



## Meeting Minutes January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

<b>Supervisors Present</b>	<b>Employees Present</b>
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire and Leona Gollen
Terry Hightower, Vice Chairman	<b>Advisors Present</b>
Mindy Ferrell	Brita Olson, LCFWG (Zoom)
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Arthur Potts, Avista (Zoom)
	Jason Blakney, FWP (Zoom)
<b>Associate Supervisors Present</b>	Dillon Martini, NRCS (Zoom)
Bud Scully (Zoom)	<b>Visitors Present</b>

### 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 December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 December was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry motion carried.
- Blackfoot Communications did not install the battery backup that they charged us for on January's invoice. This will be a credit on our February statement of \$150.00.
- Check was written for our half that we split with Eastern Sanders of the pollinator seed that we ordered and hopefully we will be reimbursed by the new Pollinator Grant. Our half was \$214.50. Two months ago, a motion was made to order the seed, which is why we are writing the check ahead of time, since it was already approved, that the pollinator program would continue regardless if the grant was received.
- A motion to approve all invoices for January 2022 was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean. Motion carried.

#### Administrator's Report:

### **Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair)**

- A motion to keep the same slate for 2022 made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean. Motion carried.

### **Oath of Office Reminder (Sean, Bill and Mindy)**

- Administrator reminded Sean, Bill and Mindy that they need to complete their oath of office for the next 4-year term.
- Sean has his completed his and Mindy and Bill are done.
- Mindy stated that Sean needed to mark that he wants a 4-year term.
- Mindy stated that there are four positions (three 4-year and one 2-year) and if 4 people apply for the 4-year term, it will need to go to election. Not the best option (because it would cost money) so monitoring is necessary so that the district would not need to pay for it.
- Sean said the Oath of Office form is due on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Bud said that they will start his house in March and that he will fill out the paperwork so that he can get his citizenship changed so that he can be in this position.
- Keeping it as a three 4-year and one 2-year keeps an election from happening. Bud could be put in by acclimation until the 2-year term is up, which is when Kent's expires (end of 2022).
- Got a copy of Oath of Office form from Bill. Mindy turned hers in and the courthouse will send us a copy. GMCD will get Sean's from the courthouse as well.

### **Take Leona Off and Put Sarah Busmire on for Account Information at Bank**

- A motion to remove Leona Gollen from the bank account and add Sarah Busmire for informational purposes only made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.

### **Reschedule 310 Training**

- Jason and Caitlin want to meet over Zoom for the 310 training at the February meeting.
- Administrator will reach out to them once we know that the February Meeting will work for the training and confirm with them. Administrator will then send out an email letting everyone know that February works.
- Jason was wondering if it would be before or after the meeting. He would like to attend. Include him in email.
- Leona said they will cover things we may have missed in the application where we got sued.
- Mindy will join via Zoom or calling in since she will be on the road.
- February meeting will work for the 310 training. Could start meeting early. If it is more than an hour, have the meeting start earlier so that the regular board meeting doesn't run too late.

### **Sandpoint Computer Invoice (Leona)**

- GMCD received antivirus for one year from Sandpoint Computers when we purchased our laptop. That information was not relayed to the administrator, so she purchased additional antivirus (Avast) on top of what we had. The antivirus that the administrator purchased is non-refundable, so we have two antivirus programs for 2022. Sandpoint Computers checks the computer daily for antivirus protection.
- A motion to reimburse Leona for the Avast and we have the Sandpoint computer be the primary antivirus made by Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy. Motion carried.

### **Leona's Leave Payout (Leona)**

- GMCD has to pay Leona her remaining annual leave and sick leave and she requests that she add part of it to January time card and be paid the remainder on February's time card.
- A motion to pay the balance of Leona's annual leave in March by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry.  
Motion carried.

#### **Extra \$4,000 From Admin. Grant**

- State of Montana sent electronic deposit on 1/14/2022 for the additional \$4,000 funds that we received from our Administration Grant.
- This will be documented on January's bank statement.

#### **Schedule Annual Meeting with ESCD**

- Emily Baker from Eastern Sanders CD reached out to Administrator on January 6<sup>th</sup> about setting up an informal dinner.
- It would be a great chance for us to all meet each other (especially us new hires) and informally discuss everything we would like to see happen in the county.
- Her board discussed it at their January meeting and thought Thompson Falls would be a good location.
- Their next board meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, so any day after that would work, besides the last week of February (23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> ish) since one of her board members will be gone.
- Administrator suggested Minnie's in Thompson Falls because it where we have met before and it is convenient for both CDs.
- Administrator suggested Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> or Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Minnie's closes at two o'clock frequently, so they will need to be contacted.
- Mindy will not be here the 18<sup>th</sup> and picks the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Terry recommended the 11<sup>th</sup>, which will work for him.
- Prefer Minnie's, but Rimrock Lodge would work as well.
- Mindy stated that Rimrock has a conference room that can hold about 20 people so that people can spread out. Backroom at Minnie's could be reserved.

