



UPPER CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2023 · 8:30am-10:30 am

Online Virtual meeting

Call to Order/Establish Quorum

A regular meeting of the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association was called to order at 8:05 am by Vice-Chair Niggeler on December 14, 2024. A quorum was declared established.

Introduction of Visitors

Sarah Graves with CDPHE was introduced. She was in attendance to address any questions regarding a recent breach at the Big 5 Tunnel transfer pipeline.

Agenda Approval

Request to add new agenda item to Other Business. The metadata for the alluvial fans within the four quads of Clear Creek County has been completed by Colorado Geologic Survey. Request revision to the agenda to add approval of allocation of remaining LRE budget in the UCCWA website budget to add this new data to the online Upper Clear Creek Wildfire map. The budget remaining in the LRE website contract is \$1,481.25.

Request two additional invoices be presented for approval during the Secretary/Treasurer Report.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the requested changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – [UCCWA November 9, 2023 Minutes](#)

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, UCCWA meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Report – [UCCWA Financial Summary November 2023](#)

Account Status: CHECKING (11/27/23)	\$ 6,786.01
SAVINGS (11/27/23)	\$68,747.24
INVESTMENTS (09/29/23)	\$22,234.66

The following invoices were presented for approval.

KDP Invoice #641 for \$820.00 for Secretary/Treasurer and Webpage Management.

Addition: LRE Regulatory Bulletin November Invoice for \$1,612.50 bringing LRE Regulatory line item to \$5,672.50. The 2023 budget included carry forward from the 2022 budget, making the 2023 budget starting balance \$6,480. After this invoice there is the remainder of \$807 in the LRE 2023 Regulatory budget.

Addition: A final invoice along with a final report from TU for the Russell Gulch UCCWA Small Grant is anticipated in the amount of \$7,282.29.

Total invoices for payment \$9,714.79.

A motion was made by Sally Rush to approve all invoices presented for payment and was seconded by Lisa Leben. The motion carried unanimously.

Referrals

- Idaho Springs RV Park Lift Station A and Force Main - Request for Referral Modification ([Modification Request Memo](#)) A revised letter to CDPHE has been requested for UCCWA to approve. On October 12, 2023, UCCWA regular meeting, Chuck Williams with KLJ Engineering presented the Idaho Springs RV Park Lift Station A and Force Main project description located around 2700 Stanley Road in Idaho Springs to develop 55 RV pad sites. A map was provided showing proximity to the Central Clear Creek Sanitation District. They informed UCCWA the force main design would be changed to meet CDPHE Design Criteria. A description of the Force Main was provided. Overflow storage was addressed via piping and the operator can close the valve. The engineering response was reviewed and discussed. The Clear Creek Shooting Range also plans to tie into this line in the future. UCCWA anticipates additional referrals as other entities tie in and this will trigger new referral review.

A motion was made by Sally Rush to modify the RV Park Lift Station referral to approve with updated letter and inclusion of UCCWA's new Cost of Review Policy and was seconded by Ryan Zabel. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: Modify UCCWA referral letter and submit to CDPHE.

- Referral-APO Letter West Section – CDOT – Public hearing is on Tuesday, January 16th at 10:30 am at the Commissioners' Hearing Room, County Courthouse, 405 Argentine Street, Georgetown, CO. Idaho Springs will also have a 1041 Permit process. UCCWA's initial letter will be considered for all 1041 permit sections.
- Mighty Argo WWTP Project Referral will be sent to the membership. If there is no deadline this will be brought forward to the January meeting.

Water Quality Incident Reports

- The City of Idaho Springs notified the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on Friday, November 10, 2023, of a release of untreated mine drainage water from one of the lines bringing water to the Argo Tunnel Water Treatment Facility. A company doing underground boring accidentally breached the Big 5 Tunnel transfer pipeline near the intersection of Colorado Blvd and 17th Avenue in Idaho Springs. Upon notification of the breach, Argo facility operators shut down the pump to prevent further release. We believe the initial release of untreated water was approximately 8,000 gallons, based on in-line flow measuring. Argo facility workers sent an emergency notification message to downstream water users on Friday, November 10. However, because the collection system exceeded its storage capacity, mine water will continue to discharge into Clear Creek at a rate of approximately 18 gallons per minute until the repair is completed. Facility workers plan to repair the line this week, after obtaining the necessary parts. We will send a notice through this email list once the necessary repairs are complete. We are currently analyzing water samples to determine the extent of potential impacts from the release.

The leak was fixed. The repairs are complete. A second notification went out. Testing showed there was no increase in the constituents. The existing line was installed in 2005. There was an issue finding compatible grade materials to make the repair. The condition of the line appears good. A full line replacement is not under consideration. This repair order included four times the additional amount of compatible grade materials to be ready should an incident like this happen again. The pipeline does not have tracer wire. It runs down Colorado Ave. Any attempt to install wire would have traffic impacts. This may be included in future scopes of work.

Other Business

- UCCWA Submission 12/2/2023 - RFA #42262, Water Quality Control Division Nonpoint Source Funding Announcement
 - Pinyon Environmental as Fiscal Agent
 - Addendum to Watershed Plan Update Contract – Grant administration built into grant applications.

A motion was made by Lisa Leben to approve the contract addendum and seconded by Brad Benning. The motion carried unanimously.

