

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Monday, September 9, 2013, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield, Colorado

Board members in attendance: Jim McCarthy (Alternate, Arvada), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder), Tim Plass (Alternate, City of Boulder), Deb Gardner (Director, Boulder County), Greg Stokes (Director, Broomfield), David Allen (Alternate, Broomfield), Faye Griffin (Director, Jefferson County), Dan Hartman (Alternate, Golden), Emily Hunt (Alternate, Thornton), Joe Cirelli (Director, Superior), Bob Briggs (Director, Westminster), Cathy Shugarts (Alternate, Westminster), Jeannette Hillery (Director, League of Women Voters), Ann Lockhart (Alternate, Rocky Flats Cold War Museum), Roman Kohler (Director, Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Arthur Widdowfield (citizen).

Stewardship Council staff members and consultants in attendance: David Abelson (Executive Director), Rik Getty (Technical Program Manager), Barb Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C), Erin Rogers (consultant).

Attendees: Shirley Garcia (Broomfield), Vera Moritz (EPA), Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Charles Adams (CDPHE), Scott Surovchak (DOE), Jeremiah McLaughlin (Stoller), John Boylan (Stoller), Jody Nelson (Stoller), George Squibb (Stoller), Patrick O'Connell (Jefferson County), Nancy Newell (citizen), Patty Strapelli (citizen).

Convene/Agenda Review

Chair Bob Briggs convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman's Review of August 8th Executive Committee meeting

Chairman Briggs noted that an Executive Committee meeting was held on August 8th, 2013. Meeting attendees included Executive Committee along with David Abelson. The purpose was to develop the agenda for this meeting. These meetings are open to public.

Consent Agenda

David Allen noted one change to the September 9, 2013 minutes. On the final page of the minutes, Joyce Downing is mentioned as referring to Thornton, which should have been Northglenn. Murph Widdowfield also noted a minor word change on page seven. Joe Cirelli moved to approve the June 3, 2013, Board meeting minutes as revised and the checks. The motion was seconded by Murph Widdowfield. The motion to accept the minutes and checks passed 14-0.

Executive Director's Report

David first updated the group on DOE-LM's selection of a new management contractor. In April, DOE-LM awarded the contract to a team led by Portage. The current Rocky Flats contractor, SM

Stoller, was part of another team bidding on the contract. The contract award was protested by one of the parties. DOE responded by revoking the awarding of the contract and reopened the process. In the interim, SM Stoller's contract at Rocky Flats was extended through June 2014, with the possibility of continuing through the end of FY14.

David next spoke about restructuring within the Department of Energy. As part of these changes, DOE's Office of Legacy Management, which manages Rocky Flats, was moved from the Under Secretary for National Security to the Under Secretary for Management and Performance. David said that while it is too soon to know what effects this move may have on LM funding, he does not think there will be any major changes. David also noted that Beth Robinson had been nominated as Under Secretary for Management and Performance, and that she has a background in both physics and budgets.

In terms of DOE priorities, the biggest driver to DOE's actions recently has been realigning to be poised to implement the 'President's Action Plan'. This focus drove the DOE restructuring, as well as changes within EPA and other agencies. These efforts will come against the backdrop of ongoing battles with Congress over a suite of issues. David mentioned that one of the projects that is taking a hit due to a combination of budget cuts and technical challenges is the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Facility at Savannah River. This site was the recipient of Rocky Flats' weapons grade material, so although Rocky Flats was successfully remediated, DOE is still addressing the Rocky Flats legacy.

Public Comment

There was none

Member Updates

Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders) noted that the sponsor of the employee benefits program had been in town and that worker retirement benefits were well-funded.

Lisa Morzel mentioned a new book entitled 'Too Hot to Touch', which discusses issues related to high-level radioactive waste.

Murph Widdowfield summarized his recent visit to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal site. He described 'mountains of contamination', although it was a different type than at Rocky Flats. He also noted that it is a beautiful area.

Joe Cirelli noted that the Town of Superior had voted to move forward with a large town center project.

Faye Griffin described a large public outreach effort designed by Jefferson County to solicit public input on transportation issues. These efforts included an open house at the fairgrounds, as well as signs and telephone conference calls with county commissioners. Over 1,000 residents participated in these events.

