

# Green Mountain Conservation District

## Meeting Minutes

### January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby  
Bill Naegeli  
Sean Moran  
Terry Hightower

#### Employees Present

Leona Gollen

#### Advisors Present

Ryan Kreiner  
Travis Lemke  
Brita Olson

#### Associate Supervisors Present

Mindy Ferrell

#### Visitors Present

Jason Pignanelli  
Roxanna Lyle  
Lance Lyle

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

#### Introductions

#### Minutes 2017

- A motion to approve October 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion Carried.

#### Financial Report

- Leona reviewed the financial report with the board for the last periods.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

#### Administrator's Report:

- Annual Plan
  - We will review this at our next meeting.
  - Leona will send it out electronic to Supervisor and Associate Supervisors
- Election of officers
  - A motion to keep the same slate for Chairman and Vice Chariman as 2017 was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- Supervisor Training in March (Ideas)
  - Kent, Sean, Mindy, Bill, and Terry are interested in going
  - MACD Committee breakdowns and how they have progressed
  - Ideas on how to create change in 310 funding.
- Eastern Sanders CD received a \$500.00 DNRC 223 grant to purchase new animal tracks for the Water Festival
  - Something that Mindy used at another education project is binoculars and she would like to maybe purchase some in the future for our education programs.
  - Bill stated that we would have to look into how we will store them and keep them since Binoculars seem to have legs of their own.
- GMCD received a \$500.00 DNRC 223 grant to help with the 2018 Water Festival.
- MACD Proxy Rules
  - Supervisors may delegate a representative to vote on the resolutions and the delegate may only act within the scope of the delegation
- Milly Levy
  - We have finally paid back the extra mill levy funds that we received last year and as stated in the financial report we received \$1,800.00 this month. YA!!!!!!
  - Red flag discussion on mill levy

- Mindy brought out that at the convention, Missoula had to go back and review the mill levy that they had received and found out that they had been under paid by a considerable amount.
  - Leona did remind the Board that we did this also in the past and in fact, GMCD led the charge in doing this back in 2011-12 and also worked with other CD's to help them correct any issues.
  - There were extenuating circumstances concerning GMCD getting over paid and it was no fault of GMCD's
- Brief Educational update (Mindy)
  - Mindy's goal is to try and create an outdoor education program that coordinates with the Schools in Sanders County. She is hoping that GMCD can stay in that loop and be a partner in these efforts.
  - Mindy is already involved in the GMCD water Festival and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade friends of schoolman peaks winter program.
  - Her goal to be involved in creating a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade resource management program. and will be working on proposals.
  - She is also working on a High School program for resource management and would like GMCD to be involved in these programs.
  - The Board is fully behind Mindy's educational efforts and is looking forward to participate in any capacity that is needed.
- Current status on GMCD's partnerships (round table discussion)
  - Leona & Brita will communicate with Mindy and try to answer any questions she may have on our partnerships with different entities and what that entails.
- MACD Mission Statement
  - After attending the MACD convention Mindy had some questions on GMCD's and MACD's annual plan or mission statement. Leona informed her that MACD does not have an actual annual plan and that they use the resolutions that the CD's submit as their annual plan to work on. GMCD's has an annual plan that is updated every year. (See above)
  - MACD takes our voice to the legislator and are our eyes to tell us what they are changing.
  - MACD is our ears for the National side of things as well.
  - Leona will send out the information from MACD when it is pertinent.
- MACD Convention Update (Mindy, Brita, Sean & Terry)
  - Mindy and Brita wrote up the update and it was sent out to everyone.
  - The Board thanked Mindy & Brita and said that the notes were very informative
- Liability Insurance
  - A motion to keep the coverage on the property insurance as is was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

**GMCD Website: ([greenmountaincd.org](http://greenmountaincd.org).)**

- The new website is up and running
- Web Site (outgrowth of Mindy's Question)
  - Leona ask the Board if we could pay Brita to keep our website updated until the time when Leona can possibly learn how to do it.
  - There will possibly be additional training hours involved with Brita when Leona starts to train.
  - Leona will contact Kate to try and schedule a meeting and training with her. Possibly having 1-2 Supervisors sit down, review the Website, and make changes/suggestions. Mindy is interested in looking at the website for suggestions at the meeting.
  - Set up a meeting with Supervisors, Mindy, Leona, and Brita before contacting Kate for meeting and changes. Brita suggested that one person (point of contact) work with Kate to make changes to the website.
  - A motion that GMCD would pay Brita up to 2 hours per month to update the Website was made by Kent 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.

