

# Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

City of Arvada                      City of Boulder                      Boulder County  
 City of Broomfield      Jefferson County      Town of Superior      City of Westminster

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 5th, 2000**  
**8:00 — 11:00 a.m.**  
**Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building**  
**Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield**

**Board members in attendance:** Michelle Lawrence (Director, Jefferson County), Nanette Neelan (Alternate, Jefferson County), Tom Brunner (Director, Broomfield), Hank Stovall (Alternate, Broomfield), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Sam Dixon\* (Director, Westminster), Mary Harlow (Alternate, Westminster), Carol Lyons (Alternate, Arvada), Amy Mueller\* (Alternate, City of Boulder), Mike Weil, (Alternate, City of Boulder), Paul Danish\* (Director, Boulder County), Carolyn Dulchinos (Alternate, Boulder County).

Note: Superior was not in attendance so there were only six voting Board members.

\*Arrived/Departed at time indicated

**Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance:** David Abelson (Executive Director), John Marler (Technical Advisor), and Kimberly Chleboun (Program Assistant).

**Members of the Public:** John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Fiehweg (Kaiser-Hill), Tom Greengard (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill), Jeremy Karpatkin (DOE), John Stover (DOE), Joe Legare (DOE), Gail Hill (DOE), Steve Tarlton (CDPHE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Rich Horstmann (CDPHE), Rob Henneke (EPA), Tim Rehder (EPA), George Vancil (Arvada), Hildegard Hix (Sierra Club), Matt Magley (Superior), Kathy Schnoor (Broomfield), Tim Holeman (Broomfield), Ron Hellbusch (Westminster), Ken Korkia (RFCAB), Gerald DePoorter (RFCAB), Victor Holm (RFCAB), Theresa Bender (Governor Owens), Janice Sinden (Senator Allard), Doris DePenning (Friends of the Foothills), Roman Kohler (RF Homesteaders), Steve Smith (New Century Energies), Nick Faes (New Century Energies), Anne MacRae (New Century Energies), Robin Seguin (New Century Energies), Pam Tumler (GAO), P.J. Timmerman (GAO), Amy Cramhelwich (GAO), Jim Stone (RFCC), Robert Nelson (citizen).

## Convene/Agenda Review

Michelle Lawrence called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

## Business Items

1. **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda** — Mary Harlow noted a mistake in the May draft minutes under Board members in attendance. Her name was omitted. Tom Brunner motioned to approve the consent agenda with Mary Harlow's correction to the minutes. Mike Weil seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

**ADMIN RECORD**

- 2. Executive Director Report** — David Abelson updated the Board on several issues arising since the last meeting. As a result of the recent fires in New Mexico started as a controlled burn by the National Park Service, Governor Owens issued a moratorium on all burn permits issued by the state (through CDPHE). This moratorium affects controlled burns conducted by DOE and other federal agencies where state permits are issued. David referred the Board to Governor Owens' letter in the Board packet. It is unclear how Governor Owens' actions may impact DOE's plan to conduct additional burns next spring, but David will continue to track the issue and report back to the Board. Second, David discussed the plutonium packaging system (PuSPS) that Bob Card discussed when he briefed the Board on the cleanup plan and schedule last summer. Packaging plutonium metals and oxides into containers and shipping the waste to Savannah River is central to successfully cleaning up and closing down Rocky Flats. It had originally been hoped that this system would be operational by spring 2000, a date the DNFSB argued was central to a 2006 closure, but it now appears the system may not be operational until October 2000. It is premature to assess whether this delay will impact a 2006 closure, but David will continue track this issue. David then updated the Board on retention of workers through closure, one of the items included in the Coalition's FY 2000 Strategic Plan. Both the House and Senate versions of the Defense Authorization bill for FY 2001 includes provisions for DOE to develop options and incentives for maintaining a skilled workforce through closure. Senator Allard and Congressman Udall are both working on the language. Fourth, David discussed Attorney General Salazar's proposal to Senator Allard and Congressman Udall suggesting that as a part of their Rocky Flats open space/wildlife refuge bills they include language creating a mitigation fund to off-set the costs of natural resource damage caused by the Site. Both legislators responded in unison that while the idea is interesting, it should not be included in their legislation. Thus far, David has not spoken with Attorney General Salazar or Dan Miller from the Attorney General's office. Additionally, David reminded the Board of the Arsenal tour on June 9<sup>th</sup> as well as the Coalition's meeting with Senator Allard on June 19<sup>th</sup>. David also distributed brochures for a long-term stewardship workshop in Denver in August. In closing, David introduced the new Program Assistant, Kimberly Chleboun. Michelle Lawrence brought up the issue of possible difficulties in having a quorum at the August meeting.
- 3. Coalition Finances** — David Abelson referred the Board to his May 5, 2000 memo outlining Coalition funding. DOE will not be able to fulfill their original commitment of \$500,000, so it becomes necessary to prioritize spending the remaining balances. He suggested the following:
- o Remaining DOE monies
  - o RFLII monies for all Coalition activities, excluding stewardship/long-term protection
  - o CDPHE monies for stewardship/long-term protection
  - o Local Government contributions
  - o Kaiser-Hill monies - these monies should be counted as our reserves.