Host DOE Quarterly Meeting

DOE briefed on site activities for the 1st Quarter of 2013. DOE has posted the report on its website. Activities included surface water monitoring, groundwater monitoring, ecological monitoring, and site operations (inspections, maintenance, etc.). Quarterly reports are required under the RFLMA to document that the CERCLA remedy continues to be protective. The primary goal is protection of surface water. To do this, several actions are required under the final remedy for the site. These include:

- Maintaining two landfill covers
- Maintaining four groundwater treatment systems
- Surface water and groundwater monitoring
- Physical controls (signage and restricted access)
- Institutional controls
 - No building construction or occupation
 - Restrictions on excavation and soil disturbance
 - No consumption or agricultural use of surface water
 - No groundwater wells except for monitoring
 - Protection of landfill covers and engineered remedy components

Surface Water Monitoring – George Squibb

George first spoke about recent modifications Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) Attachments. Contact Record 2012-03 describes the proposed modifications, which were approved in February 2013. The modifications included updated maps and water quality standards, and information about completion of the CERCLA 5-Year review.

George next displayed a map showing the surface water monitoring and compliance points. He noted that GS01, which is along Woman Creek at Indiana Street, was no longer a Point of Compliance (POC) at Rocky Flats, but DOE still collects water quality data under the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP). For the quarter, all sampling results at both landfills met water quality standards. Also, all other surface water quality results were below standards, with the exception of GS10.

Reportable 12-month rolling average values for americium and uranium at GS10 were observed during the quarter. Plutonium was not reportable during the quarter. Because there still is not enough data to understand or explain the trends involving these reportable conditions, additional sampling is being conducted both upstream of and downstream of GS10. He noted that they have not seen any similar results downstream.

Lisa Morzel asked George if DOE anticipated any changes in surface water data as a result of moving POC's closer to the source. George noted both GS01 and GS03 will be operated for two more years per the AMP. He said that so far they are not seeing any changes. He added that they are actually able to collect more data at these new POC's because there is more water. George was asked if it was better to have more water. He responded that if there is no water, that pathway disappears. Patrick O'Connell (Jefferson County) asked whether there were any historic data showing how uranium concentrations at GS10 were affected by heavy precipitation events.

George said they do have data, but are seeing something different in this case. He said the results have been more continuous, and are not following a pattern. He said this uranium source may have always been there, but because past water sources were eliminated with the closure of Rocky Flats, it became more evident. George noted that roads are the biggest maintenance problems in terms of erosion.

He showed photos of the new monitoring structure at GS10 above former pond B1. Tim Plass asked how they could be assured of continuity of data when the testing methods were changed. George said that the only difference was that they had covered up some of the channel bottom, and that changes should be minimal (did not cross any tributaries). He added that the area could now be accessed if necessary in the future. David Allen asked if the fill soil had been compacted. George said it was to an extent. Tim Plass asked when the new monitoring results would be available. George said that they would probably be pulling the water samples that week, as they had been waiting for some additional volume. After that, it would be every two weeks.

Groundwater Monitoring – John Boylan

RCRA wells at both landfills were tested during the quarter and the results were consistent with previous quarters. The statistical evaluation will be discussed in the 2013 annual report.

A focal point for the quarter had been the installation of air strippers at the Mound and East Trenches treatment systems. So far, these air strippers were very effective and required very little maintenance. At the Mound, the air stripper more than doubled the effectiveness of the prototype unit and operates full time. At the East Trenches, the air stripper reduced total VOCs by an order of magnitude. ZVI-filled treatment cells receive water that has passed through the system. The site continues efforts to optimize these air stripper systems.

John also reported on continued testing at the Solar Ponds. ZVI-containing microcells are being evaluated to treat uranium and pilot-scale lagoons are being used to treat nitrate. John said that results of tests are promising and that testing continues.

Lisa Morzel asked John to explain more about size of the lagoons used for treatment. John said that they are six feet in diameter and six feet deep. Earlier tests evaluated the use of different treatment media within these tanks. Currently, there is no treatment media, but they are still using carbon dosing. He added that each cell is employing a different flow rate, which was designed to test residence time. They are working towards finding out how quickly water can flow through and still have the treatment be successful. They started with 50 days of residence time, and results have been successful in as little as seven days. They are now evaluating 3.5 days.

Site Operations -- Jeremiah McLaughlin

At the Original Landfill, there were three monthly inspections. Eight settlement monuments and seven inclinometers were monitored. There was one inspection at the Present Landfill, with nine settlement monuments and six side slope monitors scheduled for fourth quarter monitoring.

Jeremiah also gave a quick recap of the annual site inspection of the Central Operable Unit, which took place on March 19, 2013. The following activities are required for this annual inspection:

- Inspect and monitor for evidence of significant erosion
- Inspect effectiveness of institutional controls
- Document evidence of any adverse biological conditions observed during inspection
- Confirm Environmental Covenant is in the administrative record and Jefferson County land records

No significant erosion was detected; however they did find some minor depressions and surface debris/trash. A minor depression at the East Trenches was filled with about 40 cubic yards of Rocky Flats alluvium soil.

Jeremiah then presented a quick update on first quarter 2013 ecological monitoring. These activities included data analysis and report writing, planting volunteer-collected wildflower and grass seed at nursery locations, and planting native grasses at an old mine road onsite.