#### **Fiber Optic January 13<sup>th</sup> (Mindy)**

- Received new network name and Password.
- Administrator had to contact J2 Office Supplies to connect the main printer to the new wireless network. They charged us \$75.00 for the assistance.

#### **Website Report and update review**

- See attached report
- Regular things were posted to website along with job announcement.
- Met with GMCD Administrator and gave introduction on the website.
- Over the next few months, connect with GMCD Administrator and work together to post things.

#### **Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report**

- See attached report
- Invoices and final projects are being wrapped up. DNRC reimbursement for the 223 Empowerment Grant program and an invoice for Pollinator Program. Mid December annual report for 319 program from MTDEQ
- Moving forward for work in 2022 in Sims Meander and Pollinator Program
- Extra work for Administrator transition and helping with new position and will continue to be available.

#### **Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Update**

- Follow up on conservation easement on Thompson River.
- Questions from public and members of public of how to promote and help with easement.
- 2 options of how people can help: \$16 million needed total, and \$12 million from federal government and \$4 million in match money. Donation direct to Trust for Public Land is an option, but more importantly the public comment period is the best way to help out.
- Propose perpetuity of public land and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks will push for this too.
- Public comment is most important for that part of the process.
- Public comment on 2022-2023 seasons and regulations, most notably consolidation of hunting districts, which would make regulations easier and shouldn't change harvest too much. One comment that was introduced for around here is the Bighorn sheep tag for the St. Regis herd. Proposal has been made for that tag in 2022.
- Public comment ended and commission will be voting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a purposed change to game bird hunting seasons, which currently end on December 31. Adding an extra month was proposed, and the commission will decide. Public comments were against the extension.
- Predator harvests in Region 1 have been down to about 4 wolves with both hunting and trapping. Only 5 wolves in Sanders county have been harvested since season opened, 275 cat quota for Bobcats in Sanders County, which has not been met.

#### **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Update**

- See Attached.

#### **Avista Utilities Update**

- WRTAC meeting today and TRTAC meeting tomorrow. Currently in the process of finalizing interim report for 2021.
- Sean said that they have been looking over project plans for 2022.

#### **North Western Energy (NWE) Update**

- None attended.

#### **Public Education**

##### **Pollinator**

- Pollinator grant has been submitted by Eastern Sanders CD.
- Lake County sent seed invoice for 2022 seed order. It also included a donation request of \$75.00 for last years seed order since costs were more expensive than anticipated. This is because they did not charge for the 2021 seeds.
- This will be on February's agenda for a vote since GMCD did not receive it in time to add to this agenda.

#### **Supervisor Education**

- New Hire Training Update (Mindy)
- She did not attend this training.

#### **New Business**

- None

#### **Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance**

- Nothing to report

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

- Just an FYI, there is a Stream Permitting Workshop on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Miles City, Montana. There isn't a virtual option and this is an in-person event only. Administrator has the flier printed if anyone would like to view it. Just as a reminder we do still have a 310 training with Caitlin and Jason.

### **310 Activities**

#### **SW-42-21 Hall:**

- This application was accepted last month.
- A site visit was scheduled last month.
- 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.
- Sean thought that it would have insignificant effects, with a modification as depicted in photo and minimize trimming and keep stumps in bank to not disturb existing rot wad.
- A motion to approve project with the following modifications-including locate platform as described and as depicted in photo. Any alder trimming minimal to allow installation and keep stumps in bank and do not disturb existing root wad was made by Sean 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy. Motion carried.

#### **SW-44C-21 Island Park tree Cutting**

- Arthur spoke with board members there and had a meeting scheduled and they canceled on him. Talking to them on the phone, no one was able to glean any information about who was responsible for it. Snow and made it tough to get to the location
- Bill said this will stay in Arthurs ball park. Tabled.
- Arthur stated it needs to be seen and hopefully it is just a teachable moment for whoever did it.
- Jason had a frog pond question, but Arthur was confused, so that it is not an issue anymore.
- Bill suggested to table the complaint until we get more information.

#### **SW-23-21 Fergusson**

- Keep this on the agenda until March to ensure vegetation planting occurs (Jason and Brita).
- Jason said to keep open until spring once the vegetation is in the ground.
- Karen liked that idea and initially talked about late March and it will be later now, possibly late April because of all the snow.

