



Meeting Minutes May 18th, 2022

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Advisors Present
Mindy Ferrell	Dillon Martini, NRCS (Zoom)
Terry Hightower	
Associate Supervisors Present	Visitors Present
Bud Scully (Zoom)	Hailey Graf
	Mike and Alison Osborne (Zoom)
	Holly and Ryan Edwards (Zoom)

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 From April 20th, 2022 Meeting

- A motion to approve April 20th, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. 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 May 2022 was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for May 2022 was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

District Development Grant update

- Administrator said that we did receive this. It was for \$10,000 which will help to increase administrator capacity for stakeholder engagement, develop quarterly newsletters and attend 310 site visits.
- This grant is good for one year.

Sanders County Pollinator Initiative Update

- Administrator said we reached around 150 people, with everyone grabbing for their neighbors and friends.
- We still have extra seed this year, so be sure to spread the word to those wanting more seed. There will be a Facebook posting about the extra seed and signs will be posted at local post offices and businesses.

Area 5 pollinator grant through Lake County CD

- Administrator said that Heidi at Lake County CD applied for this grant on the May 6th grant cycle. This would help to create more educational programs throughout Area 5 for the pollinator program and help to bolster the program for 2 years.

Montana Association of Counties renewal application

- Administrator said that the quote is actually lower than last year's quote, which did happen in some other districts including ESCD. She thinks it has something to do with just the general tax values of the area. There is a check this month to sign to pay for the insurance. It was for \$1,780.00.

Letter for Comments on the Hidden Meadows Subdivision

- Mindy asked what is our areas of concern that will be covered by the weeds board?
- Bill said we can comment on any issues, but what we have authority on is the 310 permitting.
- Sean said that there was one lot and one homesite on a bench that has waterfront and it seems to be far enough from the water to not have any 310 issues.
- Mindy said that what concerns her the most is elk wintering range.
- Sean and Mindy were the GMCD representatives on site. There was an old skid road down to the river but the one site where the house would be placed was above the floodplain.
- Sean said to include a comment that during development that there won't be any impacts.
- Bill asked if administrator can combine our ideas and what GMCD typically comments to subdivisions into a letter.
- Mindy mentioned the wetlands area and to affirm that the plot plan apparently protects the wetland areas and is respectful to the streambank and any impacts to the streambanks. The current plans were respectful to all those sensitive areas.
- House sites and wells were all laid out and had good spacing between them.
- Administrator will craft a letter for comments to the surveyors
- Dillon did construct maps for the subdivision. He will send those to the administrator right now. His main concern was a bend of the creek that has wetland soil, saturation and flooding soils. In the middle of the property there is a potential for wetland soils as well.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report

- Administrator said that Brita has been planting trees in the Bull River.

Montana FWP

- See attached report about 310 permitting.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

- Dillon said that he will work to set up a meeting with us for the Long-Range Plan.
- See attached report

Avista Utilities Update

- Nothing to report.

North Western Energy (NWE) Update

- Nothing to report

Public Education

- Bill said that the Waterfestival includes all schools in the county and that we need to know about how many students will be attending and what schools will be there.
- Mindy said that she spoke with Joel about the new natural resource class at Noxon.
- Mindy said that Kaniksu Land Trust was interested in being partners with the class. She said that the fall, winter and spring sections need to be updated because they are outdated and the teacher that taught them is no longer there.
- She said that she spoke with Joel on the scholarship and also at Thompson Falls.
- Mindy asked the administrator if the scholarship template is on the website?
- Administrator said yes, the form is on the website and so is the flyer for the camp.

Supervisor Education

- Bill had mentioned moving the June monthly meeting to June 22nd
- A motion to switch the June meeting to June 22nd 2022 was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion Carried.
- Bill asked do we need to put this in the paper.
- Mindy and Bill think we should put this in the paper.
- Administrator will reach out to the newspaper (Sanders County Ledger) and will also state that the normal meetings are every third Wednesday at 6pm. Administrator will also add the logo as well.

New Business

- Mindy will be gone July August and she will attend remotely.
- Mindy will call Juli and see if 4H has had any interest in the camp.
- Hailey said her plans are to meet with us to go over some strategic planning and what we see the future for CDs. They hope that they can serve CDs and supervisors better and also wanted to discuss the grants that GMCD has received. It will also be a chance to talk about how the CDB can better serve you.

Old Business

- Sean asked if the administrator had found anything out about the trust that owns the property associated with the complaint on Graves Creek.
- Administrator will see if we can contact.
- Bill said that the No Till Drill has gone out at least once this year.

Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance

- Nothing to report

310 Activities

- SW-01-22 Noack
 - Administrator said that they have returned their permit.
 - They are currently awaiting Avista approval.
- SW-02-22 Osborne
 - Mike and Allison were present.
 - A motion to accept SW-02-22 Osborne as a complete application was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

