



AGENDA

Left Hand Watershed Center

BOARD MEETING

2:00-4:00 pm, June 15th, 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
July Board meeting & In Person Meetings	All	2:10 PM
Board minute approval	Christopher Smith	2:15 PM
Fish Passage Project Procurement	Yana Sorokin	2:20 PM
State of the Watershed Report	Yana/Deb	2:35 PM
Other Projects Update	Jessie Olson	3:30 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.



06/09/2021

To: Left Hand Watershed Center Board of Directors

From: Jessie Olson, Executive Director

RE: June board meeting agenda items

Meeting Minutes

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

Board & Organizational Items

- We will plan a field trip to a fire recovery project site for a future board meeting.
- While we were not selected as the final candidate for the Invest grant, Social Venture Partners gave us \$1000 and the opportunity to work with two professional marketing and fundraising specialists. Consultation with these professionals is underway.
- Friends of St. Vrain and Left Hand (7A Funds) contributed their unused campaign funds to us (\$1700). Thanks to all involved!
- Previously we opted to skip the July board meeting due to vacation schedules. Given the lack of expected board action items in July, it seems feasible to do so again. Given COVID vaccine availability, I also wanted to check to see if folks were interested in meeting in person again or prefer zoom or a hybrid approach. We will discuss at the board meeting.

Project updates

1. Adaptive Management, Stewardship & Monitoring

- The draft State of the Watershed Report is complete and will be attached the board meeting email. Yana and Deb will give a presentation on the report at the board meeting. We've also starting taking the report on the road, meeting with Boulder County and Town of Lyons. We're also working on scheduling presentations with City of Longmont and Trout Unlimited. Comments and feedback are welcome!

2. Adaptive Management at Scale

- Staff developed a draft framework and scheduled a partner workshop for later this month.
- Staff developed a draft survey for additional stakeholder outreach.
- Staff continued work on a map mock up for stakeholder feedback.

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

- The project will contribute \$100,000 toward the 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.
- [Catch the Hatch](#) is underway! We've also started a new community science program Fire Followers, to track wildflower populations after wildfire.
- Watershed Days planning is underway! We will be emailing out volunteer and sponsorship opportunities in the coming month. Stay tuned.

5. Mines, Water Quality Monitoring & Analysis

- Staff continue monthly WQ sampling in Left Hand Creek
- Staff worked with Greener pastures and our technical advisors to create the knowledge platform regarding Captain Jack mine on our website: <https://watershed.center/project/captain-jack-superfund-site/> Check it out and let us know if you have any feedback!
- Watershed Center staff continued to coordinate with partners on the North St. Vrain Creek post-spill monitoring. BMI data has been processed and is staff are currently organizing results into a memo.
- On June 25, Watershed Center staff and Dr. Joe Ryan (TAG Grant Technical Advisor) met with Mary Boardman (CDPHE) and Mine Water engineers to discuss the current status of the sub-surface remedy at the Big Five Tunnel. A few updates are listed here:
 - CDPHE/EPA are still working within the guidance of the current Record of Decision, Sub-Surface Remediation Phase II.
 - CDPHE/EPA and Mine Water are in a yearlong "Treatment Study" that will end September 2021.
 - This is an experimental approach to implementing a cost-effective and self-sustaining treatment method.
 - During this study, Mine Water is evaluating the effectiveness of their treatment: treating the elevated mine pool with caustic and organic additions to reduce acid mine water generation and promote biological activity that will continue to settle out toxic metals.
 - Thus far, the treatment of the mine pool has been effective at a small scale, or at mine pool areas in close proximity to the big five tunnel and treatment inputs. The treatment has been less successful at uniformly treating the mine pool at a larger scale due to open-ended system of the mine workings (such as connections to other mine adits, potentially more unidentified tunnels or faults). Mine Water continues to work at increasing the scale of treatment effectiveness.
 - After the Treatment Study is complete, the CDPHE/EPA may consider the following:
 - Consider the effectiveness of the current treatment as a viable remedy.
 - Consider implementation of a bio reactor in combination with current treatment (included in the current Record of Decision).
 - Amend the current Record of Decision with new treatment options.

6. Fish Passage Feasibility Study and Education Initiative

- At the board meeting, staff will bring a recommendation regarding procurement of a contractor for developing two fish passage conceptual designs. We received three proposals from consultant teams for the conceptual designs. Board will need to vote on whether to accept staff recommendation.
- Staff are continuing to develop outreach and education materials and plan for a tour in the summer months.
- Staff developed a draft science bulletin to share the fish passage report, which will be published this month.
- Staff are continuing to discuss the potential of creating a "Fish Passage Playbook" with Boulder County, City of Longmont and St. Vrain Left Hand Water Conservancy District.

7. Fire recovery

- Fire recovery projects are underway. We've completed installation of all erosion control structures at Cal-Wood. Some repairs are needed following the rainstorm last week but in all, the structures acted as expected and reduced erosion in the watershed.
- Lefthand project is also underway, with seeding and hazard tree removal complete. In the coming weeks contractors will finish mastication/mulching and water bar installation.
- We're continuing to plan our post fire data collection efforts and plan to begin field work in the summer months.

8. St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership.

- We continue to focus on our work within our two committees on the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership-The Science & Planning committee and the communications/outreach committee.
- Contracting continues with the USFS for new funding allocation of funding for the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership coordination and planning.

9. SVCC & St. Vrain Partnerships

- SVCC is in the process of closing its virtual doors.
- We continue to integrate the St. Vrain watershed into our existing programs, as described above.

Attachments:

1. BOD May Meeting Minutes
2. Draft State of the Watershed report (via email)

Attachment 1
Board meeting minutes



Board Minutes – May 18, 2021

Attendees

1. Paul Niedermuller (left at 2:20)
2. William Ford (left at 2:20)
3. Jessie Olson
4. Kathy Peterson
5. Monica Bortolini
6. Chris Smith
7. Mark Schueneman
8. Chuck Oppermann
9. Yana Sorokin
10. Sue Schaffler
11. Audrey Butler
12. Eric Smith
13. Barbara Luneau
14. Roger Loving
15. Gabe Tuerk
16. Julie Trumpler (join at 2:35)
17. Ken Lenarcic (join at 2:45)

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:04 and went through introductions.

Audit Presentation

- Paul and Will presented audit results; See two documents for details.
 - Governance communication (high level summary)
 - Public-facing financial report

Approval of Minutes

- Kathy moved, Chuck seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting with correction to Gabe's last name on attendees list; the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

- Jessie provided updated report and described new process. Moving forward quarterly financial reports will be submitted the second month following the end of the quarter. (February, May, August, November). This also allows for more time for invoicing and for the financial committee to review the report ahead of the meeting.
- Jessie reviewed report details (see packet).
- Clarified question about new hires related to fire recovery.
- Monica asked for clarification about board reserve funds and Kathy explained determining reserve fund is still in progress.

- Barbara moved, Roger seconded, to approve 2021 Q1 Financial Report; the motion carried unanimously.

Project Updates (Jessie)

- Highlighted upcoming events and shared flyer.
- Provided update on Calwood work and still waiting on approvals for LH burn area.
- Noted new partnership with Oceans First.
- Noted fish passage report is complete.
- AV project is complete.
- Getting to final draft stage with state of the watershed report. Went over approach for feedback.
 - Barbara added that TU chapters are also interested in state of the St. Vrain.
- Forest partnership is in progress.
- Provided update on SVP selection. Board agreed that the two projects Jessie described are good to continue pursuing with SVP. Jessie will follow up about next steps.
- Barbara gave sneak peak about watershed days activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.