

Animas Watershed Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2014
1 pm to 3 pm
Aztec City Hall, NM
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ann, Paul, Chuck, Buck, John, Dave, Warren, Carrie, Melissa, Emma and Pam

Paul thanked John for information regarding Mancos Shale.

Financials & Review of Invoices. Pam provided financial reports. She reported that all reimbursement requests submitted to the CDPHE and Bureau of Reclamation for March's invoices were paid. Invoices approved at the last meeting by the Steering Committee were paid by the SJRCD. Pam provided Keith Fassbender's current invoice, and SJRCD's admin fees and note-taking charges for approval. Keith's invoices included work for fencing and irrigation work and supplies. Ann presented her current invoice for approval for the NPS project. The presented invoices were approved.

Discussion of SJRCD admin fees. The admin fees are paid to San Jan RC&D to administer grants. The current agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between the AWP and the SJRCD approves a 5% admin fee charge for all funds received through the SJRCD on behalf of the AWP. Ann proposed increasing the admin fee rate to 7%. An increase in admin fees for the SJRCD would not affect the current grant agreements or change those budgets. Melissa moved to amend the MOU to increase the admin fees paid to SJRCD to 7%. Dave seconded. Discussion: The amendment would be from this day forward; would not affect existing grants. If a new grant allowed for it, Ann could write the budget for admin fees to be 10%. The motion was amended to include "but not to exceed 10%". Carrie seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Notes from April. Pam emailed a second, more detailed set of meeting notes. There were no additional comments or questions.

Current Business

Updates :

- **Jon's Office and Phone.** Jon has not received his phone. He is using his cell phone. He is in his office at the Conservation Legacy. Jon will be getting a pre-paid smart phone.
- **Lower Animas Watershed-Based Plan.** Dave and Melissa reported. The first sampling was done last week. Next sampling will be done in July, then in October. There were approx. 80 samples collected at 20+ inflows with 3 samples per inflow. MSI performed the sampling. San Juan Basin Health is running the E. coli samples. Anthony will be putting the data that they've collected so far on the data sharing site. Dennis McQuillan with Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau went to SJWG's meeting and reported on

their Source Water Protection Plan for surface water systems on the Animas and the San Juan. They will provide a lot of data the SJWG can plug into their project. Another discussion resulted from the sample site selection survey was that there were very limited sources of classic nutrient inputs at the inflows. The Steering Committee noted that the ARC GIS software is available to private individuals for \$100/year. No action was taken on the ARC GIS software.

- **Payne RV Park Groundwater Discharge Permit (Sewage Lagoon).** Dave and Melissa attended the most recent Payne RV Parks public hearing. There are questions about whether the lagoon is properly designed and sized. Flow rate is 35 gallons per trailer space per day which is low; normal flow rate is 100's. The lagoon is also shallow. The record is closed and a decision will be made in a couple months. The feeling is the lagoon will be approved with conditions. The location of the lagoon was moved out of the flood plain. The retaining wall is designed to be embedded in the bedrock and was designed by an engineer. The trailer park will have 24 spaces initially, then the lagoon will be tested before expansion of trailer spaces.

- **Four Corners Paddle Trail Conservation and Stewardship Mtg.** The meeting was attended by about 50 people, mostly property owners, some paddlers, Four Corners Economic Development, and interested businesses. New Mexico attorney general issued a legal opinion on access to surface water for recreational purposes: If you can get onto the stream without touching the property you have a right to be on that water; portaging is permissible if there is an objective reason for the portage. AWP's interest would be partnering with other groups and getting the group's name out there and recognized without taking a formal position in the issue.

- **CO Healthy Watersheds Grant Proposal.** Jon drafted the grant proposal. The proposal was submitted requesting \$22,500 with a cash match of \$37,300 from CO NPS program for extending the riparian buffer another mile down the Florida River. The decision for funding will be made near the end of July.

- **MST Expansion Draft Grant Proposal.** Ann put together a request to SWCD for MST sampling at the Colorado site. The request is for \$16,892 from SWCD to support MST analysis of the data from Eric Hilstroms's property. MST's Scope of Work would be to collect water samples on the same schedule as the original project that is to be expanded upon upstream of the Florida and on the Florida. The sampling would start in June and go for the rest of the season. The sites are at the Bondad Bridge and at the bridge over the Florida on the road to Ignacio. The sampling will begin the last two weeks in June on Monday mornings and if enough money is available then sampling will also take place on Thursday. Melissa will email Buck a sampling schedule.

Review of Draft By-laws. Page 2 article 3 section 2. "Participation by electronic means decisions can be made by email either when something comes up needing a decision between meetings or if there was not a quorum at a meeting. Question shall be posed in a yes or no format and members shall be given 48 hours to respond. A decision is considered in the affirmative

over email when..."(select an option) a. five members respond in the affirmative, b. a simple majority of those who respond vote in the affirmative. Option A was selected to be included in the by-laws.

Ann asked about the annual budget approval provision in the by-laws. The Steering Committee agreed to:

- a. The fiscal year for the AWP is the calendar year.
- b. The budget will include income/expenses projected for grants.

After discussion, Chuck moved to approve the by-laws as discussed. Buck seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

Steering Committee Changes. The Steering Committee welcomed Melissa May as a new Steering Committee member, replacing Aaron Chavez. The Steering Committee discussed recognizing his years of service the AWP. The Steering Committee thought an appropriate recognition would a plaque for his office wall recognizing his commitment to water quality. In a addition a letter to the San Juan Water Commission thanking them for allowing Aaron's participation and contributions to the Animas Watershed Partnership. Paul will write letter to the San Juan Water Commission and Ann will get the plaque. The Steering Committee proposed to recognize Aaron's service at the June 5th Partnership meeting.

-Agenda for Summer AWP meeting. 2nd qtr meeting (Spring Meeting) will be June 5th at Durango Library. City of Durango staff will give presentations of their realms having to do with water quality.

Carrie will go to Denver for the Roundtable meeting for the Basin Implementation Plan. Chuck will also attend the Roundtable meeting.

AWP's summer meeting will be in Farmington. Topic suggestions included: The TU Bug Study; NMED Source Water Protection Program could give the GIS presentation; Colorado Mapping and Data Sharing Network; figure out what the Colorado Data Sharing Network tells us about water quality through the town reach in Durango. Ann, Jon and Buck will meet about this.

TU Bug Study: Scott Roberts is doing the Bug Study funded by Trout Unlimited. CDPW is contributing \$500. Durango is not participating in the study. There will be 2 samples at three sites. The second sample will be done in September.

Cascade Clean Up: Buck noted at the hairpin on 550 crossing Cascade Creek, a flatbed with roofing materials had run off the road and spilled into the creek. MSI and a crew cleaned up a portion of the debris. It was noted by Steering Committee members, Basin Towing has a contract to clean up the spill up but was not proceeding in a very timely matter. The Steering Committee discussed some possible repercussions and actions that will be needed to remediate the spill.

June 8 Farmington's Children's Festival. 20K Kids will be at McGee Park. Paul suggested doing an outreach water quality for Festival next year.

Ann asked members to think about outreach ideas.

Future AWP Meetings:

June 5, 6-8pm Durango Public Library (AWP Partnership meeting)

July 10, 1-3pm, Ignacio