

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Monday, April 1, 2013, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield, Colorado**

Board members in attendance: Shelley Cook (Director, Arvada), Jim McCarthy (Alternate, Arvada), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder), Tim Plass (Alternate, City of Boulder), Deb Gardner (Director, Boulder County), Megan Davis (Alternate, Boulder County), Mike Shelton (Alternate, Broomfield), David Allen (Alternate, Broomfield), Dan Hartman (Alternate, Golden), Faye Griffin (Director, Jefferson County), Shelley Stanley (Alternate, Northglenn), Joe Cirelli (Director, Superior), Emily Hunt (Alternate, Thornton), Bob Briggs (Director, Westminster), Mary Fabisiak (Alternate, Westminster), Jeannette Hillery (League of Women Voters), Ann Lockhart (Director, 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: Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Charles Adams (CDPHE), Joe Legare (Stoller), Bob Darr (Stoller), Jody Nelson (Stoller), Rick DiSalvo (Stoller), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Jim Rada (JeffCo Public WQCC), Randy Frank (JeffCo Open Space), Therese Glowacki (Boulder County), Hank Dalton (Louisville City Council), Patty Strapelli (citizen), Maureen Elmaleh (JeffCo resident).

Convene/Agenda Review

Chair Bob Briggs convened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Chairman's Review of March 7 Executive Committee meeting

Chair Briggs noted that an Executive Committee meeting was held on March 7, 2013. Meeting attendees included the Executive Committee along with David Abelson. The purpose was to develop an agenda for this meeting. These meetings are open to public.

Consent Agenda

Lisa Morzel moved to approve the February Board meeting minutes and the checks. The motion was seconded by Joe Cirelli. The motion to accept the minutes and checks passed 14-0.

Executive Director's Report

David Abelson began his update to the Board by noting that the annual financial audit of the Stewardship Council was in process. This audit is not required; however, one is completed each year to provide Board members complete reassurance that all financial matters are being handled correctly. No issues have been found in the past. The final draft is almost complete. A

representative from the company conducting the audit, Eric Barnes, will be at the next meeting to provide a briefing on the results. David, Barb Vander Wall and Jennifer Bohn all review the audit, and the Board will need a vote to accept the audit at the meeting. Once accepted by the Board, the audit will be filed with State.

Next, David noted that S.M. Stoller's contract with DOE-Legacy Management to manage Rocky Flats is expiring and up for bid. Other parties are competing with Stoller for this contract. Previously, Stoller held the largest small business contract within DOE; however, Stoller is no longer classified as a small business, so they are teaming with another company that qualifies as a small business.

David reported that he would be in Washington D.C. the following week for an Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Peer Exchange meeting. He said that most of the event would be focused on Environmental Management (EM), but there would be some discussion of Legacy Management (LM) and other issues that affect Rocky Flats, such as the DOE budget and sequestration. During this trip, David would also be meeting with DOE-LM Director Dave Geiser for a Rocky Flats update, as well as with staff members from Rep. Perlmutter and Sen. Udall's offices to discuss Rocky Flats worker issues.

After the Board sent a letter to the Colorado Congressional delegation in February regarding former worker benefits, David received calls from some of the staffers with an update. The Department of Labor is now investigating the exposure matrix for Rocky Flats workers. It is likely that there will be a re-introduction of a bi-partisan bill (with Colorado Representatives Perlmutter and Polis among the sponsors) to change the way the nuclear worker benefits law (known as the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act) is implemented. This new approach would result in lower costs than the previously-proposed Charlie Wolf Act.

David noted that a meeting for the annual review of the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) was set to be held on April 25. In addition to a review of 2012 results, the issues to be discussed include the future of the former Points of Compliance along Indiana Street. David and Rik will attend this meeting, and will send meeting notice to the Board. The issues raised may be discussed at the June RFSC meeting.

Finally, David mentioned that the quarterly financial reports would be sent to the Board by the end of month.

Public Comment

There was none.

