

**Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association  
Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2020**

**Call to Order/Establish Quorum**

A regular meeting of the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association was called to order at 8:32 am by Chair Katie Fendel in the Idaho Springs City Hall on July 9, 2020. A quorum was declared established.

**Agenda Approval**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes will be approved during the August meeting once all members have had an opportunity to make their review.

**Secretary/Treasurer Report**

The following invoices were presented for approval: Kielty Diversified Projects Inv# 478 for \$900.00, and Matrix Design Group for \$10,525.00. The invoices were within the budgeted/approved limits. It was moved and seconded to approve the invoices for payment totaling \$11,425.00; motion carried unanimously.

**Referrals**

- None received.

**Water Quality Incident Reports**

- On June 22, 2020 Henderson Mine contacted the Dispatch Center regarding contamination of Clear Creek at URAD Reservoir. Contamination was impacted mine water at URAD/Henderson Mine (not tailings from the mine). It was approximately 990 gallons. The issue has been fixed and water seepage has been stopped. A contractor on site had done some pipeline maintenance. The contractor fired up pump and seepage went into creek. The event lasted about 5 minutes. The discharge went into Woods Creek above the treatment plant. Of the 900 gallons, the discharge was about 1% of the stream flow. There was a question regarding downstream notification and the users that receive the notice. It appears it went to residents as well as the plants. Is this a normal part of the notification system?

**Action:** UCCWA review to determine if we want to edit the call down list and bring recommendation to upcoming meeting.

**Presentation**

- Mighty Argo Mixed Use Development Water/Wastewater Treatment Presentation  
CERCLA Superfund site that has a CDPHE run treatment plant. They are working with CDPHE to develop this site through Regulation 84. Provided a brief overview of the conditions of the site. There are controls in place. The entire site is graded away from Clear Creek. Virginia Canyon Mountain Park is a city owned park. The Argo is at the nexus of this amenity. It is also adjacent to the Greenway Trail that is scheduled to be built along Argo property. They are focused on Phase I. This presentation was focused on the upper landing. They are aiming for a 2021 opening of Phase I. They are suggesting constructing a membrane bioreactor (MBR) where there is a filter at the end. They suggest the effluent limits they will be capable of achieving exceed Reg. 84. The MBR they are proposing is manufactured by Newterra which constructs all treatment equipment in facility, so it is not constructed separately on site. It is constructed and tested in the Newterra facility, then shipped as 90% complete, reducing time and expense in

building sequence and construction. The construction period is approximately 2-weeks to operation. The plant will not be phased and will serve the full development of the upper landing site.

They have a reclaimed storage tank that will hold treated effluent which will be pumped back up to handle toilet flushing, landscaping in the summer and other reuse purposes. They are estimating based on seasonal anticipated uses, balancing wastewater generated and properties for reuse seasonally. Referral agencies Idaho Springs, UCCWA, Clear Creek Environmental Health, although the contact for the County is no longer in place. Clear Creek will send them the contact information. They are working with the City of Idaho Springs to accept excess from their two waste streams. Potable will be a storage tank where they will receive water from the City. Amount is reduced due to their intention to use reuse water. They will be using potable water for fire sprinkler systems which is under review.

City Council has not seen the MBR. Idaho Springs has several questions. Argo will get the information to the City. UCCWA needs time to review the application and will want to coordinate with Idaho Springs. Black Hawk will be the first downhill user impacted. Why do this instead of integrating with IS to treat effluent, which has a recently expanded plant? There are concerns about having another plant upstream that could be exposing downstream users to risks. Connecting to Idaho Springs is twice the cost than building a separate facility and they get reuse capability that addresses their sustainability goals. How was the facility sized? They used CDPHE Regulation 43 going through the different land uses. The facility is conservatively sized for this project. A site visit was offered.

UCCWA requested they send application with engineering report and sign off sheet. UCCWA has 60 days to respond once the application is formally submitted. Mighty Argo will send the application via a Dropbox link. Information was provided in the meeting packet and is available upon request.

