

Report to Presbytery Council

October 18, 2010

From: Camp Facilities Committee

Chuck Beck, Bozeman; Eldon Rice, Hysham; Russ Kline, Billings, Wayne Lathrop, Miles City, Sandy Welch
Billings, Brent Long, Billings, moderator;
Simon Hill, Red Lodge, ex-officio, Caretaker

Re: Westminster Spires water problem correction

Since our last report, Simon Hill was hired as the new caretaker for Westminster Spires and has done a wonderful job this summer and fall. He has been very helpful in the day to day activities and in communicating with the Forest Service, since he worked for the Forest Service previously and maintains a very good relationship with them.

Sanderson-Stewart Engineering oversaw the engineering and drilling of the well and it is producing water at a very good rate. They then gave us a rough estimate of the cost to do the trenching for the distribution pipe, build a well house, and install a chlorination system. The rough estimate was exceedingly high and they had not included it in the original list of costs, even though I had asked for it back in June. When I asked why they had not included it they could not give me a very good answer and apologized for not having done that. The Facilities Committee met by conference call in August and decided to pursue other less expensive chlorination systems. Chuck Beck and Ted Williams are currently looking into alternate plans. We also had a meeting at Westminster Spires on Sept. 12th, with Chuck Beck, Sandy Welch, Simon Hill, and myself. Any new plans will also have to be approved by the DEQ. Right now, Sanderson-Stewart has been told to put everything on hold. Simon has now closed the camp for the season.

Jeff Guildehaus, from the Forest Service and Simon Hill both told me about the Forest Service's plans to prevent further infestation of Spruce Beetles throughout that valley. They are doing evaluations this fall and will likely begin process of clearing out infested Spruce trees this winter. Many of the Spruce trees in Westminster Spires are already infested. There will be no expense to the presbytery but it will greatly affect the grounds of Westminster Spires. I don't know how many trees, but as I recall, Simon told me he and Jeff identified over 20 trees that would be removed and probably several more. However, taking so many trees out will also allow for Aspens and Poplars to grow better. I confirmed with Jeff Guildehaus that we will need to have the work completed before the next camping season and he agreed that should not be a problem.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Brent Long
Moderator, Camp Facilities Committee