SCCC Minutes Draft 4.16.19

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Board Meeting April 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: David Chase, Michael Kinsley, Chris Collins, Vicki Treece, Jill Sabella, Glenn Russell, Molly Childs, George Johnson

Guests: Seth Mason of Lotic Hydrological, Helene Slansky, John McBride, Tony Clinco representing Lazy O Ranch, Jeffrey Woodruff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion for acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2019 was made by Chris Collins. Seconded by Vicki Treece. All approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Vicki noted a deposit of $600 from the County, given to all Caucuses.

The unrestricted fund is $20,515.93; the restricted funds is $24,980.51, for a total in accounts of $45,496.44.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The annual Capitol Creek road clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 4.

This spring event, sponsored by the Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus, Pitkin County, and Colorado Department of Transportation Adopt-a-Highway program has valley residents pick up roadside trash from the upper Capitol Creek valley down to the Conoco/Highway 82, and the one-mile stretch of Highway 82 between Lazy Glen and the Snowmass Post Office.

Orange vests, trash bags and trash collection are provided. Volunteers are to meet at the Conoco Park n’Ride at 9 am. The cleanup generally goes to noon.

Anyone wanting to do cleanup along the highway must watch the CDOT Safety video first.

Thank you Molly!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use

The Board discussed how the County is reviewing new Energy and Land Use Codes,

especially looking at applications of alternative energy in new construction and the associated increases in REMP Fees. For instance, encouraging new house size to be below 5,000 sq. ft, and a higher tax on square footage over 5,000 sq. ft.

Jeffrey further explained the “matrix” draft from the Land-Use Energy Working Group that will be on the agenda of the next BOCC work session May 21. The “matrix” suggests that increased house size has a direct correlation to increased energy use. It also concerns road use, land use, renewable energy, use of TRD’s, and landfill.

Michael elaborated on the work he is doing for RMI with Holy Cross in what can be done to reduce electrical vulnerability in case of natural disaster. Proposals are being considered and the ideas will be tested win the comm if needed- like what the hospital has - and to have multiple micro-grids that can be severed from the main supply lines should they go down. The Monastery and the McCabe Ranch are putting up such solar arrays for their communities. These are ways to adapt to climate change.

David questioned what is the county’s thinking about solar installations and how they might encourage and simplify the process of getting a building permit for such an installation. Chris mentioned the County is considering allowing solar arrays outside the building envelope to simplify the permitting process. David encouraged the Board as a group to review the County’s recommendations. At the next meeting the Board will spend time in discussion of these proposals and encourage the caucus to participate.

Water

David recalled that last fall the Board agreed to consider a water study of Capitol Creek in the spring and that it is important to begin to look at it now before irrigation begins and the spring run-off starts. The data gathering phase of a study should start as soon as possible.

Chelsea and Seth Mason, of Lotic Hydrological (Carbondale) gave a presentation of the study/work they have done on the Crystal River and what the plan might consist of on Capitol Creek.

Such a plan would help us understand how the watershed works - what is the minimum in -stream flow (10 cfs is good for the creek as determined by the State of Colorado to maintain health for the creek and water uses) like in-stream habitats, how wells are supported, what are the opportunities for domestic and irrigation uses. Chris asked that we see how the study determined the 10 cfs standard.

Phase I would collect data in several samplings days, from peak flow to base flow, looking at return flows, locating tributaries and how the patterns change or not through time, how the patterns of flow relate to ecological conditions, taking point measurements and turning it into daily measurements of river flow. It would include water rights, crop demands, flood irrigation vs. sprinkler irrigation evaluations.

Seth commented that you can predict change and patterns from such a study. You can build a model and calibrate the abilities of what people can do by providing tools to ask questions on how to adjust for lower water levels by adapting the systems.

There may be a Phase II.

This study would give a “baseline”. The work would be done now thru the fall. It would be a watershed assessment of what we have, how we manage it, and how climate change affects it. Asked how do you get a “baseline”, Seth said from the relationship of multiple stream gauges not all within this watershed can be used to create statistical relatives which Capitol Creek’s data may be fit into that record.

The Caucus can look for grants for Phase II later in the year from Healthy Rivers & Streams.

George moved that the Board support the concept of the study and that we move forward to

finalize an agreement with Lotic Hydrological as soon as possible. Michael seconded the motion. All were in favor.

David stressed the urgency of moving forward as soon as possible given peak runoff is coming soon. Seth will send his revised proposal in contract form to the Board expeditiously so that a consent agreement can be reached and work can begin shortly.

David moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Jill Sabella, Secretay