



UPPER CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

**Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024**

Call to Order/Establish Quorum

A regular meeting of the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association was called to order at 8:31 am by Chair on, February 8, 2024. A quorum was declared established.

Agenda Approval

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with addition of discussion on the Annual Report under Other Business Items by Shelly Stanley; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - [January 11, 2024 Minutes](#)

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, UCCWA meeting; motion carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - [UCCWA 2023 Fiscal Year End](#)

Account Status: CHECKING (1/26/2024)	\$ 243.47
SAVINGS (1/26/2024)	\$61,995.25
INVESTMENTS (12/31/2023)	\$22,445.49

Invoices: KDP Secretary/Treasurer & Webpage Updates - Inv. #648 for \$1,570.00 and Clear Creek Consultants for \$440.00. Total invoices for payment \$2010.00.

A motion was made by Ben Moline to approve the invoices for payment and a second by Sally Rush. The motion was approved unanimously.

Referrals

- None received.
- [Mighty Argo Referral Letter 1.11.2024](#)

Water Quality Incident Reports

- None received.
- Henderson Mine is discussing with the Clear Creek dispatch protocol on Water Quality incident reports.
- The timeline on the transfer of Clear Creek Call Down to Jeffcom is still being determined.

Other Business

- **Annual Report – Shelly Stanley**

Trea Nance, who completed the report for many years, has stepped down from her position. The Standley Lake Cities intend to hire a consultant to complete the 2023 Annual Report. A consultant will need to be hired, as the report was completed in house for years. The budget for this service was removed from Standley Lake Cities' budget. They don't have the funding that

was available in the past for the Annual Report. The size of the report will need to be reduced. They will concentrate on Standley Lake and if there is sufficient money remaining, they will look at WQ in the tributary basin. This will be the maximum scope the Cities will be able to provide. It will not include Clear Creek or Regulation 85.

Regulation 85 has the individual entities reporting to the State. UCCWA is not required to submit this in the Annual Report. The 1994 IGA with UCCWA ([Clear Creek / Standley Lake Watershed Agreement](#) - **agreement begins on Page 40**) and Upper Clear Creek only shows reporting mandatory for Standley Lake. The reduced report would meet this obligation. UCCWA was a signatory to the IGA. UCCWA is legally bound but not regulatorily bound to produce the report.

A request was made to Shelly Stanley to obtain two bids for the Annual Report, one on the reduced scale of the report and a second for an advanced version similar to what is being produced now to determine the cost difference. Standley Lake Cities have \$15,000 this year to develop the report. In 2018, a bid for the same type of report came in at \$23,000. Anticipating inflation, it would cost approximately \$30,000 today. Producing the report differently and changing the format is worth investigating. Knowing how others in the membership use this report would be helpful. There may be staff from one of the member organizations that could provide in-kind who could collect and analyze the data to maintain the fidelity of the data.

CDOT manages four WQ stations in Clear Creek. They have been working on how to present that data. This may be an opportunity to combine efforts. A committee to evaluate the data and consider how to present the report was formed.

Annual Report Committee: Josh Giovannetti, Standley Lake Cities Rep, Geoff Niggeler, Ben Moline, John Curtis

- **UCCWA Bylaws Revision Approval**
 - [UCCWA Bylaw Revisions Redline Copy](#)

The bylaws were reviewed, and additional revisions were made to the Manager's definition.

A motion was made by Ben Moline to approve the bylaw revisions with additional revisions during review included and was seconded by Sally Rush. The motion carried unanimously.

UCCWA Legal Status Committee: Geoffrey Niggeler, Patrick O'Connell, Brad Benning

Action: Committee will produce a summary statement on UCCWA history and current legal status.

