

Crystal River Caucus Regular Meeting Minutes from January 9,2025

John opens meeting at 7:04. We have a great attendance. Interesting agenda? 22 in person with 20 on Zoom. John shares screen. John thanks everyone and calls meeting to order at 7:07 pm. John had to edit draft minutes but doesn't have them ready for approval tonight.

Treasurer's report from Bob Dupre. We had about \$2.31 come in from the bank. \$50.00 went out to church. Latest balance \$1349.07 dollars.

Francie updating on BOCC: Exciting approval of resolution to conserve Three Meadows Ranch on Missouri heights. Abigail Wexner made a substantial contribution. County putting in 7.5 million and Abigail through the AVLt putting in 7.5 million. Eagle County put forth funds too. Great complement to Snowmass Falls Ranch. That was an outright purchase by OST. Exciting year! Also, passed the Dark Skies Ordinance. Bill Jochems had asked Francie if there was an exception for Redstone. Francie doesn't know how it may differ in its application to Redstone. She said it was a beautiful presentation before the BOCC with photos of light pollution. One from the crown. Requires people to not have their lights shine into their neighbor's property. Certain limits to luminescence. Off from 7 pm to 7 am. Maybe not appropriate for some landowners who have livestock, etc. Maciej Mrotek asks about preexisting buildings. Within 5 years everyone has to conform. New building codes much stricter on lighting. Kate asks if any obligations as they relate to HOA. Francie doesn't know of any yet, but education will be ongoing. Also passed Affordable Housing Bill. Generous population of donors made it possible. Also passed a 2-million-dollar grant for airport re multimodal transportation.

Discussion on disaster evacuation plan. Chris Breitbach here tonight with PC Sheriff Buglione. Chris is the new Emergency Manager. He came here from Minnesota 10 months ago for new position with PC. Background in emergency management. Worked for large health care system in Minneapolis. 25 years for Federal Disaster team. Last deployment to Hurricane Helene in NC. Bringing his experience and preparedness to PC. Impressed with what he's seen. Predecessor did a lot of work. Genesis is a company that sells an evacuation product. Many have gone to that, and Pitkin County started using it in June. Been working closely with Pitkin County sheriff. Pitkin alerts will send out link to show which areas under evacuation notice. Great tool for any kind of hazard. Doing testing over next 6 weeks and lots of social messaging come spring. We all need to take action and be prepared. By the time of evacuation orders it may be too late. Leave early. Don't wait for authorities. Facebook is the social media of choice. Robust communications throughout the community. Kate asks about the loss of Wi-Fi in a disaster. How will all this communication work. Aspen Public Radio partners with the county. AM Radio will be a reliable low-tech approach to communications if Wi-Fi fails. Kate asks which direction to go – north or south? Sheriff Buglione says it depends. PC coordinates with the forest service. Remodel of our south bridge was brought up by DJ. Something we need to be aware of. We need a plan for evacuations in lieu of that bridge being out of use and potential for mudslide could prevent use of N bridge. Another member asks if reverse 911 will be working for landlines. Question about reverse cell phone coverage will be locational. Effective on different internet sources. Another member asks if PC has a website where

you can register your residence in a database. Fire departments throughout have a program called community connect – opt in system. Chris is starting to promote that within the local fire departments. Once he gets the go-ahead, he hopes to really dial that in. Much better response team. Kate asks if PC will know and relay fires in other counties. Buglione assures us that they will know and relay. Someone asks about large animal evacuation. That would be emergency support function 11 – animals. Kay Speer is a good contact for this (I missed who Kay is or who she works for?). Someone mentions the Lake Christine Fire and how well animals were handled. John follows with idea that Redstone Incorporation could help to move this along.

Josh Wahmboldt comes on Zoom and his Wi-Fi is not great. He and the RCA (DJ takes over on his behalf) have concerns about financials and concerns about taxes regarding Incorporation. They said it would adversely impact some of the most basic volunteer activities (restroom, historical, water board) saying money would be spent on administrative tasks and creates a bureaucracy we don't need. That's why some of us moved here to avoid that. He is speaking on behalf of concerns he has seen and heard voiced. He mentions all of the fighting over the past 8 years – covid, castle short term rentals, bike park, bike path, methane. An issue like this on our agenda could be another massive issue after all we have gone through. Erica(??) from RCA wants to find out more information. Concern about taxes and there isn't enough population to keep it out of debt. She says she just doesn't know enough. John asks if there is anyone here from Marble. No, but Ryan Kenney says he is the Bookkeeper for town of Marble. Says it is very expensive to run small government. They pay for their own snowplowing. If we incorporated, we would have to restructure regulations, etc. People don't understand. Sales tax is the largest contributor. Most of those are things you buy online. From a financial standpoint he doesn't think it makes a lot of sense. Marble bigger than Redstone. Is there a benefit asks Maciej? Ryan says autonomy.