Member Updates

Faye Griffin shared that Jefferson County recently celebrated the transfer of property for Section 16, south of Rocky Flats. Emily Hunt noted that Thornton had issued a Stage 2 drought restriction. Roman Kohler announced that a fellowship has offered to erect a granite monument

commemorating Rocky Flats workers and their families for their involvement in the Cold War effort. There is a tentative date of June 22 for the monument to be erected, and they are working with DOE to get approval to build it at the west entrance to the site. Jeannette Hillery mentioned that the Boulder County League of Women Voters had recently hosted a 'Meet the Legislators' event. Lisa Morzel noted Boulder's involvement in the 'Smart City, Smart Grid' conference. She also mentioned that Boulder is looking into municipalizing utilities. Murph Widdowfield shared a website that he had become involved in that is similar to a neighborhood watch group. He said his community had been working on variety of issues, and this was a great way for small neighborhoods to come together and collaborate, for the neighbors to get to know one another. Rik Getty told Board Members to expect an email soon regarding date options for the annual Rocky Flats site tour in June. Bob Briggs mentioned that Westminster is working on redevelopment of their mall, and would be announcing the developer and four major tenants at a conference in Las Vegas in May. Joe Cirelli announced that he had been re-elected. He also announced that Superior was updating their comprehensive plan, working on a comprehensive transportation plan, and working on plans for a Town Center off Highway 36. Deb Gardner said that Boulder County had been pleased to celebrate the transfer of Section 16 with Jefferson County. She also said that there was a meeting scheduled the following day about the regional trail system and that she would pass along information to David for the Board. Ann Lockhart mentioned a news release from the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum about an upcoming art exhibit.

DOE Briefing on Water Quality Compliance During Drought

DOE briefed the Board about how site water quality was being ensured during drought conditions. The cleanup remedy at Rocky Flats was designed to protect water quality. Activities associated with measuring remedy compliance include surface water and groundwater monitoring. However, with the current drought, there is less water to monitor, thereby raising questions about how DOE can measure actinide movement and, in turn, remedy compliance. Therefore, DOE was asked to review its monitoring program and discuss remedy compliance with a focus on the drought conditions.

Scott Surovchak began by discussing the basics of the site remedy, which are institutional controls plus monitoring. Since extensive studies showed that surface water was the primary movement pathway for plutonium and americium, activities at the site are focused on protecting surface water quality. The test results at Rocky Flats Points of Compliance monitoring sites meet the standards for all uses of water. The Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) requires consultation on the management and protection of surface water, but does not require meeting all standards in all locations. The post-closure land reconfiguration was intended to minimize runoff from the site, specifically in drainage ditches, as well as to minimize habitat and wetlands impacts. This included minimizing total earthwork scope, providing positive surface water drainage, maintaining geotechnical stability, and limiting erosion. Prior to closing, Rocky Flats imported a great deal of water to support up to 12,000 people working onsite at various times. Current conditions are a complete reversal of what existed prior to closing. Ecologists at the site developed a seed mix to match the new site conditions.

During some of the early cleanup involving building demolition (which already met free release standards), workers used dust suppression techniques in conjunction with air monitoring to ensure that there was no airborne contamination. At closure, the air contamination sources had been removed and air monitoring was no longer necessary.

Tim Plass asked how the site could be sure that there was no contamination at times when there was not enough water to conduct the testing. Scott noted that plants stay put, and other things reduce wind velocity at soil level, thereby helping to ensure that any residual contamination is fixed in place. Emily Hunt asked about how monitoring worked during a large precipitation event. Scott said that as flow rate goes up, water is sampled more frequently. He added that with a large flow, they would not detect contaminants because of dilution. He said that the site was permitted to use grab samples, but have chosen to do flow-paced sampling instead. An audience member asked why there was no longer any air monitoring at Rocky Flats. Scott said that they never detected airborne contamination during years of air monitoring during the physical cleanup activities. Therefore, once cleanup work was complete, there was no reason to continue monitoring. Carl Spreng added that the State also shut down their monitors. Another audience member brought up a concern about fires dispersing particles offsite. David Abelson referred them to the minutes from Carl's presentation at the previous Board meeting, which could be found on the Board's website. Deb Gardner asked if all 100 wells were being tested. Scott said that they were on a rotating schedule, and that some were dry. She asked if they measured the water levels. He said that they did. Deb asked where the water from seeps was coming from, and if it was flowing through buried building foundations. Scott replied that the seeps were localized and were the result of precipitation.