**COORDINATOR "WATERSHED REPORT"**

- See Attached
- Brita will send the Bull River video link to all Supervisors
- Brita & Josh will be showing Miners & Bull River films at the film festival and GMCD will set out a collection of information on what we do.
- The festival is April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Rex Theater.

**MT FWP Report**

- No Report

**NRCS Report:**

- 2018 Grazing Conference. NRCS would like to see GMCD Supervisors attend this Conference.
- NRCS will review the different programs that they have at our next month's meeting

**(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana**

- Working with Brita on finalizing the Thompson River WRP

**Old Business:**

- None

**Building Repair Project:**

- Nothing to report

**No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:**

- Nothing to Report

**New Business:**

- Mindy informed the Board that she is interested in becoming a Supervisor.
  - The Board will discuss and vote on this at our February meeting
- Mindy requested the use of the building February 11<sup>th</sup> from 11-1pm for a public meeting.
  - A Motion to allow Mindy to utilize the Building on this date and time was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.

**Subdivision Review:**

- None

**Time Allowed for comments from the Public not already on the agenda:**

**310 Activities**

**SW-43E-17 Mt. Rail Link Coal Car Derailment**

- A motion to closed this emergency with no further action required was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.

**SW-52-17 Henry Complaint**

- The application was accepted at Octobers meeting.
- Site visit was completed on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017
- A motion to deny the "After the Fact" 310 project completed request and approve a 310-project correction and dismantle permit with the modifications that were outlined in the site visit report to mitigate the violation; *Owner will remove all rocks and gravel that was placed on the bank and in the river. He is to restore the bank to the original shape and a silt fence will be used at work site during mitigation work. Work should take place between 7/15/2018 – 8/31/2018. Root wads are to be placed in excavated site to help stabilize existing bank. No Machinery is to be used in the stream. Owner is to remove rocks and gravel by hand that is in the stream channel.* Was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.
- Add to the letter that "If work is not completed a fine up to 500.00 per day can be assessed. Also, a site visit will be conducted upon completion of the project on or before 8/31/2018 to ensure all points of mitigation were followed.

**SW-53-17 Stewart**

- A motion to accept the application as completed was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.
- Kent will contact landowner to see when they will be available for a site visit and then he will schedule with Ryan.

**SW-54E-17 Avista Emergency Tree Removal**

- A motion to accept the 310-emergency notice with no further action required was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.

**SW-55-17 NWE fish trap cleaning 10 year maintenance**

- A motion to accept the application as completed and approve the project with the following modification; the material that is removed from the intake ladder will be taken off site was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried
- FWP waved site visit.

**SW-56C-17 Chad Pardee unpermitted work**

- Mr. Pardee has been asked to submit a 310 application for the work numerous times and has not complied.
- A motion to send Mr. Pardee a violation letter was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.

**SW-57-17 Jopling**

- A Motion to accept the application as complete and approve project as submitted was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried
- Avista is OK with this project. They will anchor the platform with 2 screws and attach the ramp to the Dock. No screws out in the water. He needs to stay above the high-water mark.
- FWP waved the site visit

**SW-58-17 Lyle**

- A Motion to accept the application as complete was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried
- A site visit was schedule for Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:45 am. Ryan, Kent, Terry, and Jason will attend.
- The Lyle's have an existing permit from Avista.
- Moving a lot of the existing railroad ties that were put in year ago.
- Removing the railroad ties from in front of the neighbors is also included in this application and is requested by Avista that this be done.

**SW-40-17 Finley Flats**

- A motion to accept the final inspection form for this project was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, Motion carried

**Joel Sathers Property**

- Joel has a spring run off and would like to put in a pond. It starts at his place and goes to the neighbors. It comes off the forest service land.
- FWP state that they would not permit this. They do not permit in stream ponds.

