



BOULDER WATERSHED COLLECTIVE

Board Meeting Notes

January 11, 2023 from 12:30-2:00PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187581378?pwd=eGdxUFRGcW9MUjIzUGd3SGJIMFBzUT09>

I. Board Meeting Management

- a. Approval of December meeting minutes
 - i. Kate Ryan moves to approve.
 - ii. Kate Dunlap moves to approve.
- b. Next meeting: ~~February 8, 2023~~ March 8, 2023
 - i. Discussion: Cat introduced potentially moving the meetings to every other month?
 1. Kim is open to it.
 2. Kate Dunlap is in favor.
 3. Bret suggests executive “on the fly” committee in case something urgent comes up, but notes that the FMFPD recently moved to every other month as well.
 - ii. Joe says he is not opposed and can be available for an “executive committee” if needed.
 - iii. No opposition from other members. Will move forward with this new schedule.

2. Financial Review

- a. Review Financial Reports & Checks for Approval
 - i. Kelly is not in attendance.
 - ii. Will circulate via email for review and will approve at next meeting.

3. IA Funding Update

- a. They are going to put out a Request for Information: we’ll be able to apply via that route: \$200,000 for a 5 year period to advance and support our forest work.
- b. So much is still TBD, but it’s nice to hear that level of stability / long term commitment.
- c. Stefan: lots of conversation about how to do it right. The initial output is placed in planning / capacity. If there is a big project in the watershed, there will be



another program to apply for the project specifically. This is going to favor individuals that is matching funding (FRWRM). Lot of opportunity for fire protection districts. Working out the kinks on how exactly it will operate. Don't want to make it a difficult process, but we have to have some sort of application and judgement process. Funding for county administration positions as well, but the majority will go to mitigation in Boulder County.

- d. Maya: another big part of that is Wildfire Partners home assessment will be expanded into the eastern plains.
- e. Kate: Any idea how the climate funds will be used? Developing scopes right now to present for that funding – increased staffing for fire department and mitigation in the open space department – a couple of line items to evaluate fuels in ditches and to watch extent those fuels contribute and how to clean up specific piles.

4. Webinar Series Planning + 2023 Calendar Planning for Engagement

a. Fire oriented series

- i. Fire Ecology 101 – what it means to live in a fire adapted landscape –
 - 1. Term that is much more common place now so we want to have a basic understanding of fire on the landscape
- ii. March/second webinar – Winnegar ridge – Broadcast burn forest service – they think it's going to get done this winter or spring so we'd like to have engagement around broadcasting in general but also how awesome it is that we could be having one in our watershed as a management treatment.
 - 1. Where is Winnegar Ridge?
 - a. Kate wants to know where it is.
 - b. Ben: western edge of gross reservoir – just to the west
 - c. Maya will send map.

iii. April/third: Pile burning

- 1. Forest service is happy to have some tours/field trips – list of people who are available day of to view piles burning
- 2. Catherine: anticipate there was that escaped fire in NM which provoked pause. Interesting idea, but anticipate questions/concern about that. There was one on the western slope of Colorado as well. Could have someone that really wants to dig in about it.
 - a. Maya: Fire management team from the Forest Service would field those questions, but yes – smart planning for ways to talk about that.
- 3. Ben: would plan to have PIO or Ed LeBlanc or Chad in attendance / in cooperation with them so that they would be the ones to discuss it.
 - a. Yes – been watching their interactions and conversations and it does seem to be a lot better than in the past, so



- feeling hopeful but also yes the public is realistically nervous.
- b. Add Ben to the list. Would love to be available to be there. One of the few slash management techniques for the private landowner.
4. Stefan – I assume you’ve reached out to Seth McKinney as well since we’re burning in Ned / the area?
 - a. Have talked in the past – but not about this year specifically. Will reach out.
 5. We would love to set up a lot of these opportunities.
 - a. Stefan would like to set that up – can coordinate talks / etc.
 6. Catherine: be aware of smoke / etc.
 7. Bret:
 - a. Ben: I don’t think the state or US forest service does a good job that describes the definition of the escaped fire and what that tight definition is. It could be just a road cross and not necessarily an out of control fire.
 - b. Bret: I hear you. I want to make sure I understand you correctly. You can have a maximum managed area - may hve changed course but isn’t out of control – may change management reaction but isn’t escaped.
 - c. Bret: Essentially yes. Make sure this is an educational opportunity to make sure the public knows the true definitions of what the industry terms are.
 - d. Maya: might be good to have a packet of fact sheets for basic understanding. Putting that permit information (private vs federal) in there would be crucial.
 - e. Fireshed as a whole might have a lot of these talking points already created.
 - f. Ben: your input on solving the slash management on private land at the Fireshed meeting last week – we’ve talked about this for a while – this is a larger conversation out there so start it and push it concurrently in the boulder county fireshed meetings.
 - g. Maya: grabbing those key talking points from NoCo fireshed is a very good place to start.
 - h. Board members: Join us! Build your story on understanding what we do.
 - i. TNC Contact: Parker Titus.
5. Meadow Assessment Project Update
 - a. Got funding (\$15000) a while ago, but haven’t gotten it rolling until now.