Tom Brunner motioned to approve Coalition finances as proposed. Mary Harlow seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Round Robin**

**Broomfield** — Tom Brunner deferred their time to the staff presentation.

**Westminster** - Mary Harlow stated that Westminster is tracking the development of the management plan for the Rock Creek Reserve. As part of its management proposal, USFWS

recommended to DOE that the entire site be protected as a national wildlife refuge. Westminster suggested that since Senator Allard drafted a bill to accomplish that very goal, it would be preferable for USFWS to work with Senator Allard and Congressman Udall as opposed to working in a piecemeal fashion. Westminster also expressed concern with the provisions in Senator Allard's bill that would authorize USFWS to transfer, convey, or sell parcels of the site that the agency deems it does not need. Mary also announced she is reviewing the RFCA D&D protocol to assure those methods for taking down buildings will be safe.

**Arvada** — Carol Lyons informed the Board of Ken Fellman and Lorraine Anderson's regrets over not being able to attend the meeting. She reminded the Board of the actinide migration study meeting that was to take place that night. Carol then distributed a map, as directed by Lorraine Anderson, that depicts open-space property in the vicinity of Arvada and the Site. In reference to the Salazar proposal, Carol said she believed, based on a conversation with Dan Miller from the Attorney General's office, that the Attorney General's proposal was not well reflected in his letter to Allard and Udall. Arvada believes Attorney General Salazar's proposal contains numerous good ideas that the Board should continue discussing with him.

**City of Boulder** — Mike Weil announced that Lisa Morzel would not be able to attend meetings in July or August.

**Boulder County** — Carolyn Dulchinos explained Paul Danish would arrive shortly. She then proposed that the Board have their own Rock Creek Reserve briefing. Carolyn also questioned the recent activity at the Site involving police dog training and safety protocols. John Marler responded that he had contacted Anna Martinez (DOE) and she will be sending him a written response to the questions Carolyn raised late last week. John will then forward the responses to Carolyn and the rest of the staff.

\*Sam Dixon and Paul Danish arrived at this time.

### **Public Comment**

Steve Smith asked the Board to support, as stewards of Rocky Flats, Public Service's plan to build a transmission line through the buffer zone to tap a current transmission line. Public Service hopes to have a new substation in Broomfield online by fall 2001 and needs to tap a high voltage line that currently runs north-south through the buffer zone. The routing will go through Broomfield, Westminster and Jefferson County, and Public Service would like to identify a route inside the southern side of the buffer zone. To start this process they will first need to sample soils in the buffer zone and perform an environmental assessment. A discussion ensued between the Board and Public Service/New Century employees over soil samples and standards for worker safety. Robin Seguin explained that a conservative standard for worker safety is 10 pCi/g. They will test three different corridors for plutonium and americium within the top 6 inches of soil. This is in accordance with conversations with DOE. At the request of Paul Danish, Public Service agreed to then test for the entire depth of the pole foundation (30') for actinides and other contaminants such as VOCs. Gail Hill (DOE) reminded the Board that their main mission is cleanup and closure and that easements are not a priority. She suggested Public Service do the initial analysis and then go through the public process with RFCLOG's involvement before a final easement would be issued. Mary Harlow added that the easement would have to be delisted from the NPL. Paul Danish asked that it be noted he has concerns over depth of sampling. Tom Brunner motioned to approve allowing Public Service access to the Site to perform initial soil analysis provided they also conduct the 30' sampling requested by Paul Danish and then review the sampling results with the Coalition prior to the Board either supporting or opposing the building of the transmission line