Stephanie and Nathan Helfenbein on Zoom. Says living in a small town depends on the same small group of volunteers. Incorporating would prevent individuals from volunteering. Stephanie says we should do our due diligence, but they do not support Incorporating. Bob Dupre says that Redstone is in a better place with its relationship with the county than over the past 20 years. He doesn't have an opinion but are we fixing something that is broken? What are we trying to solve. He thinks incorporating sounds like lots of work and lots of turmoil.

Francie said she thought the first time it came up was when we were debating short term rentals.

Random people saying things. Erica wonders if there is someone who can educate us. Someone tells us that the county would have to initiate it.

Delia says it is important to remember the Redstone Community plan that was worked on for years. That document does give Redstone a voice when there is something important to be discussed. Does incorporating align with the plan? County commissioners would need to look at that. It has created a process to account for differences of opinions for various areas in the county. Francie agrees that Redstone is unique but is a part of PC. We do have representation. Because of Aspen, PC is very affluent, and we benefit from that. Bob Dupre says tax dollars are not divvied up equitably and we would be shooting ourselves in the foot by breaking away from the county. John asks DJ if the RCA has been talking about this. He says no, only since John put it on the agenda. It appears

that no one in the room or on Zoom is on board for this idea. Further conversation can be entertained if desired.

Update on Wild and Scenic. John says there was a recent subcommittee meeting. Conservation director of SW region of American Rivers. She has been leading another stakeholders group and shared their progress. Recordings of that are available through WW. Subcommittee will meet in person later in January. Francie was at meeting with WW and Leah was there from Eco Flight. Significant decision for WW to not take on mediation as it pertains to W and S meetings. They will continue to work as advocates. Meetings open to public at third street center. Delia Malone says that public support is important. We have been collecting signatures. An easier way to sign is to go to Colorado Sierra Club. And you can sign up to show support. DJ asks if it has reverted back to former name, but John clarifies W and S into one subcommittee. Intergovernmental agreement and two others that no one can remember the name of. DJ says there was a woman at a meeting from the state he went to that said state does not want W and S. Concerns about the feds being involved and that can inhibit local. DJ trying to understand why she would say that. Maciej says state probably wants the option to take our water. DJ asks if Maciej feels the feds a better option. Maciej says basically yes – more money. Fed is a stronger resolve. Kate asks about meetings every month. John says just the subcommittees. Still involved in a process and plenty of opportunity to weigh in and a lot of time to talk about it. Maciej says to look at Colorado National Monument. Lots of positives. Prevented development. If we can protect. He mentions Yule Creek and also Marble airport infractions. They would not have gotten a slap of the hand had the feds been involved as they have a heavy hand in dealing with compromised waters due to individuals or entities.

Delia to update on wolf reintroduction efforts. Delia has been involved for quite some time and was at CPW meeting yesterday in Denver. Biggest news was a petition that was filed by 26 stockman's associations to pause reintroduction for 7 primary reasons. In the end the CPW commission denied the petition 10 to 1 for three primary reasons. For starters, most points raised in petition had already been addressed because CPW had been working on those points since the reintroduction passed. Second reason was that two of the 10 reintroduced deaths were caused by gunshot – father of Copper Creek pack necropsy determined he had been shot and another wolf they thought died in a fight was from a gunshot wound. There simply is not enough DNA diversity with the loss of two. Viability of optimal genetics greatly reduced. More wolves will enhance diversity. Third reason is that when wolves pair up and establish territory this is important for management because we will know where packs are and can act proactively. Having packs with territory will reduce livestock interactions. Primary requests that have been met were definition of chronic depredation – a wolf or wolves that predate 3 cows in a month's time. This gives producer right to ask for lethal kill permit. Producer must have had a site assessment to be sure protocol was being followed. If producer follows all recommendations made at site assessment and still has losses that fit within the parameters, he can then get kill permit. For instance, if site assessment calls out need for a range rider and producer and he hasn't employed those recommendations he does not get a kill permit. He has to demonstrate that he has made every effort and still has conflict – then there can be lethal control. There is a group collecting to get a bill on ballot to repeal prop 114. DJ asks how any of this is justified based on the poor hardworking ranchers. Delia reminds him we are dealing with an Endangered species. Colorado voted and it is a voter mandate. It is a law. Under law wolves are

protected. Ranchers have a caveat – the 10J Rule The 10(j) rule provides management flexibility to the state for reintroduced species, which can help ensure the species' conservation while reducing impacts on stakeholders. Delia invites members to attend coexistence series. They will be bringing in ranchers coexisting nonlethally with predators. The Elzinga family will be speaking at the next event. Bill Fales thinks it is important to clarify chronic depredation definition – he says it needs to be exact and furthermore Bill says there is still a lot of work to do. Discussion about Chronic depredation. Delia invites Bill and Marge to come to presentation by Elzinga rancher.

Motion to adjourn. Everyone seconds.