

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Monday, September 18, 2023

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board members in attendance: Randy Moorman (Director, Arvada), Tara Winer (Director, City of Boulder), Marni Ratzel (Alternate, City of Boulder), Claire Levy (Director, Boulder County), Nick Robles (Alternate, Boulder County), Deven Shaff (Director, City and County of Bromfield), Don Davis (Alternate, City and County of Bromfield), Anne Beierle (Alternate, City of Golden), Andy Kerr (Director, Jefferson County), Rich Kondo (Director, Northglenn), Shelley Stanley (Alternate, Northglenn), Laura Farzim (Alternate, Northglenn), Bob McCool (Director, Superior), Jan Kulmann (Director, Thornton), Caleb Owen (Alternate, Thornton), Nancy McNally (present on behalf of Westminster – not voting), Jeannette Hillery (Director, League of Women Voters), Linda Porter (Alternate, League of Women Voters), Roman Kohler (Director, Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Murph Widdowfield (Rocky Flats Cold War Museum), Kim Griffiths

Stewardship Council staff members and consultants in attendance: David Abelson (Executive Director), Melissa Weakley (Technical Program Manager), Jennfier Bohn (accountant), Barb Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C)

Members of the public in attendance: Andy Keim (DOE-LM), Chris Stewart (RSI), Dana Santi (RSI), George Squibb (RSI), Harry Bolton (RSI), Jody Nelson (RSI), John Boylan (RSI), Karin McShea (RSI), Lisa Bade (RSI), Padraic Benson (DOE-LM), Ramona Phillips (RSI), Ryan Wisniewski (RSI), Brian Walker (CDPHE), Laura Hubbard (Broomfield), Cathy Shugarts (Westminster), Chris Allred, Emerald Thomas, Joan Seeman, Kirk Briscoe, Lynn Segal, Travis Culley, Shirley Garcia

Convene/Agenda Review: Jan Kulmann convened the meeting at approximately 8:30 AM.

Public Comment: Lynn Segal requested that no one allowed be onto Rocky Flats. She raised concerns about Xcel Energy and the Marshall Fire, and redistribution of plutonium. Chris Allred expressed concerns about the Stewardship Council's handling of public comments. He asked why public comments were not posted on the new website. He asked that the meetings be recorded and put online. He argued for more accessible meeting times, more accessible locations, recordings for the public record, and ending DOE funding for the executive director. Travis Culley stated that nothing written about Rocky Flats will be credible. He raised concerns about the time of meetings. Joan Seeman commented that Rocky Flats has not been delisted as a Superfund site. She was concerned that the Stewardship Council cannot offer advice as to the cleanup.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda included the draft June 2023 meeting minutes and checks written since that meeting. Rich Kondo moved to approve the checks and edited minutes. The motion was seconded by Kim Griffiths. The motion to accept the minutes and checks passed 13-0.

Executive Director's Report: David discussed three topics. First, applications from community members are due the first Monday of October. Two community member Board positions (the Homesteaders and League of Women Voters) are due for reappointment, effective February 2024. The Board will interview and appointments at the October 30, 2023, meeting. Information was posted on the Stewardship Council website. Jennifer Bohn is retiring at the end of the year. He is trying to fill the position. We will start the transitional process in mid-October to transfer information from Jennifer. David then discussed the triennial review, which gives the Board the opportunity to check in with member governments that

they want to continue. Barb Vander Wall will provide the resolution in the fall, with approval no later than January 2024. David then mentioned the website and that reactions have been positive. He said it is document-heavy, so he pulled some of the historic documents. We are switching how we are doing public comment, as well. Public comments posted on the website historically did not always pertain to the Stewardship Council or even to issues raised during public meetings. If someone has a public comment, comments will be reflected in the minutes, but people will no longer be able to post their documents on the Stewardship Council's website. This approach tracks how local governments handle public comments. As David noted, none of the governments are required to post on their website documents that the public requests or demands be posted. Lastly, the October meeting will be in person at the airport.

DOE Presentation – First Quarter 2023

Surface Water Monitoring – George Squibb

George Squibb, surface water lead at Rocky Flats, gave an overview of the surface water monitoring locations and sampling results from the first quarter of 2023. At the Original Landfill (Woman Creek location GS59), all quarterly concentrations were below applicable RFLMA standards during the first quarter. At the Present Landfill (location PLFSYSEFF), all quarterly concentrations were below the applicable RFLMA standards during the first quarter as well.

