

UPPER YELLOWSTONE WATERSHED BASIN

MILL CREEK SUBCOMMITTEE

November 13, 2008

St. John's Church, Emigrant

-MINUTES-

People Present (23+)

Alan Redfield, Chairman

Elaine Hale, Vice Chair

Jess Aber, DNRC Water

Roy Kaiser, NRCS

Eleanor Bossert

Laura Melin

Joan Watts

Scott Opitz, FWP

Ryan Malone

Riley Shimmin

Laura Ziemer, Trout Unlimited

Dave Amman, DNRC

Jacquie Nelson, Coordinator

Scott Oviatt, NRCS

Ron Hoagland, NRCS

Keith Neal

Turk Bossert

Johnny Hale

Jim Robinson, DNRC

Kerry Fee, Trout Unlimited

Guy E. Schram

Jim Melin

Rankin Holmes, MT Water Trust

Topics Covered:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. USBR DROUGHT RELIEF PROPOSAL | 5. MINUTES |
| 2. PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 6. NEXT MEETING DATE |
| 3. NRCS PRESENTATION | 7. OPEN ITEMS |
| 4. 2008 FLOW MONITORING RESULTS | 8. AJOURN |

Alan Redfield called the Mill Creek Subcommittee meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

1. USBR DROUGHT RELIEF PROPOSAL

- Jim Robinson presented the Mill Creek Subcommittee with the revised Mill Creek United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Reclamation States Emergency Drought Act Grant proposal.
- Robinson adjusted the proposal accordingly with feedback provided from the Subcommittee after the September Mill Creek meeting.
- On behalf of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin group, Park CD is requesting \$28,820 to install a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operated SNOTEL (SNOWpack TELEmetry) station to facilitate landowners and water users with data to manage water and mitigate chronic dewatering on Mill Creek.
- Cost for the Mill Creek Drought Management Project are broken down by the following:
 - NRCS SNOTEL Equipment. [\$23,150]
Equipment cost associated with installing the SNOTEL station.
 - NRCS SNOTEL Installation. [\$3,050]
Installation of one automated, near real-time snowpack monitoring station. Includes staging, installation, calibration and travel.
 - NRCS SNOTEL Administration. [\$2,620]
10% of equipment and installation costs.
 - Annual Operation & Maintenance. [\$13,907]

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Annual O&M costs for a five year period as 10% of the initial installation costs indexed annually for inflation are yet to be secured.

- The Mill Creek SNOTEL emergency drought proposal will be adjusted into a final format with a cover letter and distributed to associated agencies to request letters of support. The Park Conservation District will have to sign off on it and then it will be sent to the USBR department for approval.

2. PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- On November 5, 2008 the Park Conservation District board of supervisors reviewed the previous Mill Creek USBR proposal and approved it as proposed. In other words, the Park Conservation District is willing to serve as the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin Mill Creek Subcommittee's fiscal agent.

3. NRCS PRESENTATION

- Roy Kaiser with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presented the Mill Creek snow course data and assessed the future of a SNOTEL station within the Mill Creek drainage.
- Scott Oviatt also with NRCS gave a presentation on SNOTEL site components and associated costs.
- Both PowerPoint presentations can be viewed on the Mill Creek website at the address on the bottom of this page.

4. 2008 FLOW MONITORING RESULTS

- Dave Amman, Water Measurement with DNRC presented the summary of the 2008 flow monitoring on Mill Creek. Highlights include:
 - June 25th was the instantaneous peak of average daily flows for 2008 for Mill Creek at the East River Road. It was recorded at 1872cfs.
 - June 25th was also the peak for the Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs. Both peaks are approximately a 3.5 year return period.
 - After the pipeline was shut off on October 1st the water flow jumped up.
 - Data showed a gain of 6.4cfs in water flow above Carter's headgate (Station #4). The source of the water is unknown, however; it could be due to springs, excess irrigated flood water, seepage through the pipeline, precipitation events, leaky ditches, returns from ponds/wetlands, measurement errors, etc.
 - Amman's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the Mill Creek website at the address on the bottom of this page.

5. MINUTES

- Keith Neal made the motion to approve the Mill Creek Subcommittee minutes from the September 25, 2008 meeting as proposed; Eleanor Bossert seconded and the motion passed.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2009, 1-3 pm at St. John's Church in Emigrant.

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7. OPEN ITEMS

- Alan Redfield talked about the UYWB hydroelectric tour on October 23, 2008. He had followed up with some representatives to talk about hydro electricity in conjunction with the Mill Creek pipeline. This would not be efficient because the flow pressure would die after passing through the power plant.
- Jess Aber from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) introduced himself and is here as the USBR state coordinator. Therefore, if we need any help composing the USBR SNOTEL proposal contact him. The proposal will also be submitted to him once complete.
- Kerry Fee with Joe Brooks chapter of Trout Unlimited announced that their funds allocated for a ditch writer within the Mill Creek Subcommittee and that the funds allocated towards coordinator costs can not be used to purchase equipment.
- Jim Robinson with DNRC has updated the Mill Creek website located at http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_mgmt/planning_activities/mill_creek/
- Please contact Alan Redfield or Jacquie Nelson if you have any items for the next Mill Creek Subcommittee agenda.

8. ADJOURN

- Alan Redfield adjourned the Mill Creek Subcommittee meeting at 2:15 PM.