



## Board Minutes – March 15, 2022

### **Attendees**

1. Jessie Olson
2. Barbara Luneau
3. Kathy Peterson
4. Darren Beck (left at 3:06)
5. Roger loving
6. Sue Schaffler
7. Mark Schueneman
8. Joe Ryan
9. Eric Smith
10. Monica Bortolini
11. Erica Crosby
12. Yana Sorokin
13. Julie Trumpler
14. Deb Hummel

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Sue called the meeting to order at 2:04 and went through introductions.
- All went through introductions, welcoming Darren as the new BOD member representative from Boulder County.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Roger moved, Monica seconded, to approve the minutes from the Feb 15 meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Financial Policy Update**

- Jessie reviewed updates to the Financial Policies. Finance committee met last month and made red-line edits to update the policy to allow us to accept cryptocurrency for donations and obtains credit cards for staff. Jessie went through red-line edits on the screen. Noted the cryptocurrency would be converted to cash if we get a donation. Explained how credit card maximum was selected and would be divided.

- Barbara moved, Roger seconded, to approve the financial policy edits; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Captain Jack Update**

- Deb and Joe provided an update about Captain Jack (see memo and presentation). Deb explained current status and next steps. Joe explained recommendations as Technical Advisor. Joe noted that concern is that it doesn't seem like enough sulfide is being generated to remove the iron, so if anything changes in the future this treatment may not be effective. Also added that the pH and oxidation-reduction potential are right at thresholds but not much better than that, so a slight change could cause them to exceed their thresholds (in an undesirable direction). Overall this may not be a good basis to predict where to go in the future. Deb noted potential next steps given Joe's concerns, notable ex-situ reactor and five year review feedback.
  - Sue asked about change in graphs in recent time where data is more consistent. Joe explained that this is likely because microbial communities built up over time. Sue followed up to ask what it would take to improve the numbers more than just meeting thresholds. Joe noted that presumably it would be adding even more carbon but he is not sure why MineWater has not taken it further. Sue suggested that we could make this recommendation in the five year review and Joe agreed.
  - Monica asked what is meant by "needing confidence" and if that is coming from EPA. Deb responded that both EPA/CDPHE and Watershed Center see a need to build more confidence. See memo for example of how EPA/CDPHE was to build more confidence.
  - Eric asked about recording issues which may have left some gaps. Joe added that the probe for measuring oxidation reduction reaction was not operating correctly and they fixed it though it was unclear how long it was not operating. Joe noted that over the past 18 months MineWater should have experimented more about how they added treatments and there seems to be a lack of clear plan from the start about how additions should be made and the approach was generally piecemeal.
  - Eric asked about expanding the dosing area. Deb responded that EPA is still figuring out legal implications of that but likely we could use TA support for outreach related to that aspect if it does happen.
  - Darren asked about who the permit holder for the Captain Jack Mine and what are the permit limits. Joe responded that EPA did not go back to original owners and there is no responsible party.

- Kathy asked about ownership of the property. Joe noted that it is a patchwork of ownership – piece are owner by Boulder County, USFS, and a mix of private landowners.
- Sue asked about point of compliance. Joe clarified that EPA/CDPHE confirmed that the point of compliance will remain consistent as point of compliance continuing to be Puzzler Gulch into the future. Licksillet is an interim point during the treatability study.
- Roger asked about ex-situ treatment and if it is economically feasible. Joe noted that temporary treatment plant is too expensive but ex-situ treatment that's a passive treatment like a trench or pool outside of the mine where sludge would need to be removed periodically is potentially economically feasible.
- Eric asked what approach will get us to our goal quicker – ex-situ or treatment? Joe noted that the current in-situ treatment is experimental and ex-situ treatment is more tested. Eric asked if anything has changed since the record of decision to improve how we treat acid mine drainage and Joe said that no, not much has changed.
- Barbara asked whatever situation follows – new/proven treatment or experimental treatments – if the long-term vision is to convert and superfund site to a community asset what then is the scale of area impacted and the dangers to public usage of that area. Joe responded that the dangerous areas that would be need to be fenced off/contained is fairly small – about one acre out of 50 acres (rough guess).
- Board members suggested a field trip to the site.
- Sue asked about getting the experimental system incorporated while they are doing the treatment would be ideal and all agreed that the most expedient pathway to good water quality is the preferred approach.
- Deb tabled broader discussion about watershed vision until another meeting with additional board members.

### **Partner Updates**

- Sue noted that two offices will be available at the Fire District and noted that there may be new rental rates. Will follow up with Jessie brainstorm.
- Jessie noted that the Jamestown project is underway and there's a community meeting coming up. Chiara will send out information about the meeting.
- Monica asked about in-person meetings. Jessie will follow up. Roger said he is unlikely to go to in-person meetings. Others suggested hybrid meetings.
- Eric asked if there was movement on the Earth Day event. Jessie noted this will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mountain Ridge Subdevelopment. Timing is TBD. We are doing a joint-project with Yellow Barn Farm and Drylands Agro-Ecology Research (Elk Run Farm).

- Erica updated that they are bidding out two mine closure projects – Jamestown project and Beck project – which includes 60 dangerous mine-closure opening. Anticipating fall construction. Currently in NEPA process.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.