



MEETING NOTES

February 2, 2022 7:30 AM

Virtual Meeting, Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Members of the River Commission in attendance included Chip Fisher, Erika Gibson, Chairman Ashley Moffatt, Vice Chairman Scott Schreiber, Joel Shute, and Chris Treese. Ryan Davis was absent. Chad Rudow (Roaring Fork Conservancy), City Council Liaison to the River Commission Paula Stepp, Assistant City Manager Jenn Oton, Sarah Gordon (Colorado Mountain College), Hunter Causey (Colorado River District), Parks Superintendent Dan Roper, and River Commission Staff Liaison Trent Hyatt were also present.

Receipt of Meeting Notes from January 5, 2022

Commissioner Treese moved, and Commissioner Gibson seconded, to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2022 meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Ordinary High Water Mark Survey Project

Eric Petterson and Rachel Kattnig from SGM provided the Commission with an overview of the field work associated with their survey of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) for the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers and Mitchell, Three Mile, and Oasis Creeks within the City's municipal limits. An overview of the Clean Water Act, Waters of the US, Section 404 permitting, and the definition of the OHWM were first provided. Thereafter, details for determining the OHWM and characters found for each stream segment were outlined. Mr. Petterson and Ms. Kattnig answered questions from the group related to the expertise required for OHWM delineation, adoption of the maps, relation of the OHWM to floodplains, availability of the data, and providing the presentation to the public.

Comments

Chairman Moffatt asked Chad Rudow to discuss a recent ice flow event on the Roaring Fork River with the group. He explained the relation of the event to anchor ice.

Environmental Science 101 River Related Semester Projects

Former River Commissioner and Colorado Mountain College professor Sarah Gordon discussed the "deep learning" technique used in her Environmental Science 101 course and the desire to incorporate student research projects with the River Commission. Council Liaison Stepp recommended the Grizzly Creek fire as a potential topic. Mr. Rudow recommended coordination with the Roaring Fork Conservancy's education outreach coordinator. Commissioner Treese

recommended using the Commission's 2022 action items as a guide for potential projects. Chairman Moffatt recommended a public outreach webinar similar to the Commission's platform. Assistant City Manager Jenn Oton recommended water resiliency as a topic. Commissioner Shute recommend snowpack and seed dispersal as an option.

Sub-Committee/Project Updates

Commission Applications - Mr. Hyatt explained that three applications were filed to fill vacancies occurring in March.

Three Mile Confluence Project – Mr. Hyatt explained that the City received an additional \$130,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the project and that a request to bid on the construction would be sent out by February 18.

Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance – Mr. Rudow explained that the group was planning work items for 2022. Council Liaison Stepp stated she was working on a sign update project for Glenwood Canyon in coordination with the US Forest Service and would appreciate the Commission's help. Additionally, she explained that funding for the water quality monitoring and rain gauges program was expected to continue over the next few years.

City Projects of Interest – Mr. Hyatt explained that Council Liaison Stepp has provided a list of projects to keep the Commission informed on including but not limited to the comprehensive plan update.

Other Comments

Commissioner Treese discussed the Garfield County Water Forum and invited the group to attend the upcoming meeting. Park Superintendent Dan Roper explained a recent water leak at the Whitewater Park and his plans to include the River Commission in revegetation in the spring. He also explained that he would like for the Commission to be involved with revegetation for Three Mile Creek bridge area disturbed for the Midland Road improvements and other tree plantings he planned throughout the City. Mr. Rudow mentioned the Conservancy's winter speaker series and former Commissioner Elise Osenga's recent talk regarding soil monitoring in the valley and an upcoming alpine lake algae discussion. Chairman Moffatt discussed a book related to Glenwood Springs water titled, [Hope in Hot Water](#). There was also a discussion related to the River Commission's budget. Mr. Hyatt and rest of the Commission thanked Chairman Moffatt for her great service to the Commission over the last six years and asked her to come back in a year's time.