

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Thornton -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Steven Franks

Monthly Status Report – April 2016

Board meeting summary

The Board issued the following announcement prior to the meeting.

Meeting Announcement: The Board of Directors will first convene as the Department of Energy (DOE)-designated Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). At the conclusion of the LSO meeting, the Board will briefly adjourn and reconvene to review management of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. That Refuge conversation will include a discussion of the joint DOE-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service multipurpose facility. As a joint agency project, that facility both falls within the Stewardship Council's role as the LSO, and concerns matters not included in that designation. For this meeting, the multipurpose facility discussion will not be part of the LSO conversation; at future meetings, it might be included in LSO conversations.

LSO meeting:

DOE Update on the Original Landfill

DOE regularly provides updates on slumping at the Original Landfill (OLF). This briefing focused on the engineer's analysis. As background, DOE outlined 2015 interim actions:

- Regrading to fill cracks and smooth irregularities (then reseeding/erosion matting)
- Installing above-ground drain pipes
- Berm heights and cover thickness might not be maintained in some areas

DOE received a draft Options Analysis Report from the geotechnical engineer, which identified three primary factors contributing to slope instability at the landfill:

- Naturally weak soils underlying the OLF
- Slope angle that is sufficiently steep that soils can mobilize downslope
- Water that is introduced into the already weak soils from sources including:
 - Surface water run-on and runoff
 - Precipitation and infiltration
 - Groundwater

The geotechnical engineer identified a set of options to be evaluated individually and combined, as appropriate, to address slope instability:

- Options for addressing naturally weak soils
- Consideration of slope angle
- Options for water management
 - Berm redesign
 - Groundwater control

Non-LSO Meeting

USFWS was on hand to provide an overview of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, including its organic act, Rocky Flats refuge organizing legislation, and management plans. The briefing was also designed to include an update on the multi-purpose facility that USFWS and DOE are jointly developing.

Planned visitor opportunities at Rocky Flats include:

- Visitor information/multipurpose building
- Hiking, cycling and horseback riding trails
- Connections to the Rocky Mountain Greenway trail system
- Guided tours, hikes and nature programs
- Environmental education opportunities for high school and college-level students
- Signs, maps and interpretive panels

USFWS explained that the Refuge's engagement strategy included these goals:

- Keep interested parties informed
- Share information about what Rocky Flats refuge has to offer
- Increase public, stakeholder, media and elected official support
- Incorporate "lessons learned" from Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

With regard to future visitor uses, USFWS said that the Refuge had clear goals:

- Open to hiking, biking, wildlife observation, wildlife photography
- Offer interpretive and environmental education programming
- Develop and maintain trails, a visitor facility, and connections to outlying trail systems

The vast majority of the conversation focused on USFWS and local governments' efforts to build the Rocky Mountain Greenway, a trail connecting Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports that in addition to routine monitoring and maintenance activities, site personnel conducted the following activities in March.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring

- Collected samples to support ongoing geochemistry evaluation

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is working as designed.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is working as designed. Continued design for upcoming reconfiguration project.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports the Big Box treatment media is clogged, reducing flow. Procurement activities for upcoming interim reconfiguration project continue.

Ecology

- Conducted erosion control surveys.
- Installed t-posts and wire fencing in support of the 2014 habitat enhancement project area. Posts will hold fencing to protect juniper trees from deer and elk.
- Installed woodstraw behind georidges in the Functional Channel 1 area and added and staked wattles at an Original Landfill revegetation area.

Landfills

- Continued to develop the technical information and evaluation criteria to support the Original Landfill path forward.
- At the Original Landfill, minor erosion on the slope below Berm 7 at the bottom of the east perimeter channel was observed during the precipitation-related inspection on March 29. Additional erosion controls (wattles and georidges) were installed.

Stewardship Council Update

2016 Board meetings:

June 6

September 12

October 31