- b. Excited because it's a second phase to work we've already done, but will also be a catalyst for new restoration work in the future.
 - c. Story-map shown in the past identified meadows between 6-8k ft that were critical sediment capture areas should we have a wildfire. So starting with those meadows. South, middle, and some small tributaries as well.
 - d. What we want to do with these funds: Develop protocols for assessing meadows 0 which exists in other regions, but not in the rocky west. Pull from what exists and make some for us. Do field work to use and tweak.
 - e. Then we'll continue to use these for future work: beaver, forestry conifer work in meadows, conserve and replenish ground water. Lots of overlapping benefits to study these areas and prioritizing these areas for conservation or restoration.
 - f. State just came out with meadow mapping thru CO natural heritage program – EPA meadow mapping – it's a good time because it's happening at multiple scales
 - i. Kim – it's something people are very interested in and we were talking to people at the state / western US – hopefully we can work with them and get help from them / their resources that we may not otherwise have a chance/reason to connect with. Use standard methodology across the state.
 - g. Maya: what I would love to do in the future is measure and forest restoration in the same project.
6. Cash Mine Application to DRMS
- a. Top of Fourmile watershed outside of Gold Hill. On and off operation for 50+ years for gold. The landowner has been trying to upstart it again. Been working on different applications with DRMS – trying to get a water source operational. Getting close to have ANOTHER application ready for the state, so we're able to meet with DRMS tomorrow and get more information on the application. Water quality issues have occurred before and other infractions / poor mining practices. He's trying to get a mill going – first plan would be to re-mill all the waste piles on his property. Silver lining: Project could open up for restoration, but he is difficult to work with from what we know from other partners.
 - i. Joe: What is our ability to take a position in this case?
 - I. Kate: whatever position we take here should be consistent (cross caribou etc)
 - ii. Maybe we want to submit comments / objections? Negotiate some guardrails.
 - I. Maya – yes – I think we should.
 - iii. Joe – will send you the call information for tomorrow if you want to join.
 - iv. Big call to all be more aware of the application, the process, the public comment process, etc.
 - v. Kate Dunlap: City submitted comments in 2018. Concerned, but more concerned at Cross at Caribou Mine – they've been under a cease and desist since 2021.



- vi. Bret: re-milling – I don't have real science on. The Canadian mine that leased it from Stein was not successful. FMFPD applied for a water grant to build infrastructure utilized the mine and pond and denied due to water quality issues in the pond. FMFPD: joe – has water rights along with Pine Brook Hills. The cash mine has an easement to pump from Lefthand to augment the water they would pump out of the cash mine OR use it for re-milling. I'm pretty sure the Lefthand will fight that and I know Pine Brook and FMFPD will fight the removal of water from flow in stream. Alan Hill water attorney for FMFPD / would be happy to send him a letter to connect Joe. Joe – yes would be glad to coordinate – and with Kate Ryan too.
 - I. Joe – yes definitely should be concerned for Cross Caribou
 - a. Sounds like this is of concern too – without being in the full know – it'd be great to be on the call and understand what the other partners are saying.
 - b. Practiced in from of DRMS before so would be happy to help in anyway.
 - c. Bret: Dona: geology engineer for original Canadian mill that was doing restoration. Understands the historic failure of that mine and it's current owner.
- vii. Kate: Submitted comments in January 2022 and even that was too late, but they are having a hearing Wednesday of next week. DRMS staff is arguing that they need to be a designated mining operation if they want to do what they want to do. Operators object to that. Next week is the decision-making timeline – really hoping they side with DRMS staff and would require them to become a designate mining operations + regulations and requirements.
 - I. Around 1pm on Wednesday. Slated #11. Kate Dunlap can update use post-hearing.

7. Walk-On Discussion

- a. Bret + Ben will connect about Alaska Hill resident.
- b. Events: Board members could sign to attend events.
- c. Via Electric Buses:
 - i. Tour of alternative energy locations in Boulder County on the electric bus.
 - ii. Enrail – wind energy off 93
 - iii. Jack's Solar Garden – solar panels and agricultural land use
 - iv. Hydro-electric plant?
 - I. Kate Dunalp?
 - a. Kate thinks that a great idea. Let me know who I can put you in touch with there.
 - v. Late spring – early summer.



- vi. Limit of 25 people or something. Really need to cultivate the right group of people.
- vii. Prior to memorial day weekend.
- d. April 29 Earth Day – Lafayette
 - i. Also working with them + take a hike podcast + outdoor classroom program.
- e. Preparedness Workshops again – 3 to 4 this summer
 - i. Partnership with City of Boulder.
 - ii. Wonderland Hills/Lake; Devil’s Thumb; Knollwood

Bret: Boulder Valley School Tech school. Is going into manufactured housing as a taught skill. A manufacturing facility will be built on Arapahoe (???) Possibly an opportunity to teach home hardening skills.

Board call to action: Fundraising and networking engagement is heavy in the end of the year and the front of the year is lighter – maybe this is a good time for house parties or lighter engagement opportunities to bring your friends/networks to other events we’re hosting or are participating in.

Catherine: We’re fishing right now. We’re building that network and trying to find those touches and people that are the big individual donors.

Offers support to anyone on the board – want to find a way that works for you – not to make you do something that is uncomfortable. Trying to expand / diversify our funding.

Adjourned at 1:37pm.