

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 2009

Board meeting summary:

Election of Stewardship Council Officers for 2009

The Board elected the following board officers for 2009:

Chairman – Jeannette Hillery (League of Women Voters)

Vice Chairman – Lori Cox (Broomfield)

Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Briggs (Westminster)

Terms run until the February 2010 meeting.

2009 Meeting Schedule

The Board adopted the following meeting schedule for 2009: February 2, April 6, June 1, September 14 (second Monday of the month), November 2.

Approval of letter to new members of the Colorado Congressional delegation

In a letter dated January 14, 2009, the Stewardship Council wrote to new members of Colorado's Congressional delegation congratulating them on their election to Congress and informing them of our work on Rocky Flats. The Board ratified approval of the letter at the meeting. The letter can soon be found at www.rockyflatssc.org

Washington, D.C. Talking Points

The Board approved talking points members and their staff can use during meetings in Washington, D.C. with Congress and DOE. Copies are available by email (dabelson@rockyflatssc.org).

Natural Resource Damages Grant Request

In late January, Trust for Public Land, Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Westminster, Town of Superior and the Jefferson County Nature Association submitted a request for funding under the Natural Resource Damage trust fund. These proposals were borne out of extensive conversations amongst the applicants and other local governments and community groups, and reflect a growing partnership that seeks to address conservation and acquisition activities on a regional basis. Through joint planning, acquisition and cooperative management efforts, the applicants are working to preserve native prairie ecosystems, rangelands, riparian areas, and wildlife corridors in an area that is rapidly developing around the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The Stewardship Council approved a motion supporting this proposal and directing staff to draft a letter to the Trustees voicing the Board's strong and unanimous support for the

proposal. The letter can be found at http://www.rockyflatssc.org/NRD_grant_%20ltr_of_support_final_2_09.pdf

Refuge Signage

The conversation focused on laying the foundation for the type of information that should be provided to visitors at the entrance and throughout the Refuge. The Board last addressed signage in Fall 2006 when discussing USFWS' entrance signs. As the Board delves into this issue, they will focus on categories of information that should be conveyed to visitors and how best to convey that information (e.g., kiosks, all weather signs, text, photographs). Importantly, the conversation will focus on DOE-related activities (i.e., history of the site, ongoing management needs, etc) and not USFWS habitat conservation, permissible activities and related issues.

Potential topics for signs include:

1. History of the cleanup
2. Ongoing management
3. Monitoring activities
4. Groundwater treatment

Additionally, the Board will consider how information one gains on-site relates to off-site information (i.e., on-line resources, Cold War Museum, etc).

Legacy Management (LM) Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted the LM quarterly update for the third quarter of 2008. Updates included:

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

Some of the highlights include:

- Due to the continued relatively dry conditions at the site there were no terminal pond discharges.
- During this quarter there were no water flows at the water quality monitoring points of compliance on Walnut and Woman Creeks at Indiana Street and thus no monitoring results.
- Reportable uranium values (predominantly naturally-occurring) at surface water monitoring location GS10 in the South Walnut Creek drainage continue to be observed. The elevated levels are due to the increasing proportion of groundwater contribution to the stream flow.
- All RFLMA groundwater wells were monitored during this quarter.
- The site continues to consult with the regulators regarding treatment of nitrate and uranium contamination in groundwater at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS). Phase 1 upgrades to the system have resulted in higher input flows as well as higher input concentrations of nitrate and uranium. These conditions have resulted in reduction of treatment effectiveness for both contaminants. The site will continue its efforts to improve the groundwater treatment as it commences Phase 2 (total of 4 Phases) of the SPPTS upgrades in March 2009.

- The site reported two upgrades to the Original Landfill (OLF) based on recommendations from the OLF geotechnical study on seeps and subsidence reported in June 2008. The report recommended extending seep #7 drain and re-grading of berms. These two recommendations were completed this quarter.
- DOE also reported on rulings from the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC) on DOE's petition to request changes to some site water quality standards. The CWQCC did not agree to change the site's uranium standard from 10 pCi/l to about 20 pCi/l as requested by DOE. Instead, the CWQCC ruled the new uranium standard for the site will be a health-based standard (using EPA's calculations) of 16.8 micrograms/l (which equates to about 11.5 pCi/l). Additionally, the CWQCC granted DOE's request to delete gross alpha/beta monitoring.

The meeting minutes, which include a more thorough summary of DOE's report, will be posted on the Stewardship Council's website following the April 2009 Stewardship Council board meeting. DOE's third quarter 2008 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.

- The first phase of the dam notching project was completed in February. Phase 1 consisted of notching dams on ponds A-1, A-2 (North Walnut Creek), B-1, B-2, and B-3 (South Walnut Creek) resulting in a water flow-through configuration. Re-vegetation of the affected areas, waste/rubble disposition, and demobilization are in progress going into March. The new configuration returns these stream areas to a more natural water flow similar to pre-Rocky Flats site construction. Phases 2 and 3 dam notching for the remaining site dams (A-3, A-4, B-5, C-2, and Present Landfill pond) will be implemented in approximately 2012 and 2017 corresponding to the next 2 EPA CERCLA five-year reviews.
- The site continues to work on various technical reports which document environmental data previously collected.

Congressional update:

None at this time.

Agency update:

None at this time.

Site document update:

None at this time.

Stewardship Council update:

Washington, D.C. Meetings

In mid-February, Lorraine Anderson (Arvada), Andrew Muckle (Superior) and David Abelson (Stewardship Council staff) met with Representatives Polis, Perlmutter, and Markey, and staff with Senator Udall, Senator Bennet, and Representative Coffman. Concerns/issues raised included: DOE funding, importance of maintaining a program office focused on post-closure

management, workers and compensation under the EEOICPA, 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.

Next meeting: April 2