Board Review of Stewardship Council Activities for 2013 and Initial Review of 2014 Work Plan

David Abelson recapped a discussion from the most recent Executive Committee meeting that focused on the 2014 Stewardship Council work plan. The consensus was that the main focus moving forward should be on groundwater. David spoke with DOE about this focus and they concurred. Therefore, three additions were made to the work plan, all related to groundwater; there were no other changes proposed.

David asked the Board members in attendance for any comments about the draft work plan and/or any additional suggestions. Bob Briggs also asked how Board members felt that the last year went. Emily Hunt said that she appreciated the effort during 2013 to take a step back on some of the issues and help newer members get up to speed. Lisa Morzel said that groundwater issues were timely, and she would be glad to focus on them. Jeannette Hillery noted that the Board had been gathering some great information over past years, and that she agreed that the focus on groundwater was a good idea. Deb Gardner asked if there were any specific questions that people would like to see answered.

David Abelson said that this new focus could start with a session on ‘groundwater 101’, including basic hydrology, types of contamination, where the plumes are, and the relationship between groundwater and surface water. Tim Plass expanded on item #4 on the work plan. For GS10, he would like to see how readings track before and after work was complete, and whether there were any trends or continuity. David Abelson noted that the Board should also look into the long term plans for groundwater treatment systems. Rik Getty noted that there had been significant upgrades at the Mound and East Trenches treatment systems, and that water quality results had been indicating high levels of effectiveness.

Murph Widdowfield said that there was an existing stone foundation in the area set aside as the 300-foot right-of-way for the new road on the east side of the site and asked whether anyone

would be looking into this. Greg Stokes said he had not heard anything about this at meetings, but that he would check into it. Tim Plass said that he would have liked to have seen someone from the Stewardship Council at a recent open house in Superior hosted by Representative Jeanne Nicholson. David Abelson said he did not attend because the discussion was fundamentally about the new parkway, an issue which Stewardship Council has chosen not to become involved in. Lisa Morzel suggested that it might be useful to invite some of the State legislators to Stewardship Council meetings.

The Board did not offer any changes to the draft plan.

FY 14 Budget – Initial Review

The Board was required to review the draft FY 14 budget at this meeting. Formal budget hearings will take place at the October 28th meeting. The Board's attorney, Barb Vander Wall, explained that since the Stewardship Council is organized under Colorado statutes as a unit of local government, it is subject to the same laws. These requirements include that a notice be published to advertise a public budget hearing, and then the Board must approve and adopt the budget. After the budget is adopted, it will be filed with state.

David Abelson asked if there were any questions or proposed changes. There were none.

Review New Member Application

The Board was asked to review an application that was to be used for prospective new members and to approve the selection process. Joe Cirelli moved to approve the application form and selection process. The motion was seconded by Deb Gardner. The motion passed 13-0. (Golden was no longer in attendance at the meeting.) Lisa Morzel asked how the Board would advertise this opportunity. David Abelson said that they would be running an ad in the Denver Post, as well as emailing a notice to interested parties. He also encouraged Board members to share this information with others.

Public comment

There was none.

Member Updates

Jeannette Hillery shared that the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra recently debuted a piece written by CU assistant professor Jeffrey Nytech, which was inspired by the geological formations and history of the Rocky Mountains. The American Geological Society helped fund this effort. Jeannette said it was a fascinating story, and that Boulder Parks and Open Space was organizing a nature walk with the writer to explain how he developed the piece.

Ann Lockhart provided an update on the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. First, they have changed their name to 'Rocky Flats Institute and Museum'. They also have a new mission statement and logo. The organization recently moved to a smaller building at 5690 Webster St in

Arvada, which significantly cut monthly expenses. The lobby of this building contains exhibit space. Board members have been involved in extensive outreach to legislative representatives and other possible funders. An exhibit focusing on Rocky Flats workers is planned for later in the fall, as well as a Jazz fundraiser. They are also restarting their oral history project. The group's website was in the process of being updated, and they also have a Facebook page. Ann said that funding is critical at the moment, and that monthly donations would be greatly appreciated. Museum representatives have also met with groups such as History Colorado and the Arvada Center, and have been receiving great verbal feedback.

Big Picture Review

October 28, 2013

Potential Business Items

- Approve 2014 budget
- Approve 2014 work plan
- Conduct community member interviews
- Executive Session

Potential Briefing Items

- DOE quarterly update

February 3, 2014

Potential Business Items

- Elect 2014 officers
- Adopt resolution regarding 2014 meeting dates

Potential Briefing Items

- DOE quarterly update
- DOE briefing on groundwater

Issues to watch:

Americium and uranium levels upstream of pond B-3

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Rogers.