Briefing/Discussion on vegetation management and adaptation

The next briefing addressed vegetation management on the site. As discussed in 2012 during the series of briefings on actinide movement, mature and diverse plant communities help reduce actinide migration. A mix of species to address both drought and increased moisture is therefore a critical ingredient of the site's adaptive management approach. Jody Nelson, the site ecologist, discussed his seed mix strategy at the Board's September meeting. He was asked to expand on this approach at this meeting. Open space staff from Boulder, Boulder County and Jefferson County was also on hand to join the conversation by sharing and discussing their own adaptive management strategies.

Jody began by explaining that open space at Rocky Flats meant enhancing the native prairie conditions, which might be different than how cities or counties managed their own open space. He said problems could result during drought conditions if there was a 'monoculture' of one species. At Rocky Flats, the seed mixes were designed based on the surrounding native prairies, which are most adapted to this particular climate, soils, and other conditions. Jody reviewed the full list of seed mix combinations, which are used based on the type of location (i.e. pediment upland, hillside upland, riparian, wetland). The mixes also include both warm and cool season varieties, as well as a classification of whether the species grows as sod or a bunch. Through using these methods, there would always be something to replace what was not able to grow.

Lisa Morzel asked if the site had to bring in much soil after the Industrial Area structures were

removed. Jody said that there was actually quite a bit of Rocky Flats alluvium available on and near the site. He added that they did not need to amend the soil much either, with the exception of the former parking lot areas. Joe Cirelli asked if there were any invasive species on site. Jody said that there were indeed some invasive species. Since preferred grassland management methods such as grazing and controlled burns were not considered to be options at Rocky Flats, they had to use spraying for weed control. Jody said that they had to leave wildflowers out of their seed mix, because the spraying killed them. He added that grasses were now becoming well-established, so they were now able to start adding wildflower seeds back into the mixes. Joe also asked if the USFWS was involved in monitoring grasses on the refuge lands. Jody said he was not sure whether the USFWS was doing much because of funding issues, although he said they sometimes did some spraying along roads. Emily Hunt asked why maintaining vegetation was so beneficial. Jody said that having good vegetation prevented exposed soil, and also cut down on the wind at the ground surface. He said dead plants also get matted down, helping to fix any contaminants into place.

Tim Plass asked whether DOE had considered climate change in its models for remedy protection. Jody said that these types of changes would not cause current species of plants to disappear, but could change which species are dominant. Many of the plants used at Rocky Flats grow in vast areas, from Mexico to Canada, which was why he felt confident in the viability of their seed mix. Rick DiSalvo mentioned DOE's sustainability plan, which has 10 programs. He said 2012 was the first year that DOE started to incorporate climate change issues. They planned to look for synergies among various governmental agencies. Goals should be developed in the August/September timeframe, and will be available on the DOE-LM website.