At Points of Evaluation, the 12-month rolling average uranium concentrations at location GS10 were above the RFLMA standard of 16.8 ug/L starting on March 31, 2023. This was a reportable condition under RFLMA (see RFLMA Contact Record 2023-01). The reportable condition concentrations were 18.4 to 19.2 ug/L. Uranium was no longer reportable as of May 31, 2023. Uranium concentrations at the Walnut Creek Point of Compliance (downstream of GS10) remained well below 16.8 ug/L.

No RFLMA Point of Compliance (POC) analyte concentrations were reportable during the first quarter of 2023.

Groundwater Monitoring – John Boylan

John Boylan, groundwater lead, gave an overview of the RFLMA groundwater monitoring network. He said there were no changes to the monitoring network in the first quarter of 2023. Ten (10) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act wells were sampled (quarterly basis) to evaluate potential impacts from the OLF and PLF. Results were generally consistent with previous data. At the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS), uranium treatment testing continued. Sub-zero cold snaps in the first quarter caused freezing of some components but enabled system testing under extreme conditions. Design of the full-scale uranium treatment component is scheduled to begin in late 2023. Planning is underway for subsurface effluent discharge gallery maintenance in April 2023 (see Contact Record 2022-05).

Site Operations – Harry Bolton

Harry Bolton reported on Site Operations. The quarterly sign inspection was conducted. Signs were reattached or replaced as needed. Additional inspections included former building areas (B371, B771, B881, and B991) as a best management practice. A regular quarterly inspection of the PLF was conducted on February 21, 2023. No inspections in response to significant precipitation events were required in the first quarter. The PLF is in good condition; no issues were identified during inspection.

Monthly inspections of the OLF were performed on January 17, February 21, and March 23, 2023. No inspections in response to significant precipitation events were required in the first quarter. The OLF is inspected weekly as a best management practice. Routine maintenance was performed on berms, channels, and erosion controls. The OLF Landfill is in good condition as well; no slumping was observed. At the North Walnut Creek Slump (NWCS), slump monitoring points are surveyed monthly as a best management practice. The NWCS moved 0.1 foot during the first quarter. Groundwater elevation measurements in piezometers continued in 2023; RSI is continuing to collect data and evaluate it to develop a more comprehensive path forward for the hillside area.

Ecology – Karin McShea

Karin McShea gave an overview of ecological monitoring. She said revegetation and reseeded (NWCS exploratory test pit disturbance area) were conducted. No active black-tailed prairie dog towns were observed within the Central Operable Unit. Wildlife crossings were added to assist with wildlife movement.

Rich asked about plans for the elk population. Karin said USFWS would put together plans. Rich then asked if there was acceleration of movement of the NWCS or if it is constant. Harry replied that slumping has been slowing down because of lower rainfall amounts, but that may change based on precipitation patterns. Rich then asked John about the movement of radionuclides, relative to the groundwater data. John said uranium concentrations are similar to what they have previously seen, except for the SPPTS, which was lower because of treatment testing.

Claire asked about the uranium reportable condition at GS10. She asked if there was a plan to determine why that happened. George said DOE has conducted several studies regarding uranium chemistry and transport at the site. At GS10, the uranium detected is predominantly naturally occurring uranium. In winter, uranium becomes more mobile because of oxidizing conditions (due to low flow). When we get water again in the spring, the uranium begins to move and concentrations increase. However, water leaving the site is below the site-specific standard of 16.8 ug/L. Also, surface water is below the drinking water standard of 30 ug/L. Claire asked Harry about inspections of the landfills and what those entail. Harry said personnel will schedule inspections regularly and also after major precipitation events. People walk the footprints of the landfills, looking for erosion, damage, or other signs of disruption.

Randy asked about causes of the reportable condition as well and if there any reason the SPPTS would impact the surface water concentrations. John answered that the SPPTS would not impact the surface water reportable condition based on the locations of each. Randy asked if treatment would be added to the GS10 watershed. George said they would consider treatment if uranium was above the standard at POCs. He also said the SPPTS is designed to treat a known anthropogenic source of uranium, and GS10 is mostly naturally occurring.

