

**Lake Fork Valley Conservancy Advisory Group Meeting FINAL MINUTES  
Hinsdale County Coursey Annex, Lake City  
December 6, 2012, 9:00 am**

Participants: Andrew Briebart, Lyn Lampert, Jesse Kruthaupt, Brian Brown, Phillip Virden, Camille Richard, Tara Tafi (phone), Cindy Dozier, Katherine Daly, Stan Whinnery, Karen Hooper, Bonie Pate (phone)

Agency Reports

DRMS- Tara Tafi

- DRMS finished Ute Ulay head frame stabilization process in November.
- County did Brownfields at same time, and created a walkway through the site. Hinsdale County will announce when the area is ready to be open to the public.
- Hough Mine is in bid process. Decision will be made in March. Work will start as soon as area is accessible, probably June. Project will likely require two summers to complete.
- Tara is currently working on Ute Ulay Mine and Mill site design.
- Commissioner Cindy Dozier praised DRMS on Ute Ulay head frame work.

EPA- No Representative

BLM – PRESENTATION: Brian Brown, BLM Forester, discussed the La Garita Vegetation Management Project

- Forest Service is lead agency on Spruce Bark Beetle response NEPA project.
- Brian attended meeting to discuss any concerns and/or ideas that might be worthy of addressing in the NEPA document as far as things that have not yet been discussed in document regarding acres being potentially affected including watersheds, roads, wildlife, etc.
- BLM is looking at approximately 600 acres for potential management, and Forest Service has approximately 5,000 acres.
- Bulk of potential mitigation includes:
  1. Actual timber sales will likely be in Saguache County and Gunnison.
  2. Most of the work regarding clearing hazard trees from roads will be in Sawmill Park and Rambouillet area.
  3. Foot trails to Waterdog Lake.
- Focus will be on areas where there are already roads. Brian does not anticipate any road construction.
- Identifying areas with low slope gradients and good access to roads that are the easiest areas to access, because the potential project area is so large that there is no reason to go to areas that are challenging to access.
- This project is a response. There are no prevention methods to the size of this outbreak
- Purpose of project is to salvage material that can be used in local communities, removing hazard trees along corridors to prevent bad outcome, and re-forestation of Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, and Douglas Fir to stimulate a new forest. FS anticipates Aspen will come back on its own.
- Currently in scoping process. Forest Service will be moving through working on document, and hopes to have a record of decision by late spring.
- Insect population is such that they are hitting off species.
- Dry years make trees more susceptible and less likely to have defenses to resist insect attacks.

BLM- Andrew Briebart

- No report for Hinsdale County
- New Watershed Coordinator hired to manage Coal Creek Watershed Coalition: Cathy Fornaris
- Developing methodologies to create ecosystems. Focusing on Gunnison Sage Grouse...
- UGW Meeting December 12

NPS- No representative

Hinsdale County- Cindy Dozier

- Hinsdale Commissioners determined not to enter into stakeholder process regarding Alpine Triangle.
- Ute Ulay project is progressing very well.

CDPHE- Bonie Pate

- Touched base on annual work plan for 2013, as well as any potential proposals or current announcements.

TU- Jesse Kruthaupt

- Jesse introduced himself and reported that he is working on Upper Gunnison water efficiency projects in Gunnison.

Outreach Coordinator Report- Katherine Daly

- First annual Frozen River Film Festival is scheduled for February 15-17.
- LFVC is hosting 2013 San Juan Mining Conference, partnering with The Mountain Studies Institute and Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership. Event is scheduled for April 18-19. Topics include abandoned mines and updates on open productive mines in the area. The conference will include a site visit to Ute Ulay.
- Planning water education festival for July.
- Waiting to hear from NCCC regarding application submitted for a potential corps of out-of-town high school and college age workers in July.
- Currently in planning stages for organizing a high altitude triathlon in August 2013. Race will start at Lake San Cristobal, and include Alpine Loop.
- River Watch is now under LFVC. Approved new sites include Henson Creek, and Lake Fork above and below confluence, to coordinate with long-term monitoring plan.
- BLM and DRMS will cooperate in loaning equipment to River Watch.
- Lyn recognized that Katherine has been doing a "great job".

## Old Business

Fleece historical listing/ future restoration:

- LFVC hired Jody Reeser, an architect out of Gunnison. She is putting together a proposal for listing the building at Golden Fleece site.
- Celia, Anne Steinbeck, Tara Tafi, Tara (from State Historical Society), and Camille all planning on looking at site. Working to determine when the building could be listed on the state register, making it eligible for architecture assessment and restoration funds.
- Tracer study is complete and report should be ready in January.

- Presentation to AG planned for February.

#### WSRA proposal Henson Creek Channel Improvement:

- Camille distributed and reviewed Henson Creek Channel Improvement Project document, including graphical rendition of improvements at confluence.
- Parties interested in full details can obtain a copy of the full proposal from Camille.
- Buy-a-Boulder campaign has reached almost \$6,000.00 of the \$20,000.00 goal.

#### Lake San Cristobal inlet conservation proposals:

- Raised \$700,000.00 from GOCO, and \$133,000.00 from Fishing Is Fun, with \$167,000.00 remaining to be raised.
- Two proposals to acquire remaining funds are in process:
  1. Colorado Open Lands submitted a proposal for the Water Supply Reserve Account that will be submitted to the state at the same time as the LFVC Henson Creek Channel Improvement Project LFVC proposal.
  2. Preparing proposal to Conservation Alliance. LFVC nominated by Osprey. Potential to bring in \$35,000.00.
- If both proposals are acquired, obtaining required funds for project will be completed.

#### New Business

##### Review of 2013 Work Plan

- Camille distributed and reviewed 2013 Project Work Plan and Budget document.
- Document available at LFVC office upon request.
- Email comments and suggestions regarding 2013 Work Plan to Camille.
- Work Plan will be presented to LFVC Board of Directors for approval at their annual planning meeting January 10, 2013.

##### NPS 319 proposal inputs

- Camille is brainstorming ideas for NPS 319 proposal.
- San Juan and Gunnison Basin have priority this year.
- As far as implementation, LFVC will focus on Fleece Ilma. There is enough assessment data from tracer and water quality samples to do some work there. Tara has ideas for design. This would involve remediation to work in summer/fall of 2014.
- Camille wants to add a budget line for phase two assessment of mine sites in Upper Lake Fork. This would be based on assessment data collected in 2007.
- Camille discussed re-evaluating the Henson Creek Mine listing under CERCLIS.

Next meeting date February 7, 2013

##### Tasks:

1. Inform Gunnison chapter of TU about the Frozen River Film Festival.
2. Katherine- Collaborate with DIRT regarding existing Youth Corps and NCCC application.
3. Camille, Katherine and Phil- attend next Chamber of Commerce meeting.
4. Include by-laws and meeting minutes on LFVC web site.
5. Camille- Present LFVC update to HCC quarterly.
6. Camille- Discuss Green Commission with HCC ASAP.
7. Camille- Discuss possibility of County being fiscal agent for LFVC with HCC.