

Snowmass Capitol Creek Caucus Board Meeting February 19, 2019

Snowmass Fire Station Annex

Call to Order at 7pm

Board Members present: David Chase, Chris Collins, Michael Kinsley, George Johnson, Victoria Treece, Glenn Russell, Molly Child

Guests: Helene Slansky, Chelsea Congdon, Ned Andrews, Jeffrey Woodruff, Tony Clinco, Steve Child

Presenter: Victor Gerdin (Ski Company Planner)

APPROVAL of MINUTES

George moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Chris. All in favor.

UPDATES/NEW BUSINESS

After roll call (quorum established) and introductions of the Board and visitors, David told us that Pete McBride's new film about his Grand Canyon walk with Kevin Fedarko will be aired on the National Geographic channel this Thursday February 21.

Helene shared information and bookmarks about the Basalt Library's 2019 concert series schedule.

Steve Child gave an update on **County Broadband**: Phase 1 Internet service will be offered to County residents (by a server yet to be determined) by July 2019, via fiber-optic cable from Denver to the Roaring Fork Valley, relayed via wireless broadband to towers on the Crown, Highlands, Sunlight Ski Area, and other locations such as Thomasville. Their mission is to provide faster and less expensive service than current servers. Phase 2 will provide secondary towers (or maybe fiberoptic cable) for hard-to-reach areas of the County.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vicki reported the unrestricted fund currently has \$20,489.86; the restricted Snowmass water work fund has \$24,980.51, for a total of \$45,470.37.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Caucuses Committee (PCJCC)

At their meeting of February 11 the PCJCC discussed the need to move the City of Aspen's Carpool Kiosk from the airport to elsewhere when the airport is expanded. That might be to the Intercept Lot, or to Buttermilk. Also discussed was the idea of the County selling their County Office Building next to the Court House to the City of Aspen and build new offices at the AABC to cut traffic into Aspen, and also build new affordable housing on the Rio Grande Park site. The County has completed forming the Airport Expansion Committees. It was questioned whether there should be a new County Master Plan in place before an airport expansion and other growth factors are implemented. Vicki complimented Valerie Braun's leadership of this group, which has good potential/clout as a unified voice to help plan for the Valley's expanding population, and related impacts.

Water

Victor Gerdin of the Aspen Ski Corp presented the Skico's current and projected use of Snowmass Creek water for snowmaking for Snowmass Ski Area. He provided a statistic sheet, a map, and a minimum stream flow chart which can be viewed as part of these minutes. Skico and Snowmass Water/Sanitation District will continue to follow terms of the 1994 Snowmass Ski Area Snowmaking EIS. ASC receives water for snowmaking under a contract with Snowmass Water and Sanitation District (SWSD) subject to the minimum instream flow right on the Creek. This water right is a "stair step" minimum flow, determined each year by a 5-day monitoring period in October. Based on the flows in this period, the minimum instream flow ranges from a low of 7 cfs to a high of 12 cfs between October 31 and April 1. ASC is permitted to make snow from water pumped directly from the Creek (when flows are above the minimum) through December 31, or longer into the season if using water that is already stored in Ziegler Reservoir. Direct pumping from the creek and diversions into Ziegler Reservoir are subject to the minimum instream flow. Currently ASC only uses water in Ziegler Reservoir for snowmaking and is not diverting from the Creek.

The current snowmaking uses 340 acre-feet with build-out expected to be 430 acre-feet. Water storage on the mountain is expected to increase.

The Town of Snowmass Village relies on Snowmass Creek water for 98% of its water needs including domestic uses, irrigation, municipal uses and snowmaking. Much has been done to promote more efficient use of water, such as leak detection, a metering program, tiered pricing. Outdoor irrigation is the biggest water-use in the Village.

As to Capitol Creek Water, Chelsea said that since our Caucus area is located at the headwaters of our watershed, it has the unique opportunity to test a system promoting wise and cooperative water use that could conserve water and preserve our water-dependent ecosystems. This could be an experimental model, involving informal arrangements, gentleman's agreements, shared management of resources that would benefit the creeks and the wildlife dependent on them. Steve shared a local illustration of this tactic: when the Monastery's installation of sprinklers allowed extra water to be left in the creek to be redistributed to other ditches.

Chelsea has been working with hydrologist Seth Mason on Crystal River water solutions, and suggested that we might like to have him come to a Caucus meeting this Spring.

Communication

David reported that while we have reasonably good communication through emails, more could be done with the Website, including updating, and that we might need help with that.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.