Shelley Stanley asked John if PFAS was sampled this year. John said yes, and reports have been posted online. Shelley asked clarifying questions to Harry about movement of the OLF. She asked Karin how many elk crossings were added and if people could step over them. Karin said three were added. People could step over crossings but no evidence of that has been seen. George also said the fence is not necessarily designed to keep people out.

Linda Porter asked about the overall goal of uranium pilot at SPPTS. John said the goal was to treat water to below the RFLMA standard of 16.8 ug/L.

Public Comment

Travis requested that a picture of signs discussing site access be shown at the next meeting and asked if someone could drive a flatbed on to the site and take material offsite. He also asked about offsite plutonium and uranium monitoring. George said they are most concerned about vandalism. John said the warning signs were in prior presentation slides (such as last quarter).

Joan if air sparging remediation was being used. John said air sparging was not being used. Air stripping is being used at ETPTS to treat VOCs. Joan then asked if a permeable reactive treatment barrier was being used. John said that water was intercepted and routed through the air stripper. Lastly, she asked if tritium was being tested in the Walnut Creek drainage. John said tritium is not being sampled because it is not a RFLMA analyte as concentrations were well below standards prior to closure.

Lynn asked about slump creep. Harry said the slump creep is slow and not catastrophic. In 2017, the NWCS was regraded to promote surface water runoff and minimize erosion.

2024 Work Plan – Initial Review

David scrubbed the work plan this year to clarify the language. The Board reviewed the draft 2024 work plan. Randy would like to expand the work plan around public engagement. Deven reflected that he thought the mission statement should be revisited. David addressed those comments, stating that it may be a good time to envision what the Board wants to be and how to interact with the public. Jeanette mentioned that we want to encourage knowledge and we have the Cold War Museum, and we have supported legislation that would help Rocky Flats. Claire said that the lack of “a lot” of public interest does not mean we don’t have work to do. We need to continue to educate the public and maintain public knowledge. She wants the Stewardship Council to continue to discuss air monitoring.

David responded that how the mission statement has been interpreted by the Board has changed over time. David said originally it was envisioned that the Board members were conduits for public engagement. He is hearing now that that vision has shifted. Kim said that there were initially lots of questions from the public about Rocky Flats and currently she sees little to no interest in Rocky Flats from Candelas residents. She reflected that Candelas residents have looked at the data on Rocky Flats and believe it. Deven said he is approached once a month about Rocky Flats. He thinks that there are still people who want to understand Rocky Flats, and he thinks we are the group that carries the information and history about the site. He wants to explore what the group looks like going forward, on how we provide the information in the best way possible. He asked David about the timing for that conversation. David replied that he was not yet sure given a lot of organizational unknowns moving forward. He said his priority is to make sure Board members had the information they needed to reply to constituents. He asked Deven if he has what he needs to respond to the questions he gets and Deven affirmed he does.

Jan stated that all of the Board member’s jurisdictions have different priorities and perspectives. She thinks we can discuss dissemination of information at the next executive meeting. She also added that we are supposed to adopt the work plan at the October meeting. She asked if we could add a statement about revisiting the work plan next year. David said he would add a statement on page 2 regarding a work plan revisit. Jan requested that any additional comments be sent to David for review. Formal approval of the 2024 work plan will take place at the October 30th meeting.

2024 Budget – Initial Review

The Board reviewed the draft 2024 budget. David noted that the main change was that the Legacy Management office and Environmental Management office have begun engaging through international forums to discuss cleanup. Accordingly, the travel budget was boosted to enable such engagements. Deven asked if funds were available to analysis the organization and its mission. David would recommend adding \$10K to include monies for outside analysis of the organization. Jan said a budget amendment could be discussed in the future if need be.

The budget hearing and adoption of the 2024 budget will take place at the October 30th meeting.

Board Roundtable: No comments.

Big Picture/Additional Questions/Issue Identification: David went through the Big Picture. The next two meetings are scheduled for October 30 and February 5. Discussion topics are below.

October 30, 2023

- Adopt 2024 work plan and budget
- New members interviews/appointment
- DOE quarterly update

February 5, 2024

- Elect 2024 officers
- Adopt resolution re: 2024 meeting dates
- DOE quarterly update
- Stewardship Council assessment

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.