- **Standing Items:**
 - **LRE Regulatory Update** (Jessica DiToro) [UCCWA 2024_02_Regulatory_Update](#) The new format for the bulletin was presented and discussed. There is interest in the gap waters legislation and State permit status. There is a CDPHE effort that is holding meetings for the different industries potentially impacted by this legislation. This meeting information will be shared with the membership. There is a competing gap water bill was introduced this week, SB24-127, [Regulate Dredged & Fill Material State Waters | Colorado General Assembly](#).
 - **Floyd Hill / Technical Team** (John Curtis & Jo Ann Sorensen) [I-70 Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnels Design and Construction — Colorado Department of Transportation \(codot.gov\)](#) On February 15th there will be a CDOT Floyd Hill Deicer meeting. The minutes from this meeting will be shared with the

UCCWA membership and possibly any PPTs. CDOT is going to start construction on the Central section now.

- **Bakerville SWEEP Update** (Kerry Major & Ryan Zabel) No update.
- **Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership Update** (Diane Kielty)
 - Awarded CWCB Wildfire Ready Watersheds Grant - Bakerville Sediment and Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Analysis
 - Approved by Metro Roundtable – WSRF Grant Application for a Clear Creek Watershed Post-Fire Hazards Data Gap Analysis and Update. Moving to CWCB for final approval in March
 - Hiring a [Forest & Mitigation Program Manager](#). The position post is open through next Thursday.

Presentations

- None in February
- **March 14, 2024** - Russell Gulch Project Presentation (Katrina Hettinger)

Member Updates

- Trout Unlimited’s Katrina Hettinger reached out to USFS regarding the adit release at Little Bear. There was an initial closure of this adit in the 1990s. The lock was broken. The adit does release year-round and goes into a French drain. There was a surge 5-years ago that was determined to be due to illegal prospecting. This recent surge cause has not been determined but a new lock has been placed on the door. Claim-staking may be taking place. USFS is continuing to investigate. It was proposed to have TU sample the drainage in the spring. This is under consideration.
- Henderson is involved with the international mining community and tailings dam management education effort. There are two inactive tailings dams in the Urad Valley. Freeport McMoran will be increasing engagement on educating communities on the history of these structures and what they mean.

Action: April presentation to UCCWA by Henderson and specifically what is the Urad Valley.

Action: An August Hybrid meeting to Henderson Urad Valley

Announcements

- **NOTICE: Monthly siren testing to begin in Georgetown** To protect the community, Xcel Energy has installed four early warning sirens to notify people in the town of Georgetown of potential flooding due to the unlikely event of a dam failure at Xcel Energy’s Cabin Creek hydroelectric plant. Dams, hydroelectric stations, and surrounding waterways can present a potential risk for anyone near them. The warning system installation is a federal requirement. [Jan-2024-Newsletter \(clearcreekcounty.us\)](#)
- [May 22nd-24th, 2024 | Rocky Mountain Mining & Reclamation Conference | Mountain Studies Institute](#). The event will be hosted at a variety of iconic Leadville locations, including Freight, Colorado Mountain College, and Tabor Opera House. There will be a keynote and meet and greet on the evening of Wednesday, May 22nd. Thursday, May 23rd, will be technical talks followed by a reception. Lastly, a variety of tours are scheduled for Friday, May 24th.

Adjournment

At 9:55 am, Chair Niggeler adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be March 14, 20242024.

Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer

MEMBERS ROLL CALL:

Black Hawk: Jessica DiToro
Black Hawk/Central City San. Dist.: Jessica DiToro
CDOT: Josh Giovanetti
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: Absent
Gilpin County: Brad Benning
Golden: Sam Zrust, Kerry Major
Henderson Mine: Geoffrey Niggeler
Idaho Springs: John Curtis, Ed Sigward
Jefferson County: Pat O'Connell
Molson Coors: Ben Moline
Saddleback: I (opted)
Silver Plume: Absent
St. Mary's Water & San. Dist.: Chris Oeland
Trout Unlimited: Katrina Hettinger

OTHERS PRESENT, PER SIGN-IN SHEET:

Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer UCCWA
Shelly Stanley, City of Northglenn
Andy Cross, City of Westminster
Erica Crosby, DRMS
Julie Annar, DRMS
Ryan Elwyn