Jody asked Boulder and Jefferson County to discuss their revegetation strategies. Randy Frank said that Jefferson County used very similar methods as Rocky Flats. In some areas used for hay and grazing, it was more difficult to get back to native conditions. He added that prescribed burning was very effective in re-establishing native grasses. Randy said that what Rocky Flats was doing was industry standard, and that it could not be done any better. Therese Glowacki with Boulder County noted that the models were mixed regarding what kind of future conditions to expect along the Front Range, which meant that planting a variety of different species was the best choice. She added that not having grazing and fire as options would make weed control efforts much more difficult. In fact, they have seen areas like this in decline. Boulder County was looking at weed management alternatives, such as herbicides that may be able to maintain a variety of species. They were also using volunteers to do seed collection. These seeds are sent to grass nurseries which grow it, and then send it back in greater quantities. Randy also emphasized that plants are quite adaptive. Deb Gardner said she had noticed on the last site tour some areas where nothing was growing, which was probably one of the parking lot areas that Jody had mentioned. She asked about plans for addressing these areas. Jody said they do work on these areas using soil amendments, although sometimes it takes multiple attempts before vegetation becomes established. Scott Surovchak said that Deb was likely talking about an area where an access road had been. He said that this was not a high risk area, since it was a flat, high location without much surface water flow.

Jody showed several sets of before and after photographs which demonstrated what certain locations looked like before or during cleanup, and then what they look like today.

Briefing/Discussion on prairie fire at Rocky Flats

The next presentation focused on the issue of prairie fires at Rocky Flats, which generate broad concern in surrounding communities. DOE, CDPHE and EPA have studied these fires, including controlled burns, focusing on the impacts on actinide movement, re-vegetation efforts, and habitat restoration. The agencies were asked to discuss the suite of issues related to prairie fire at Rocky Flats.

Carl Spreng with CDPHE began by noting that the cleanup of Rocky Flats was completed to be protective of human health and environment. He said that the low levels of residual contamination allow Rocky Flats to meet a standard that is one hundred times more conservative than city drinking water standards (.15 vs. 15 pCi/l). He explained that while the agencies were developing the soil action levels, a controlled burn was performed with a wind tunnel in place to measure the particles released during the fire. Carl noted that the time of year makes a difference on the recovery times for vegetation, and that all of this information was taken into account prior to setting the official soil action levels. He noted that plants do not uptake plutonium, but can uptake uranium. When they looked at the risks to firefighters responding to a fire at Rocky Flats, radiological concerns were very low on the list of risks. Carl said that, in prairie environments, fire is not only good, it is critical. He noted that there are no actual regulations that preclude grazing or prescribed burns at Rocky Flats. However, since grazing could have led to damage of monitoring devices, it was ruled out for use at Rocky Flats. He added that prescribed burns were ruled out simply because they were too controversial. He said that the USFWS will probably be implementing some grazing on refuge lands pretty soon, and that DOE might try to look at ways to implement this as well.

Tim Plass referred to a white paper that noted areas where firefighters should not follow a fire at Rocky Flats. Carl said that this did not apply anymore because of the cleanup. Emily Hunt asked what the fire protection goals at the site were. Carl said the main goal was to protect structures. David Abelson asked what kind of communications process was in place in terms of notifications if there were to be a fire. Scott Surovchak said DOE would not be involved in the fire response process. David asked if there was an email list to notify surrounding local governments. Scott said this would only be done if the entities managing the fire requested them to do so. He said that the fire departments simply fight the fire as they would in any other location. Bob Darr said he would send out a community notification, but it would not be immediate. Carl pointed to studies showing that millions of particles of plutonium dust must be inhaled to cause any significant risk. He also said that they might be addressing this group in the future about using prescribed burns onsite.

Scott added that DOE's Wildland Fire Management Plan, which applies to DOE-controlled lands, is part of the Rocky Flats Site Operations Guide, and could be found on the website.

Public comment

There was none.

Updates/Big Picture Review

June 3, 2013

Potential Business Items

- Financial audit

Potential Briefing Items

- DOE Annual update
- AMP Monitoring update
- Legacy Management contract update

September 9, 2013

Potential Business Items

- Initial review of 2014 budget
- Initial review of 2014 work plan
- Review community member application and appointment process

Potential Briefing Items

- DOE quarterly update
- Natural Resource Damages update
- Solar Ponds performance
- Overview of water monitoring network?

Issues to watch:

Americium and uranium levels upstream of pond B-3

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Rogers.