A motion to adjourn at 6:48pm was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Sarah Busmire  
Administrator

Approved.



Bill Naegeli  
Chairman





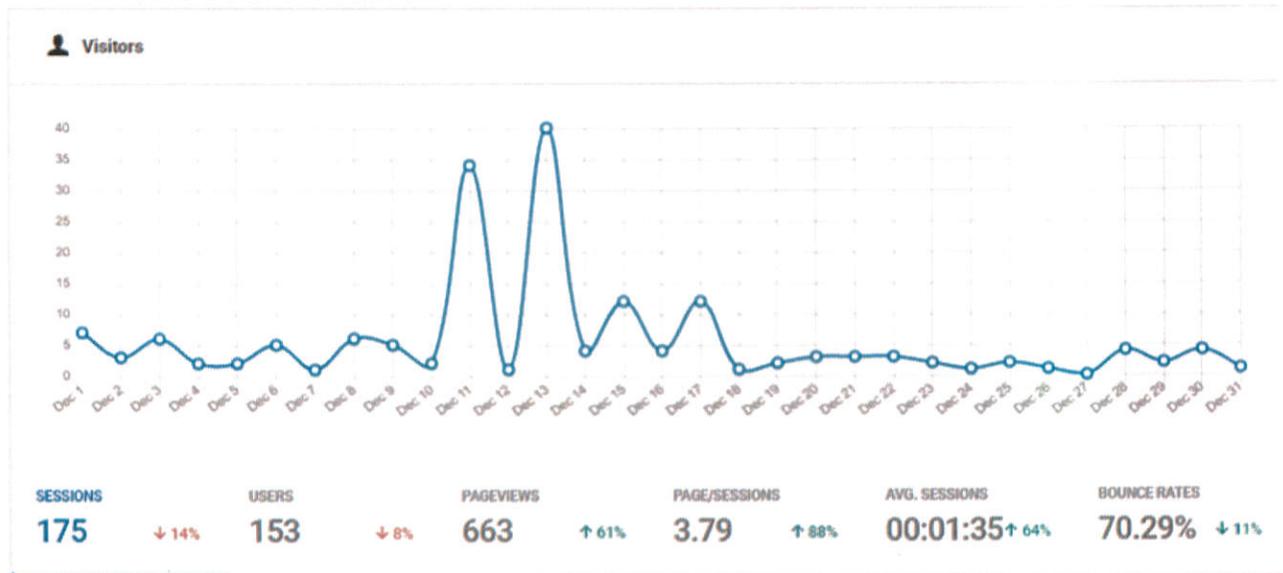
Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District

January 19, 2022

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

## Website

- October Minutes were posted when approved.
- January Agenda was posted, with Sarah.
- Website users over December:



## Project Updates

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

- Final report and invoice was submitted to GMCD. Leona worked with or is working with Sarah to submit to DNRC for reimbursement.
- The LCFWG will continue this work in 2022 funded by Avista's Clark Fork Settlement Agreement Appendix E Watershed Councils program and DNRC Watershed Management Grant.

### Pollinator Program

- Completed an interim status report and invoice. Leona worked with or is working with Sarah to submit to DNRC for reimbursement.

### Sims Meander Project:

- Completed 2021 Annual report and invoice. Leona completed submission to MDEQ.
- Submitted an additional invoice to GMCD for Administration funds.

**Transition support**

Helped coordinate hiring process, and am available for assistance as Sarah needs. So far, have met with Leona and Sarah once, starting training Sarah on the website, made some introductory emails. Working with the Clark Fork Grant writers to draft a District Development grant to provide Sarah with extra capacity for training and developing programs (we will send to board for review and input once drafted, and will request official approval to submit at March's meeting). Am planning some of LCFWG's work in the Bull River as well as completing restoration maintenance at other projects with Sarah's help in the Spring (April – June) and Fall (September – early November). LCFWG can "hire" Sarah directly for this work and pay her from our available funds for wages.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting  
NRCS Report  
January 12, 2022

- Working on EQIP applications. 9 applications received. Within GMCD, we have applications for our riparian work on the Bull River, thinning work for our white pine restoration project, and a couple applications for high tunnels. 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
- Our snow levels are looking much better than last year. As of January 12, we are sitting at 115% of average snow water equivalent for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed.
- We are bumped back up to 75% staffing in the office due to covid restrictions. We can see visitors in the office, but masks are required and appointments are preferable (although if we are in the office, we will gladly answer the door).

Thank you,  
Dillon

Dillon Martini  
District Conservationist  
Plains Field Office