



Meeting Minutes December 8th, 2021

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli Chairman	Leona Gollen
Mindy Ferrell	Advisors Present
Sean Moran	Brita Olson LCFWG (Zoom)
	Dillon Martini NRCS (Zoom)
	Jason Blakney FWP (Zoom)
Associate Supervisors Present	Arthur Potts (Zoom)
Bud Scully	Visitors Present
	Sara Busmire (Zoom)
	Hal Brintzenhofe
	Louise Stockholm

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.

- Due to the safety concerns for large gatherings, GMCD has limited the number of attendants at our GMCD office for the meeting. All other interested parties will use the Zoom Meeting Room.

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

- This meeting will be recorded

Minutes 2021

- A motion to approve October 20th, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Financial Report

- The financial report was sent to all Supervisors prior to the meeting.
- The financial report was reviewed in its entirety.
- A motion to approve the financial report for October was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for November & December 2021 was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

December 15th roundtable training – New Hire process

- Mindy will attend

Debit Card

- Bill will get one at first security.

Renewal of AIS Task force representative

- A motion to have Terry represent GMCD on the AIS board was made by Mindy 2nd Sean, motion carried.

Website Report and update review

- See attached report

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report

- See attached report

Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Update

Upper Thompson Conservation Easement Project

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Green Diamond Resource Company recently submitted a proposal to the U.S. Forest Legacy Program (FLP) to acquire funding for a perpetual conservation easement (CE) on the remaining ~48,000 of corporate timber land in the Thompson River drainage and adjacent wildlands (Buffalo Bill Creek). The funding request is being split into two phases with funds awarded in 2023 and 2024. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$16,000,000, with \$12,000,000 being requested from the FLP. An additional \$4,000,000 in non-federal match is need for the project. This easement would secure permanent access for the public to be able to hunt, fish and recreate on these lands as they have done for generations and prevent residential development. The land would continue to be managed as a working landscape for timber harvest which will keep lumber in mills and local folks employed in that industry. A win for all residents and visitors to the area. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will hold the CE on this land and this proposed project will complement the 2003 Thompson-Fisher CE which protected public access to 90,000 acres of private timber land in the Thompson River and neighboring watersheds.

This landscape is also important to the conversation of many aquatic and terrestrial fish and wildlife species. Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan identified this property as the highest value habitat for 57 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The easement will completely protect the Fishtrap Creek and Big Rock Creek drainages, two of the three drainages occupied by Bull Trout populations in the Thompson River watershed. It will also entirely protect the Deerhorn Creek drainage where the species was first documented in 2019. In total, approximately 10,000-13,000 acres and over 10 stream miles within Bull Trout drainages will receive perpetual protection through this proposed CE. Due to this project's nexus to Bull Trout, NorthWestern Energy through their Thompson Falls Technical Advisory Committee Bull Trout Adaptive Management Fund, recently approved \$170,000 of funding for 2022 to be held by TPL as a portion of the non-federal match needed for this project.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

- See Attached
- Will be setting up local group meetings and will get in touch with GMCD to schedule.

Avista Utilities Update

- Avista is in the middle of producing annual reporting
- Reaching out to land use sub group to schedule meeting for Dock permits discussions.
- 5 year review for land use permit is scheduled

North Western Energy (NWE) Update

- Nothing to report

Public Education

Pollinator

- We will be completing a new grant soon.

Supervisor Education

- Nothing to report

New Business

- Talked about scheduling MACD Caitlyn & Jason on 310 lessons learned.
- Leona will contact them.

- GMCD does not have to pay attorney fees for the Rahn project.
- We need to based question on the original application not the alternative.

Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance

- Nothing to report

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

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310 Activities

SW-41-21 Jones

- Arthur from Avista wanted GMCD to keep this on the radar and possibly schedule a site visit at some point. There has been no 310-application turned in at this time.
- Arthur has not heard from them either
- A Motion to close this 310 and have landowner resubmit was made by Mindy, second by Sean, motion carried

SW-42-21 Hall:

- Based on discussion with Avista A motion to accept this a completed application was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy motion carried.
- A site visit was scheduled
- Arthur met with them and did a site visit. At current time there is not a great path down to the water. This is a legacy permit from Avista back in 2005-06 and was a change of owner. They are keeping the location the same and want to build it out longer and Arthur authorized it from Avista. According to Arthur it is the best place to be put. This would be providing access to 2 different lots.

SW-43E-21 Avista

- A motion to accept this an emergency as submitted with no further action needed was made by Mindy, 2nd by Bill motion carried.
- I abstained

SW-44C-21 Island Park tree Cutting

- Avista Working with landowner but has not seen it.
- Arthur will look at it and report back next months meeting
- This will stay on the docket until he reports back.

SW-23-21 Fergusson

- Sean & Jason went to this site and the bank job was complete looked good overall.
- No vegetation was planted on bank.
- Jason and Brita can help plant sometime in March.
- Keep this on the agenda until March. to make sure that the vegetation is done.
- Jason will contact Karen.

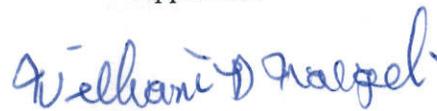
A motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Leona Gollen
Administrator

Approved.