through Rocky Flats. Sam Dixion seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Water Quality Protection Presentations**

David Abelson presented a slide he discussed in depth at the March meeting on soil action levels which reflect the dominant issues/questions, and highlights what he sees are the key technical and policy issues the Board will have to address. The technical issue to be discussed today is water quality and how to protect off-site and on-site water quality. He emphasized anticipated land use is a key issue, although RFCA parties and RAC had different views on what that might be. David noted he wants to start working at the staff level on the development of Board policy regarding soil action levels and hopes to present it to the Board for their discussion at the August meeting.

### **Broomfield**

Mike Bartleson, Tim Holeman, and Kathy Schnoor discussed Broomfield's water supply and the city's successful history of working with RFETS to achieve long-term water protection of its drinking water. Tim Holeman began by describing Broomfield's relationship with DOE, emphasizing the need to maintain relations with DOE and Kaiser-Hill since there is more at stake and higher risks with closure.

Mike Bartleson then described the physical features of Broomfield's water system. The three primary watersheds traversing Rocky Flats are Rock Creek, Walnut Creek and Woman Creek. Mike then displayed a map showing these drainages and reflecting how 80-90% of the Industrial Area drains into Walnut Creek. It also showed the location of the Great Western Reservoir, built in 1902. McKay Ditch and Upper Church Ditch, which Broomfield owns, flowed to the reservoir until the bypass ditch was built. Mike then showed a map of sewer lines and basic plumbing.

Tim described how the 1989 FBI raid focused Broomfield on the need to protect its drinking water supplies. Working collaboratively with DOE and Congressman Skaggs, among others, Broomfield replaced its drinking water that was then held in Great Western Reservoir with water purchased from the Windy Gap project. As part of this project, known as Option B and the Great Western Water Replacement Project, the city built a new water treatment plant. The city later decided to use the Glasser Reservoir for emergency water storage. Kathy Schnoor added the Rocky Flats ROD for OU3 changed the way of thinking regarding Great Western Reservoir. It was decided since DOE determined there was no adverse affect in OU3 on human health and the environment from plant operations there would be no further action. This decision allowed Broomfield to use the reservoir for winter storage. She then assured Paul Danish this water is used for irrigation.

Mike continued by displaying a map of wastewater reclamation and reuse. The new \$30 million wastewater treatment plant is a two-phase project, a dual system that directs raw ditch water into Great Western Reservoir and a ditch system that delivers water to Interlocken, their largest customer. The plant discharges into Big Dry Creek and by 2003 it will serve raw water and secondary effluent water as well. Mike then showed a map of city owned property and a map reflecting where low level plutonium contamination is located in areas zoned as open-space. Since plutonium is also in the sediments in Great Western Reservoir there is a minimum level of water kept there at all times. Kathy explained the plutonium layer is 18cm below the sediment/water interface at a level as high as 12-18 pCi/g. Mike also described other protection projects and displayed a map of modifications. These include the McKay Bypass Extension Project, Broomfield Diversion Ditch, and Dry Creek Valley Ditch. Mike stated currently Broomfield's

drinking water is not threatened by the Site, although they believe airborne contamination remains a threat.

