

# White River Algae Public Meeting

## Agenda

10:00 - Noon

Oct. 20, 2017

- Introductions
- Commissioner Si Woodruff explained the County would like for the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation District (Districts) to provide the administration, coordination/facilitation, and act as the fiscal agent for this group.
- Conservation Districts Exec. Director, Callie Hendrickson, provided an overview of what/who the Districts are and the proposal that the Districts had provided the County (Attachment A). Followed by a few questions with concerns about notes being taken and provided to all attendees.
- USGS Colorado Water Science Center Office Chief, Ken Leib, provided an overview of USGS with a sample of White River data they have collected in the past. He provided some suggestions and questions for the group to consider. (Attached)
- Callie facilitated input from the attendees regarding what they would like the group to look for in the study. She explained this will inform the “workgroup” as they make decisions on moving forward. See below:

What to look for in a study?

- Discharge/flow/volume (increase?)
- Scouring
- Nutrients
- Correlation /point of origin
- Pesticide/herbicide/insecticide
- Macroinvertebrate population
- Study algae itself (what does it respond to/species of algae)
- Watershed approach (maintaining water use, voluntary, collaborative, holistic, good scientific decision making)
- Process – all work that has already been conducted (not reinventing the wheel)
- Lifecycle of algae
- Algae map developed from Trapper to State border
- Synchronized sampling system
- Temperature
- Chlorophyll a
- Continuous discharge at various sites along the river
- Regulations (what practical steps are going to come from the study?)
- Colorado Stream Health Assessment Framework
- Nutrient levels in sediment and soil levels (split between crop land fields and native ranges)
- Include private landowners input (funding)
- Sooner rather than later solutions (low hanging fruit issues)
- Direction for private sectors
- Compile existing data

- Hydrology
- Insecticides/pesticides/herbicides
- Remediation – education
- Physical inspection of WR (seasonal)
- Point discharges along the river
- Include private ponds in water quality study
- Regulations historically (changes)
- Qualitative informant interviews (help guide the quantitative)
- Physical characteristics
- BLM/CPW data
- “Board” type setting
- Data analysis
- Community involvement/photographs/history
- Ground water sampling
- Assessment of riparian (buffer zones, where do they exist/don’t they exist)
- FAA drone pilot (Leif Joy has a drone)
- Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable (involvement/funding)
- Callie Hendrickson contact – 970-250-6825
- “Closed” Facebook Taskforce/Workgroup page for communications among those who have attended the meetings
- District website/Facebook/RBC/Towns provide links to the page where information can be found regarding this group

Callie reviewed the proposed process again and verified the group is comfortable with the proposal provided by the Districts on the format of the process and groups to provide input.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

## Appendix A

### **White River Algae Task Force Draft Scope of Work White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts**

A group of concerned citizens and agencies have convened to express concern over the excessive amount of algae in the White River in and above Meeker. There is currently an informal White River Water Quality Monitoring group in place to conduct water quality monitoring within and throughout the White River but has not been focused on the algae issue. There is interest in developing a watershed council or special task force for fact finding and data collection.

White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (Districts) are willing to facilitate and provide the administration duties of a Taskforce should that be the wishes of the group. The initial proposed duties of the Districts in this role would be:

- **Coordination and Facilitation of meetings and conference calls** – Potentially two public meetings in 2017 and quarterly meetings until the taskforce has completed its mission (2 – 5 years)
- **Fiscal Agent** – Facilitate the development of a budget, contributions, and payments for data collection; host the accounting and funding for the proposed Taskforce
- **Grant Administration** – write grants with the assistance of Workgroup Partners and administer the grants
- **Partner Communications** – Work with the various agencies and local stakeholders to ensure effective and efficient communications

#### **Proposed Taskforce Structure:**

- **Administration** – Conservation Districts
- **Proposed Workgroup** – These entities develop the scope of work for USGS, provide technical assistance and financial support. These parties either have an elected governing body or are a governmental agency.
  1. USGS
  2. Rio Blanco County
  3. Colorado River District
  4. Town of Meeker
  5. Town of Rangely
  6. Meeker Sanitation
  7. Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District
  8. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  9. White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts
- **Vested Stakeholders** – Business and Industry
- **Public and NGOs**

### **Groups Roles:**

- **Administration** – see above
- **Workgroup** –
  - Stakeholder voting/decision making body
  - Meet on an as-needed basis by conference call
  - Develop a Mission Statement and identify the deliverables of the Taskforce
  - Develop plan of work and monitoring requirements
  - Hold quarterly meetings including the public, NGOs and Vested Stakeholders for reporting and input
  - Develop annual written report and presentation
- **Vested Stakeholders**
  - Attend quarterly meetings
  - Provide information and on-the-ground knowledge and expertise at public meetings or as requested by Workgroup
- **Public and NGO's**
  - Attend quarterly meetings
  - Provide information at public meetings or as requested by Workgroup

### **Administrative Costs:**

- Conservation Districts would receive up to a 10% administrative fee based on time and expenses for grant writing and administration.