at two locations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.