Mike then displayed a list of Broomfield's concerns. One issue is the fact that 80-90% of the Industrial Area drains into Walnut Creek, so stormwater runoff could result in contamination of Great Western Reservoir. Broomfield owns Walnut Creek water rights and 650 acres of land adjacent to it. Mike also showed a map of sampling points by the Big Dry Creek Association. Tim then emphasized the importance of regulatory protection arguing that the current standard of 0.15 pCi/l for water leaving the site must not be weakened. He also described the current pond management system (batch-and-release) saying it is preferable to a flow-thru system. Kathy explained to Sam Dixon that the water is not released until water quality results are analyzed. In reference to solar pond plume remediation, Kathy stated the system installed in 1999 is not performing as planned. Nitrogen levels jumped 5-7 times higher in water flowing into Walnut Creek as a result of attempted remediation.

Mike moved on to habitat issues and displayed a map of suitable habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse. In conclusion, Tim reiterated how Broomfield has come a long way in protecting water. Nonetheless, they still have concerns over technical issues such as points of compliance, actinide migration, RSALs, habitat and pond maintenance.

\*Amy Mueller arrived at this time.

### **Westminster**

Ron Hellbusch and Mary Harlow gave a presentation on Westminster's water supply and their concerns over water quality issues. Ron Hellbusch began by presenting a history of Standley Lake and describing Westminster's major sources of water. They are Farmers Highline canal, Church ditch and FRICO water stock shares. Standley Lake supplies water to Westminster, Northglenn and Thornton, with forty percent of Standley Lake's water being used for agriculture. Ron explained, like Broomfield, how the FBI raid had initiated changes and the Option B Process resulted in the Woman Creek Reservoir and Standley Lake Water Protection Project. Mary displayed pictures of the reservoir and water cells where water is stored and tested. Ron relayed a concern about potential contamination reaching residential areas and the importance of the A and B ponds. He also expressed concern over the possibility of a land swap and the possible resulting disturbance to Section 13. If there is any type of disturbance due to DOE projects there may be a need for additional retention at Indiana Avenue. Ron added Westminster's wastewater treatment plant on Big Dry Creek has never exceeded discharge standards and they don't want upstream impact to change that. He stated Westminster supports retention of the A and B ponds, but again said there may be need for additional retention. Westminster also supports open-space use for Rocky Flats. Ron concluded by saying the city has an obligation to protect Standley Lake, and Westminster speaks for Thornton and Northglenn as well.

Mary Harlow then presented Westminster's technical issues. First she displayed a map showing nitrogen plumes from the Site. Mary then showed the CDPHE map showing post closure management. Mary stated Westminster will continue to follow these issues: RSAL, actinide migration study, surface water standards, water balance study, IROD, recontouring's impacts on drainage systems, storm events, and the impacts of a wildlife refuge. Westminster wants to make sure no areas are left out of the bill. Mary then explained how surface water issues will drive cleanup. Paul Danish questioned what exact nitrogen compounds were in the plumes. John Stover (DOE) replied it is not being transported with plutonium, but that it is simply NO<sub>3</sub>. Mary added

there are also VOCs in the plume.

## **CDPHE**

Steve Tarlton and Rich Horstmann gave a presentation on CDHPE's role in surface water protection at the Site. Rich began by describing the hydrogeology of the site and displaying a map of the three watersheds that traverse Rocky Flats — the Rock Creek watershed, Walnut Creek watershed and the Woman Creek watershed. He then explained charts comparing flows. Big Dry Creek at Westminster had the highest average flows. He noted that there is less potential for human contact during low flow periods. Rich then went on to describe the monitoring network and displayed a map depicting surface water monitoring locations. Predischarge monitoring occurs at the terminal ponds an average of 10 times per year. A total of 21 samples per year are taken from Walnut Creek and Woman Creek at Indiana. Additionally, influent monitoring occurs at the sewage treatment plant monthly and effluent monitoring occurs quarterly. Rich then described the regulatory framework, which has five components. The first is basic standards, which include statewide radionuclide standards of 0.15 pCi/l for americium and plutonium. The second is site specific standards. The third is the NPDES permit for the sewage treatment plant, which is issued by the EPA for point source discharge. The fourth is the RFCA action level framework, which sets forth action levels that apply to instream monitoring points. The last is the RFCA post closure requirements, which mandate that all surface water and groundwater leaving RFETS will be of acceptable quality for all uses including domestic water supply. Rich then explained water quality results and a summary of State data. He said the State's data was more limited than the Site's data, but they both showed no excursions of the americium and plutonium standards. There had, however, been four excursions (or exceedances) of the cadmium standard at Indiana. He also explained to Sam Dixon that the reason the State lowers standards after an exceedance is because they acquire more data after the exceedance occurs. He also noted an exceedance of gross alpha and gross beta at pond C2 in 1996. Rich concluded by describing special projects monitoring which includes nitrate sampling, GS10 sub-drainage sampling, and surface water stations for a uranium ICP/MS study.