Application Review Committee: John Curtis, Jim Ford, Katie Fendel

## Business

- Pre-Fire Study Update (Kerry Major)
  - Colorado Post-Fire Playbook - UCCWA is meeting many of the earmarks in the Colorado Post-Fire Playbook by way of our study. The playbook is a practical workbook for providers in a post-fire environment. Discussed the elements of our study effort as it aligns with the playbook
  - Xcel GIS Data Request - Xcel representatives were on the call at the first stakeholder meeting and have been involved on calls to discuss their pre-fire mitigation plans. They intend to update their plan with the PUC. They offered to have someone from Xcel come to UCCWA to present in August. We have submitted requests to get more information on the Xcel critical infrastructure.
  - UCCWA members will receive the critical infrastructure maps after the stakeholder meetings to provide their individual critically ranking.

**Action:** Invite Xcel to present to the membership in August.

- [Regulation #38](#), Classifications and Numeric Standards for South Platte River Basin (Katie Fendel) - The Water Quality Standards meeting was held June 9 – 10. There are no surprises for the Clear Creek basin and it shouldn't impact the UCCWA budget for next year. There will be a statewide hearing.
- UCCWA 2021 Proposed Budget (Budget Committee) - The draft budget was received for consideration for approval in November / December. Are there additional members we want to consider? The Bylaws

review is underway, and the committee is evaluating this possibility. The By-laws Review Committee will bring back recommendations in August.

- Kermit’s Stream Gauge (CC-40) History & Commitment (Katie Fendel) - When the Budget Committee reviewed the gauge the cost to maintain it was questioned. Who administers this gauge? When gaming impacts came in there were water quality grants. Idaho Springs and Golden received grants to set up a gauge program. There was money in the first few years but went away and the USGS costs began to increase. An adopt a gauge program was created. Many gauges are now shared between USGS and those who adopted them. No one picked up the Kermit’s gauge. UCCWA adopted it because it’s an important gauge to our calculations. If we don’t plan to pay for it, we should put the word out to members and other entities to see if they want to pick it up.

**Action:** Invite Clear Creek Consultants (Mike Crouse) to explain this gauge and its importance.

**Action:** Secretary look into possible new grants to supplement this expense.

**Action:** Secretary request a Data Literacy Workshop from Colorado Watershed Assembly

**Announcements**

The [Geospatial Experience Center \(GeoEx\)](#) at Front Range Community College gives students the opportunity to take on GIS projects and gain experience to prepare them for the workforce. GeoEx is funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF), Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant. GeoEx can take on various project types, from digitizing to lidar analysis. For more information or to determine if your project is a good fit for a student training opportunity contact, email GeoEx at [skye.lewis@geoexcenter.org](mailto:skye.lewis@geoexcenter.org). Initiate a project [HERE](#).

**Adjournment**

At 10:22am, Chair Fendel adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2020.

*Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer*

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MEMBERS ROLL CALL:

Black Hawk: Jim Ford  
 Black Hawk/Central City San. Dist.: Katie Fendel  
 CDOT: Absent  
 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: Absent  
 Golden: Stephanie Crabtree, Kerry Major  
 Henderson Mine: Aaron Hilshorst  
 Idaho Springs: John Curtis  
 Jefferson County: Pat O’Connell  
 Molson Coors: Excused  
 Saddleback: I (opted)  
 Silver Plume: Tai Graham  
 St. Mary’s Water & San. Dist.: Absent

Tara Kratzer, City of Arvada  
 Evelyn Rhodes  
 Jacqueline Daoust, Clear Creek Open Space  
 Andrew Cross, City of Westminster  
 Mary Boardman, CDPHE Superfund

OTHERS PRESENT, PER SIGN-IN SHEET:

Diane Kielty, Secretary/Treasurer UCCWA  
 Adam Sommers, Mighty Argo  
 Mary Jane Lovlie, Mighty Argo  
 Dustin Littleton, Mighty Argo  
 Bryan McFarland, Mighty Argo  
 Travis Cook, Mighty Argo