

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Jefferson County -- Boulder County -- City and County of Broomfield -- City of Arvada -- City of Boulder
City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Karen Imbierowicz

Monthly Status Report – February 2008

Board meeting summary:

Election of Stewardship Council Officers for 2008

The Board elected the following board officers for 2008:

- Chairman – Lorraine Anderson (Arvada)
- Vice Chairman – Lori Cox (Broomfield)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Jeannette Hillery (League of Women Voters)

Terms run until the February 2009 meeting.

Natural Resource Trustees Briefing

The 2006 Defense Authorization Act extinguished natural resource damage (NRD) claims at Rocky Flats for \$10 million. Under CERCLA (Superfund), NRD claims serve to make the public whole for injuries to natural resources by restoring or replacing injured natural resources. DOE was required to purchase “essential mineral rights” for \$10 million, pay \$10 million to the Trustees, or some combination of the two. Three of four parcels identified by the Trustees as essential minerals have been purchased for \$5.5 million; the owner of the 4th parcel is not interested in selling his rights.

The Trustees are now trying to determine how to spend the remaining \$4.5 million. These funds must be used to “restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of” injured resources. They can be used on- or off-site, but at Rocky Flats, most on-site restoration projects have been already completed or are planned as part of ongoing land management. Some of the ideas the Trustees have identified include:

1. Purchase additional mineral rights
2. Build Highway 93 wildlife migration corridor
3. Restore Preble’s Mouse habitat in lower Rock Creek
4. Restore State Land Board land (section 16)
5. Provide monies to local jurisdictions for open space acquisition/restoration near Rocky Flats
6. Fund Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse introduction

The Stewardship Council committed to working collaboratively to identify projects that might qualify for these funds. A special meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2008; an initial staff working group meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2008.

Meeting with Steve Berendzen, Manager, Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

The Administration has not requested (and Congress has not provided) sufficient funding for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Accordingly, USFWS is not able to begin implementing the site conservation plan for Rocky Flats. Rocky Flats is instead on caretaker status – namely, ensuring the Refuge does not fall into disrepair and trying to contain non-native species. The Administration’s fiscal year 2009 budget request to Congress does not request funding for the Rocky Flats Refuge.

Washington, D.C. Talking Points

The Board approved talking points members and their staff can use during meetings in Washington, DC with Congress and DOE. Copies are available by email

(dabelson@rockyflatssc.org).

Legacy Management (LM) Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted the LM quarterly update for the third quarter of 2007. Updates included:

- groundwater monitoring
- surface water monitoring
- air monitoring
- ecological monitoring
- surveillance, maintenance and site operations

Some of the highlights include:

- Monitoring indicates contaminant levels in surface water are well within regulatory requirements.
- Testing at the Solar Ponds treatment system indicates that repairs to the system were successful.
- DOE continues to monitor the seeps and slumps at the Original Landfill (OLF), and has begun repairing the slumping and cracking.
- DOE repaired the slump at the 991 hillside. Slumping resulted from the removal of a French drain during cleanup.

The meeting minutes, which include a more thorough summary of DOE’s report, will be posted on the Stewardship Council’s website following the May 2008 Stewardship Council board meeting. DOE’s third quarter 2007 monitoring and maintenance report can be found at:

http://www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/co/rocky_flats/reports.htm

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

Following is a summary of site activities for February.

- As part of the on-going geotechnical study of the slumping at the Original Landfill, nine test pits were excavated to depths of 10-12 feet below surface. Soil samples were collected in accordance with the investigation plan for geotechnical analysis. No radiological concerns or other problems were encountered.
- The site continued deployment of groundwater trolls (automated water level monitoring devices) in various wells around the Site.

- New telemetry system components, which allow DOE to gather some data remotely from the site, were installed at Pond C-2, Pond A-3, gauging station GS12, and the Present Landfill Pond.
- The second quarter FY08 inspection for the Present Landfill and the February inspection for the OLF were completed.
- Sampling of groundwater wells around the Present Landfill has begun.
- The air monitoring cartridges at the two stations along Indiana Street were changed out.
- Weekly erosion control surveys in Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat were conducted. Reseeding efforts continued at various Site locations where vegetation is sparse. The Functional Channel-1 wetland and some other small wetland areas were seeded with native wetland species.

Congressional update:

None at this time.

Agency update:

CERCLA requires DOE to maintain an official record of the cleanup. That record, called the Administrative Record, will be stored in DOE's soon-to-be-built facility in Morgantown, WV. CERCLA regulations guide what information DOE must maintain.

In January DOE let it be known that it was planning on destroying site documents that were once housed at Front Range Community College. The Stewardship Council is keenly interested in retaining in Colorado these documents, which include both a copy of the Administrative Record and other documents. The problem the organization faces – and the reason for DOE's decision to destroy the documents – is that personal information has been found in some of the documents. The Stewardship Council is exploring avenues for preserving copies of these documents and has discussed its interests and concerns with Legacy Management's Director, Mike Owen.

Site document update:

None at this time.

Stewardship Council update:

Washington, D.C. Meetings

In mid-February, Lorraine Anderson (Arvada), Kim Grant (Rocky Flats Cold War Museum) and David Abelson (Stewardship Council staff) met with staff with Senator Allard and Representative Udall. Kim and David also met with DOE-Legacy Management.

Concerns/issues raised included: Rocky Flats records, use of NRD settlement funds, Rocky Flats Cold War Museum's grant, and funding for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Lorraine and David also participated in Energy Communities Alliance's board meeting and attended its annual conference.

Stewardship Council Grant

In late February, DOE finalized amendments to the Stewardship Council's grant. The amendments add to the grant the \$240,000 DOE committed to the Stewardship Council for fiscal

years 2009 and 2010; the amendments also readjust the total cost of the grant to \$755,847. The grant is effective through February 28, 2011.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

April 7, 2008 (special meeting focusing on NRD funds)

May 5, 2008

August 4, 2008