

Estes Valley Watershed Coalition Minutes – August 5, 2015

Board					
Black C:	X	Jay Blackwood	X	Jim Sloan	
Big T:	X	Gary Miller		Carly Lober	
Fall R:	X	Phil DuChateau		Marcus Snyder	
Fish C:	X	Sue Durnford		Chuck Bonza	
At Large:	X	Jim Daugherty		Ron Wilcocks	X Frank Theis
Advisory Group:		Jeff Crane		Katherine Luscher	Naren Tayal
		Chris Sturm		Kim Slininger	Curt Gleaves
		Branden Krueger	X	Tina Kurtz	Christy Crosser
	X	Mary Banken		Chris Bieker	Megan Nies
Non-Voting Members:		Barb May			
Guests	X	Molly Mills			

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Frank Theis. The meeting was held at the Estes Valley Public Library in Estes Park, Colorado.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given at the meeting.

III. COALITION STATUS

A. *Minutes of the July 22, 2015 Meeting*

MOVED (Sue Durnford/Jay Blackwood second) and passed to accept the minutes from the July 22 meeting.

B. *Committee Reports*

1. Hiring Committee

- **Capacity Grant Status**

The contract for the Capacity Grant is expected to be signed tomorrow (August 6) by DOLA. Molly Mills can then be hired as the EVWC Coordinator. .

- **Coordinator Position**

Molly could start as early as August 10.

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2. Grants/Projects Committee

- **Community Foundation Grant**

Sue reported that there has been no action on the three part grant filed with the Northern Colorado Community Foundation. As reported last meeting, the application includes \$1,800 in professional and filing fees for obtaining 501(c)3 status. It also includes \$9,967 for other Coalition expenses.

- **Implementation Grant Status**

Environmental Assessment is underway. Mary reported that a legal notice was placed in the Trail Gazette and the certificate of publication was submitted.

Mary stated that the 404 permit will be a problem. It appears that you have to have a 404 permit before the Environmental Assessment (EA) can be completed.

No grant funding is available until the EA is completed. But the Coalition doesn't have outside funding available for obtaining the 404 permit. Tina is looking into ways for the Coalition to get assistance with the cost of the permit work.

Another concern is the length of time required to complete the EA. It is expected to be 3 to 4 months. With involvement by Fish & Wildlife, it could take 6 months or more.

There is no hope for construction work this fall. Some work might be possible during winter if the weather is not harsh.

- **Planning Grant Status**

No developments.

- **Senate Funds Project Status**

Frank reported that Julie Ash of Otak is reworking the project scope to account for the stream side work that will be done by the Fish Creek Infrastructure project in the Stonebridge area. It is believed that the Infrastructure Project would cover from above Stonebridge to just downstream of Van Horn Engineering's building. The Senate Funds project could then cover from Scott Avenue down to Stonebridge.

Chris Sturm has told Frank that the Coalition will be allowed to do this as a sole source contract for this project. Using Otak as the sole source contractor will save time and lighten the Coalition's workload in getting the project underway.

- **CWCB Grant Status**

The grant would be from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to pay the portion of the Coordinator's salary that is used for fund raising (10%). It would also cover the 5% fiscal sponsor fee. The grant contract has not been signed yet. It also appears that it will be a cost reimbursable contract

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- **NRCS**

Mary reported that staff from the NRCS will be in Estes later this month to do a damage assessment on the four high priority areas that we identified to them. Since these four areas are included in the planning grant, the Coalition does not necessarily know what we want done in these reaches. Molly reported on a conversation she had with another Coalition who just went through the NRCS visit. Molly said they found the visit very enlightening. Still there is a concern about the exact nature of the restoration work we should guide them towards since our planning has not been done.

The NRCS is also looking for the Coalition to provide them with information. Mary has some of the EVLT staff collecting information on land ownership.

Tina commented that the Town has not yet decided if it will be the fiscal sponsor for NRCS funds. If they are going to be the fiscal sponsor, the Town would like to be involved in the assessment done by the NRCS. Another issue is the 12.5% local share for the NRCS work.

3. **Public Outreach Committee**

Tina reported that the Town is still paying for the web page and the Facebook page. The Town is considering taking down everything except the master plans. The Board agreed that we have no objection to this as long as the information is saved somewhere for possible future use on the Coalition's web site.

On August 15, EV Land Trust will hold one of their member breakfasts on the topic of "River Restoration Update". Mary asked Molly and Tina to be a part of the panel. Both agreed.

II. **CWCB+ UPDATE**

No report.

III. **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

Frank reminded the Board that August is the annual meeting and that a number of board member terms will expire at that time. Chuck is one of those whose term is expiring. He has informed Frank that he does not wish to serve another term. Frank and Molly will contact the other members with expiring terms concerning their thoughts about remaining on the Board.

Frank appointed the following committee to find new board members and to develop a slate of board members for the annual meeting: Jay Blackwood, Jim Daugherty and Frank.

IV. **TOWN UPDATE**

Tina Kurtz reported that she is still working on the Hydrology Study RFP. It includes Fall River, Big Thompson and Black Canyon.

There will be another public meeting on the Scott Ponds dams on August 18.

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The RFP is out for the Downtown Planning. Potential consultants can now submit proposals. The study area does go upstream as far as the Elkhorn Lodge property. This property is also included the Coalition's planning grant application.

The Consultant for the Trails Master Plan will be in town next week to meet with the Town and other stakeholders.

The extension of the Fall River trail is in design. Frank reported that at a recent public meeting, a number of local property owners made comments opposing the trail.

V. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- TWA Representative
Frank ask if anyone was interested in serving as the EVWC representative to the TWA. Gary Miller expressed interest and was appointed by Frank.
- Scott Ponds
Sue presented a letter expressing concern on the high water level in the upper pond and requesting action to lower the water level. After extensive discussion, the Board opted to take no action on the letter at this time, but asked Frank to inquire about the issue with the Town and sanitary district and report back at the next meeting.
- Annual Meeting
MOVED (Sue Durnford/Jay Blackwood second) and passed to hold the annual meeting August 19 at 6:30 pm at the Library.
- Molly reported that she attended a meeting at Larimer County with the two other watershed coordinators. She also participated in a conference call with the state yesterday.

VI. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Jim Daugherty, Secretary