The floor was then opened for questions and discussion. Hank Stovall asked if the sampling was statistically valid. Rich confirmed studies had been done to determine the appropriate statistical number of samples. Steve Tarlton added a lot of the standards are based on a 30-day average and the Site's data would better represent a statistical sampling.

## **DOE and Kaiser-Hill**

Joe Legare, John Stover and Gail Hill from DOE and Bob Fiehweg from Kaiser-Hill gave a presentation on on-site water quality. John Stover began by describing their integrated approach to water quality as looking at the watershed as a unit. Another tool he described was the Big Dry Creek Watershed Association. He displayed a map of Big Dry Creek basin, which reflects headwaters on the Site. It also showed sampling locations. John then went over the Building and Maintaining Watershed Association, which has been successful in obtaining grants and has developed a monitoring program. John described monitoring checks for water quality parameters as well as the channel, plant, and aquatic life.

Next, Bob Fiehweg described the wastewater treatment plant and normal plant procedures. He displayed a flow chart of collection system controls and photos of the plant including the influent and effluent storage tanks and the UV disinfection process. Bob then explained how dangers from D&D upstream of the plant were handled through the isolation process, drain identification and regulatory programs. Also, the internal waste system, real-time monitoring, NPDES controls and

IMP monitoring points all go to protecting outfall. Paul Danish raised a question regarding the source of the chromic acid. Bob responded it had been used as part of a plating bath in Building 444. Through human error it ended up going through the wastewater treatment plant with a serious impact on the plant, but the water was contained.

Gail Hill continued the presentation by talking about water quality protection. She explained that the RFCA has specific criteria for every contaminant. There are POCs and POEs at the terminal ponds and monitoring for RFCA action levels upstream. She also noted pre-discharge sampling occurs at the ponds. Gail then went on to describe community involvement including terminal pond discharge notification, the Integrated Monitoring Plan, State information exchange meetings and water working groups. Again referring to the ponds, Gail stated the ponds are the last control point before water is discharged from the Site. She explained these are detention ponds and are not meant to hold water for a long time so DOE tries to keep the water levels as low as possible. In one incident water was released in May 1995 to avoid dam failure. In regard to nitrate issues and the solar ponds, Gail noted the old NPDES permit does not reflect current standards. Additionally, relative to other cities' nitrate discharge the Site discharges small quantities. Gail explained the Site is not adding very many nitrates to the system and is not loading it into Dry Creek. Next, Gail talked about the Solar Plume Project. It was a dry winter but the system is finally reaching equilibrium. It will still take time to see if it works as designed. Tom Greengard (Kaiser-Hill) added the system was waiting for the hillside to saturate. They will evaluate whether a pump will be needed for low-flow although they would like to maintain a passive system. Mary Harlow asked if reengineering was done when the barrier was moved. Tom confirmed it had been done. Mary also asked how long it would take the nitrogen plume to dissipate. Tom replied 9-10 years. In closing Gail stated in the future they would like to eventually get into long-term stewardship and water management issues. Joe Legare added there is nothing more important than surface water quality.

### **Public Comment**

Pam Tumler of the GAO introduced herself and provided the Board with a copy of the GAO mandate to submit a report assessing progress in the closure of the RFETS by December 31, 2000. She also brought a copy of their previous report.

### **Review Big Picture**

David reviewed the big picture. Issues for the July meeting will be discussing Senator Allard and Congressman Udall's bills, a Rock Creek Reserve briefing, and an introduction to the IROD.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun

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