

## Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Ann, Helen, Paul, Melissa, Pete, Rachel, Conn, Buck, Dave, Gary, Dean Anderson, Pam Starr

**Financials:** Pam supplied a Profit and Loss Statement for Jan 1 to Oct 31, 2015.

	Healthy Rivers	SWCD 2015	SWCD 2014	Bureau of Rec	NPS Grant	AWP Donation
Cash Balance (funds held in trust by the SJRC)	-4,030.00	2,970.35	131.49	0.01	0.40	1,018.30
Original Grant Amount Awarded	15,000.00	8,000.00	16,923.00	95,816.00	159,245.00	
Grant Amount Expended	12,234.82	8,000.00	16,923.00	71,036.02	133,814.21	
Remaining Grant funding available	2,765.18	0.00	0.00	24,779.98	25,430.79	

### Current Business

#### IV) Updates:

- **Florida Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project Phases 1&2**

The first phase of the project was fencing along .8 miles of the Florida River on the Fassbender and Airport properties; the second phase was fencing along .3 miles of the river on the Durango Commercial Development property upstream of the Fassbender property. Landowner Caroline Watson, downstream of Fassbender property, is interested in fencing .8 miles of the river along her property. Ann has written a grant to CWCB Watershed Restoration Program for a portion of the cost. Notification for the grant award is in December. In 2016, the fencing will be closed; in 2017 & 2018 the Measurable Results Program will perform post project monitoring on water quality and river conditions.

- **BOR Grant**

Ann was successful in requesting an extension for the grant. The extension will cover additional VISTA expenses and expenses related to attending the Annual Watershed Assembly conference.

- **GKM Mine related activities**

Colorado formed a group that had impetus from Ellen Roberts (CO State Senator), Pat Dorsey and CWCB. The group met with Marsha Porter-Norton to form a mission statement and propose a name: Animas River Forum. San Juan County, La Plata County, Municipalities and emergency response people are participating. Rachel created a website for the group, the URL is animasrivercommunity.org.

Ann attended the rollout of the long term monitoring plan for New Mexico. A response is required by the 20<sup>th</sup>. Melissa commented on the first draft of the plan before it was released to the public. She suggested coordinating with people in Colorado who are doing the same work.

The Silverton Town Administrator was instrumental in putting forth a plan by Silverton to ask for 75M from the Feds to develop a region area-wide cleanup and have it be a model for the rest of the country. Trout Unlimited National is putting together a plan for the Animas. It is currently in draft form. It focuses on the need for a treatment plant and getting it in place in short order, and the need for Good Samaritan legislation.

San Juan Recovery Implementation Program is putting together a plan to stock native fish in the Animas. They contracted with Nature Conservancy to do assessments of all the diversions off the Animas and the San Juan up through north of Durango to assess which diversion were the highest risk for fish. First draft might be available Nov/Dec.

- **Florida River nutrient and E.coli sampling**

A new volunteer, Liberty (student at Fort Lewis College), will help with office activities. Two days of sampling remain on the schedule. The sampling will be stretched into December to allow sampling during non-irrigated periods.

- **Lower Animas Watershed-Based Plan**

MSI, Scott, Anthony and Melissa presented a summary of data that had been collected for the lower Animas Watershed Plan. Based on data from the MST study and the Watershed Plan, no "smoking gun" was found of point sources. The loads that were measured in the river; nitrogen, phosphorus, E. Coli, cannot be accounted for by the sum of the inflows. The MST dataset shows that storm water loads increase many fold during storm events.

Paul sent Melissa an email about a sampling plan from Texas that included data for 240,000 data points. Paul will supply the information to AWP members.

- **Letter to WQCC re: findings**

Ann has drafted a letter to the Water Quality Control Commission to share the findings with respect to the Florida project in the 2014 and 2015 sampling, also the MST samplings. Ann will share the letter with the Steering Committee when it is completed. The letter will be pertinent to the WQCC's 303d review.

- **CDSN**

Colorado Data Sharing Network: the AWP has project names and site locations sent off to Lynne. Results will be entered next week. The SJWG has uploaded project information for e.coli and nutrients. The Colorado sites are uploaded. The SJWG has phase one 319 data to upload. CDSN needs decimal degrees, and Conn is working on converting data from UTM. CDPHE has requested CDSN to include more information on the data that they are posting to show, for example, if there is an approved QAPP, the lab procedure, etc. There is a section for quality control meta data.

- **Pending Grant requests**

The BHP Billiton grant request submitted by the AWP was declined.

Liberty, a Fort Lewis College student volunteer, has considered finding river cleanup areas. Once the areas have been identified, then she will look for funding to support a river cleanup event. Local businesses might be source for donations The City of Durango will donate trash bags.

MSI has asked AWP and the Tribe to collaborate on a Russian Olive control project on the Animas. MSI is trying to get CWCB funding for the project. Ann suggested that the AWP could help with outreach and could use funding for a VISTA to help with that outreach.

## **New Business**

**V) Animas High School event December 1:** Marcus Renner, humanities teacher at Animas High School, contacted Ann about a project his students are working on: pollution in the Animas for politics and government as a community issue. They want to co-host a forum in Farmington. Piedra Vista and Navajo Prep schools are interested in partnering. A Fort Lewis College professor is gathering "Voices of the Animas"; interviewing people about how they feel about the Animas and the interviews will be available at the event. The forum will also include an exhibition of art pieces. The event will have a few different, multi-media stations. AWP will help advertise the event.

**VI) December Forum:**

The December forum is scheduled for December 3 in Durango at the Library.

Casey Davenport, executive director, Colorado Watershed Assembly will speak. Ann is working with Casey to find a speaker for current technologies and innovations for nutrient discharge reductions at WWT facilities.

**VII) Grant Opportunity**

Due December 1. Grantor is interested in projects that connects communities to the river; an outreach kind of project but the proposal can have a restoration component. Suggestions for projects included: improvements of put-ins, a history/purpose of the Animas movie. The PBS movie, The Great Divide, is an example of a movie format that could be followed.

**VIII) 2015 AWP Annual Meeting/retreat goals/topics**

The Annual Meeting retreat is scheduled to take place in Aztec or Farmington. Some funding is available for a facilitator. Suggestions for topics included: revisiting the niche of the AWP, new ways to connect the community to the nutrient issue, issues has the AWP missed that have become hot topics, the legacy of the millways disposal, a clear message about keeping the water where it lands (with regard to SJWG storm water results). Dean offered to provide information about a presentation to Greeley about the Poudre River that discusses nutrients and impacts on the river.

**Next Meetings:**

**December 3, 2015 Fall Forum Durango Civic Center 9-2**

**January 14, 2015 Annual Meeting/Retreat**