

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2017
Riverside Plaza Conference Room**

Attendees: Paul McKenzie, Cynthia Ingelfinger, John Phelps, Chester Powell, Craig Workman, Joe Krezowski

John P. called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. The agenda was reviewed, since Craig was running a few minutes late, the order of items was rearranged.

Minutes of the September 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed. **Chester P. made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, second by John P. Motion passed unopposed.**

John P. made a motion to nominate Joe Krezowski to the Council to fill the seat vacated by Rockett. Chester P. seconded. The question was called and motion passed unopposed.

Old Business

1.) Whitefish Municipal Watershed Project USFS

- Michael was not present, but sent an update. The commercial stewardship project has had a contractor selected, although the sale has not been awarded yet, so the name has not been released. Work is expected to start next season.
- The noncommercial fuels reduction project is on hold due to performance issues with the contractor. It will likely resume next season.

2.) Forest Plan Revision Update:

- The Forest is awaiting approval from the Sec of Agriculture to release the draft decision. Hope to see it soon.

3.) Replacement of Culverts on Haskill Basin County Road:

- John P. reported he had a long conversation with Glenda Fagan regarding the project. John provided Glenda a copy of the engineering report. The Fagan's were concerned that the project seemed to be moving ahead without them. John reassured them that the project could not move ahead without their cooperation and permission. They discussed the proposed in-stream work and the needed temporary access. While the Fagan's have certainly not provided any approval to proceed, they are willing to continue discussions.
- John will schedule a meeting with the engineers and the Fagan's to meet on site and discuss the project and the various options.
- There was discussion about what would happen if the crossing were to blow out in a spring runoff or storm event. Paul M. raised the issue of developing yet another alternative that is maybe not the "best available technology" like what has been proposed so far, but would be a significant improvement over the current condition, but at a more manageable cost. Specifically, it may be worthwhile to have an "emergency replacement" strategy in place in the event an emergency arose. John P will have that discussion with the engineer.

4.) Reservoir Dam Management Plan

- Craig Workman gave an update on City actions
 - i. 2 new operators at the water plant have been hired and will be starting.
 - ii. Craig and Neil have met with Roger Nobel to review and develop answers to our questions. He expects to have answers to us before our next meeting and then discuss them at the next meeting.
 - iii. They are working on putting the reservoir overflow data into a useable format, consistent with what had been requested by John P and will get that to us soon.
- There was general discussion of the Whitefish Climate Action Plan and what elements may affect the water system. Craig said it was part of the discussion, including efficiencies such as variable frequency drives on the lake water pumps and possible alternate water sources.
- Paul M reminded Craig that there was a natural gas line that passed close to both of the intakes and may be an alternative source of power for better management of water flow.
- Craig discussed future grant opportunities and some of the critical issues they still want to pursue, including automation of the intakes, extension of the lake water intake, evaluation of reservoir management and development of a readiness plan for a wildfire event in the watershed. The city is pursuing grant options and John P suggested they coordinate with WLI and Mike Koopal if it would be helpful.

5.) New Business:

- No new business.

6.) Public Comment:

- No public comment

Next Meeting January 17, 2018 Riverside Plaza conference room, 6pm.

- Draft Agenda Items:
 - i. Review of draft minutes
 - ii. City Reservoir Management Plan - Whitefish Area Water Resource Report
 - iii. Whitefish Municipal Watershed Project update
 - iv. Forest Plan Revision
 - v. Haskill Creek County Road Bridge Replacement.
 - vi. New Business
 - vii. Public Comment

7.) Motion to adjourn at 6:59 pm