- UCCWA Secretary/ Treasurer and Management Roles Subcommittee Update (Pat O’Connell)
The subcommittee met. The role is averaging 16-20 hours per month, doubling the work time from the original agreement. This estimated work increase was used to calculate an increase in payment for services from \$750 to \$1,500 monthly. A 2024 budget increase could be accommodated without dues increase. The increase would be evaluated again at the end of the 2024 budget year for 2025 planning. The UCCWA Bylaws do not have duties listed. UCCWA would update the bylaws to include a management role. It would be most efficient to have all three duties combined into one line item.

A motion was made by Sally Rush to approve the title change, make the recommended budget adjustment beginning December 2023, and combine a management role with the secretary/treasurer role via a bylaw’s revision and was seconded by Brad Benning. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: The subcommittee will update the bylaws and bring them forward to the members at the January meeting.

- The metadata for the alluvial fans within the four quads of Clear Creek County has been completed by Colorado Geologic Survey. A request was made for a revision to allocate the remaining LRE 2023 website budget to add the below data to the online Wildfire map. The budget remaining in the LRE website contract is \$1,481.25. Data to be integrated:
 - Add CGS fluvial hazards data.
 - Update Subwatershed risk scores calculation (add fluvial hazards, burn probability using 2021 Matrix methods).
 - Add land ownership layer.
 - Add full CC watershed boundary including Ralston Creek.
 - Update clipped layers to extend to full CC watershed boundary where needed.

A motion was made by Lisa Leben to approve the requested LRE website budget reallocation to integrate the new data and was seconded by John Curtis. The motion carried unanimously.

- Standing Items:
 - **LRE Regulatory Update** (Jessica DiToro) ([November 28 Reg Update](#)) The survey is underway and changes to the bulletin will take place in January. The bulletin was presented. Water temperature is of interest to the members. Black Hawk WSD is piping to the creek due to temperature issues. LRE is working with Black Hawk on this issue. UCCWA should anticipate a referral in 2024. Henderson Mine is having a similar issue. The Colorado Wastewater Utility Council will be doing an in-depth study on water temperature in 2024. This may be a resource for UCCWA members. Information about the Council will be brought to the membership in January.
 - **Floyd Hill / Technical Team** (John Curtis & Jo Ann Sorensen) [I-70 Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnels Design and Construction — Colorado Department of Transportation \(codot.gov\)](#) A deicing ITF meeting is being scheduled the second week in January. A number of technical experts will present. The west portion 1041 permit is under review. This next section is much more creek centric. CDOT has a new product they are going to test this year, a liquid application called Meltdown that addresses quantity balance with greater ability to control the amount applied.
 - **Bakerville SWEEP Update** (Kerry Major & Ryan Zabel) No update.
 - **Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership Update** (Diane Kielty)
 - Letters of Support from UCCWA: [WaterSmart](#), [MRT WSRE](#), and [Wildfire Ready Watersheds](#) grant applications were discussed.
 - CSM Bakerville Student Project won "Best of award" for Environmental impact.

Member Updates

- The JEFFCOM911 Board of Directors has agreed to provide emergency communications (911 services) for Clear Creek County. [NovDec-2023-Newsletter \(clearcreekcounty.us\)](#)
- Idaho Springs applied for a South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) Water Supply Reserve Fund grant for monies for the Maddie Dam Project. The SPBRT approved it to move forward for CWCB review and approval.

Announcements

- [January 23rd-25th, 2024 | Water Transmission Pipeline Engineering and Management.](#) This course will provide insight into how different pipeline materials degrade over time. Join to gain an insight on how to approach large-diameter pipeline management.
- [April 15th-17th, 2023 | Partners in the Outdoors | Colorado Parks & Wildlife.](#) Save the date. The Partners in the Outdoors Conference is Colorado's foremost opportunity to cultivate common ground, explore best practices of partnering, and design collaborative solutions with diverse voices and stakeholders to conserve Colorado's outdoor heritage. Our annual conference has quickly become one of the signature events in Colorado bringing together organizations, agencies, schools, businesses and communities engaged in the future of Colorado's conservation and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Adjournment 10:07 am

Next Meeting: **January 11, 2024**

Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer

MEMBERS ROLL CALL:

Albert Frei & Sons: Absent
Black Hawk: Jessica DiToro
Black Hawk/Central City San. Dist.: Jessica DiToro
CDOT: Josh Giovannetti
Central City: Absent
Central Clear Creek San. Dist.: I (opted)
Clear Creek County: Lisa Leben
Clear Creek Ski Corp.: Cindy Olson
Empire: Sally Rush
Georgetown: Ryan Zabel
Gilpin County: Brad Benning
Golden: Kerry Major, Sam Zrust
Henderson Mine: Geoffrey Niggeler, Aaron Hilshorst
Idaho Springs: John Curtis, Ed Sigward
Jefferson County: Pat O'Connell
Molson Coors: Excused
Saddleback: I (opted)
Silver Plume: Absent
St. Mary's Water & San. Dist.: Chris Oeland
Trout Unlimited: Absent

OTHERS PRESENT, PER SIGN-IN SHEET:

Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer UCCWA
Shelly Stanley, City of Northglenn
Andy Cross, City of Westminster
Andrew Breibart, USFS Hydrologist
Sarah Graves, CDPHE/Argo