Bill Naegeli
Chairman

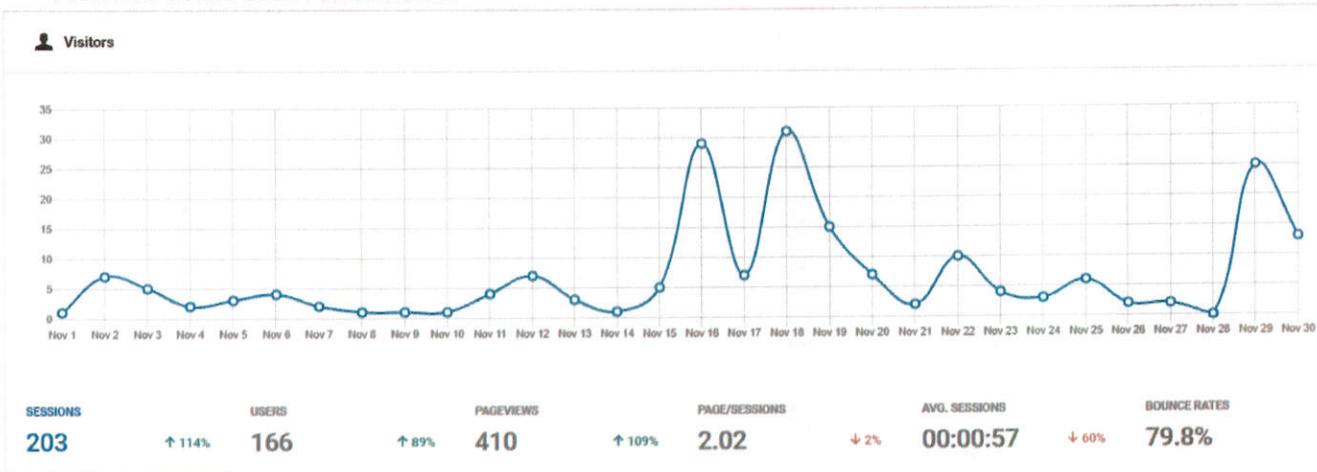


Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
December 8, 2021

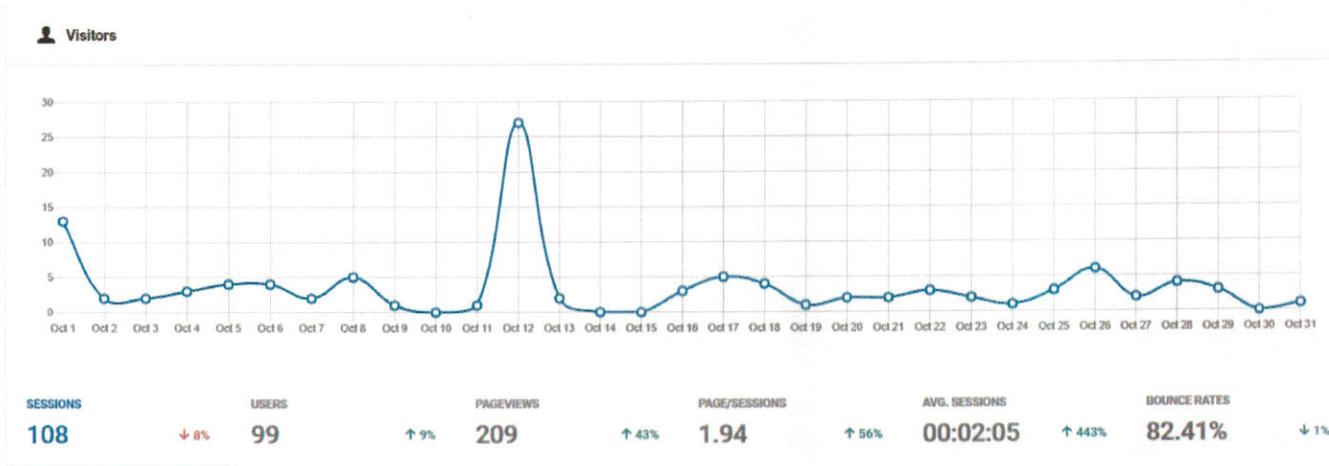
Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

Website

- September Minutes were posted when approved.
- December Agenda was posted.
- Job announcement was posted.
- Website users over November:



- Website users over October:



Project Updates

Empowering watershed stewardship and restoration on private lands (223 grant) / Bull River Revegetation

- All work under this grant has been completed, and LCFWG will be compiling a final invoice and grant report by mid-December.
- This work will continue in 2022 funded by Avista’s Clark Fork Settlement Agreement Appendix E Watershed Councils program and

Pollinator Program

- Made final site visits for the year before the frost.
- Developing plans for this coming year – to continue weeding and monitoring plots we have established, and to distribute additional seed to interesting landowners.
- Anticipate completing an interim status report and reimbursement request to DNRC with Leona soon, as well as securing an extension to allow us to continue caring for these plots next year.

Sims Meander Project:

- Halloween Tour was held on October 27. Participants toured the Sims Meander Project and previous Miners Gulch Project.
- Over the fall, approximately 250 cottonwood trees were planted.
- Will be working on remaining outreach and revegetation deliverables over the coming winter and in 2022.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting
NRCS Report
December 1, 2021

- 1 CSP Renewal was funded
- 1 CSP GCI application will most likely be funded
- Just finished processing the final CSP payments
- Working on EQIP applications. 9 applications received. Helping with a few of Lake County's applications as well
- 3 new CSP applications were received
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts and a few active irrigation contracts
- For our covid restrictions, visitors are allowed in the office with an appointment. Masks are required.
- Working on a bale grazing TIP proposal to improve soil health in Lake and Sanders Counties.

Dillon Martini
District Conservationist
Plains Field Office