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 pm was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen  
Administrator

Kent Wilby  
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District  
January 17, 2018  
Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

## **Project Updates**

### **Bull River Riparian Re-vegetation and Sediment Reduction Project**

- Final reporting and invoicing was completed for two funders of this project: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) Future Fisheries Program and the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) 223 program.
- 2017 Annual report for Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 Program was prepared in early January, and annual work summary info was sent to Avista.
- Remaining open contracts for this project include DEQ and Avista.
- 2018 activities related to the Bull River Revegetation project will include maintenance and supplemental planting within exclosures, maintenance and mortality replacement plantings in individual cages, monitoring, and completion of remaining outreach deliverables.
- Recent outreach efforts include posting updates about the project online, and working to finalize a film about the project: "Roots: Bringing Back the Bull River". LCFWG Coordinator will distribute link to the film when finalized.
- Plans for work this quarter include finalizing and distributing film, developing plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (and our last quarter of the project unless extended due to the Dry Creek project), and working out budget to fully expend available funds.
- Still planning to implement the Dry Creek road removal in 2018, after the USFS completes the Environmental Assessment and comes out with draft decision, hopefully in mid-January. DEQ funding will still be available after a modification to the GMCD/DEQ contract in the spring.

### **Miners Gulch Project**

- Final reporting and invoicing was completed for the FWP Future Fisheries Program.
- Leftover CFSA App B funds were sent back to Avista.
- After completion of the Bull River film, Josh Boyd will focus efforts on developing the Miners Gulch film.

### **Watershed Restoration Planning**

- Final stakeholders meeting for the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan was held November 28, draft was finalized November 30 and sent out for review, and the deadline for all comments was January 15, 2018. LCFWG staff will be working to finalize this document by January 30 to submit to DEQ for approval.
- As we are wrapping up the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan, we will be kicking off an update of the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan for all the tributaries to the lower Clark Fork River downstream of the Thompson River. LCFWG staff have started preliminary planning, and kick-off meeting with stakeholders is planned for February 15 after the 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter LCFWG meeting. Funding for this effort includes a DNRC 223 program grant (sponsored by GMCD), a DNRC Watershed Management program grant (sponsored by LCFWG), and CFSA App B (part of

LCFWG's annual implementation plan). In-kind contributions from many stakeholders is expected.

### **New projects/upcoming proposals**

- The LCFWG is developing a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program, a program available to watershed groups in partnership with Trout Unlimited staff out of Missoula. This is a \$100,000 proposal over two years that we hope will fund LCFWG staff time (Sarah Bowman) at the beginning of 2019 for the completion of the Lower Clark Fork tributary Watershed Restoration Plan, Trout Unlimited staff (through contract) for project development and design funds, and both Trout Unlimited and LCFWG staff to compile information from documents and people on previous proposals to address the dual road system along the Thompson River, a project identified in the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan. The LCFWG is requesting GMCD's support of this proposal and hopes they will contribute a letter of support for this project. Example/draft will be provided for the GMCD board's consideration at the January 17 meeting.
- The LCFWG is working in conjunction with the Kaniksu Land Trust and the Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited to bring the Fly Fishing Film Tour to the Rex Theatre in Thompson Falls on April 28. These three organizations have already agreed to cost-share this event, and planning is underway. We are hoping to show the Bull River film as well as the expected Miners Gulch project film (both of whose development was funded through the Green Mountain Conservation District), showcase the work of all our members and partners through the inclusion of these films, and demonstrate how conservation and restoration contributes to maintaining popular recreational resources. The LCFWG is requesting that GMCD support LCFWG's efforts to develop this event and its inclusion of both of the above-mentioned project films.
- LCFWG is also preparing for the retirement of two of four board members in March 2018, and is therefore actively looking to recruit new representation on their board. Thoughts regarding a potential board member is that this person would help in making the board representative of a broad-based cross-section of interests and perspectives within the watershed. Responsibilities (generally) include attending quarterly meetings and engaging in interim communication via phone and email, developing organizational policies/procedures for the LCFWG staff to implement, and providing guidance for LCFWG staff including budget and staff oversight. Please let the LCFWG know if you have any interest in joining the board, would like to nominate someone, or would like more information.