- Bill asked How are you proposing to get down where the rocks are? Since it is steep. We found that walking up and down the hill it does disturb the dirt quite a bit we can mitigate knowing dirt down a bit.
 - Mike said that there is an existing trail, but that a new one will need to be designed.
 - Mindy asked if the dock will be removed via the public boat ramp?
 - Mike said yes, that is why we chose that on our application.
 - Bill would like to schedule a site visit.
 - Bill asked if there was a better time for you all? Osbornes said they are both retired. Bill mentioned getting it scheduled on the same day as Edwards. Maybe do between 3:30 and 4pm on May 27th?
 - Bill said we will do a site visit and then discuss it at the June meeting.
 - Sean asked if this Friday would also work if Jason is available too?
- SW-03-22 Wakefield
 - Mindy asked if the steps in the picture are what is going to be installed or what is already there?
 - Sean said that the bank looks steep and does not have that much woody vegetation root support. He recommended that they should be floating steps.
 - Mindy would like a site visit to see how the steps look.
 - A motion to accept SW-03-22 Wakefield as a complete application was made by Mindy. 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.
 - Mindy would like to know that if the dock is removable, she would like it described.
 - Bill said that Jason is not concerned because Gene is doing the work but will come on a site visit if we schedule one.
 - Sean said that if we could do that prior to the Edwards visit.
 - Mindy said we will schedule this one at 12:30pm. Bill said that we will schedule a site visit.
 - Mindy can't do either Friday.
 - The board decided on a site visit on May 27th at 12:30pm.
- SW-04-22 Edwards
 - Ryan and Holy were both present
 - Sean says the application looks like it did before and that he had submitted a comment on the concern of a cut and fill to place the cement slab landing on the bank.
 - Bill asked how you are going to put the landing in, excavation into the bank or the intent of the landing was a level spot for safety and walk across the gangplank. It would be a minor cut into the hillside to make a level spot.
 - One thing Sean noticed was that they don't describe the amount of material if it is depicted if there is a cut into the bank it could be more problematic if not using helical anchors into the soil and the landing platform above it.
 - Ryan said they would like to keep it fairly small. Are the helical anchors required?
 - Sean said no but we have some things that we look out for and on the slope leading to a water body that disturbs the soil profile has the potential to be a weak spot and a chronic problem. This site could be easy, but in more challenging sites there are steel posts that have a loose screw pattern that screw into the ground which keeps the dock into the ground for this type of topography. They are widely used in the area and we really like them. This isn't a deal breaker but requires us to go on site to make sure this isn't a weak point. Sean is concerned with the amount of material or dirt that would be disturbed to put that landing in.

- Ryan said that they plan to have rebar stakes into the ground and a small concrete pad. We were trying to get away from bringing equipment on site. It is above the high-water mark and a few natural steps and are fortunate that it is a low slope area and then a landing pad to get onto the gangway.
 - Bill said we need to accept it as a project and definitely do a site visit.
 - Sean said the pictures don't look too bad and if we can all be on the same page looking at it.
 - Terry asked if the steps are going to be dug into the slope?
 - Ryan said that there would be wood steps.
 - Mindy is worried about the erosion on the site.
 - A motion to accept it as a complete application was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.
 - Terry said that both Avista and NWE likes to have things completely removable, so that helical screws are best.
 - Ryan asked what is next in the process?
 - Bill said there would be a site visit and then approval at our next meeting in June and if there were any modifications and how your steps would be installed.
 - Mindy said it would be great for you to be there at the site.
 - Ryan, how do we schedule that? I live in CDA.
 - Bill said to tentatively set May 27th afternoon.
 - Ryan said it sounds like there is a concern about the landing that he wants to do. Other than using helical ties.
 - Bill said we would like to see it on site and once we actually see the bank ourselves and we can have a better idea. What you have planned might be just fine, but if not, maybe we suggest that you use more rebar and want to make sure in that outside bank that it doesn't fail.
 - If Jason is available this Friday, then that works too.
- SW-05-22 Folks
 - Terry said it's a decent application but said that the platform will be out in the water. He asked if the steps will be done too?
 - The steps were there before and the platform will be out in the water. And the concrete bleeds over the edge of the bank there. Sean says that is something that would not work nowadays.
 - A motion to accept SW-05-22 Folks as a complete application was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried
 - Mindy was wondering why the applicant's name and landowner are where different from the front page to the last page?
 - Bill asked if these have been sent to Andrew for comments?
 - Administrator replied yes they have been sent to Andrew and Mark of NWE.
 - A motion to approve the the SW-05-22 Folks application as submitted was made by Sean, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.
 - Mindy is abstaining.
 - SW-06-22 Scully
 - Bud is present
 - Bud said that he has a tree that at some points someone must have wrapped a cable around and he lives right next door to the Osbornes and that it has split tops and it probably can fall right on their house if it breaks like it did before. They are starting to build their house and he would like to get that taken care of.
 - Terry was wondering if the 310 is just for the ponderosa cutting or the basement?
 - Bud said the basement doesn't affect the bank or anything.

- Bill was wondering if they did a basement that went into the bank and the one that shows the empty lot and then if the basement will be behind on the lot?
 - Terry said that the tree is easy but if it is a basement then we need a site visit but the tree does need one.
 - Bill said the house part is a non-issue and the removal of the tree isn't really an issue, but it is close to the bank.
 - Sean asked is that the tree or a root wad in the third picture?
 - Bud said that he doesn't want to disturb the stump and will leave it at 3-4 feet.
 - A motion to accept this as a complete application was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
 - Terry and Jason will waive the site and so is Sean.
 - A motion to approve it as submitted with the tree removal was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- SW-26-21 Palm (Extension)
 - Administrator said they reached out to her for an extension on their 310 permit.
 - Administrator said they told her they need it because they Gene could not get the parts.
 - Mindy proposes the extension to go for 6 months.
 - A motion to give the extension to Palm SW 26-21 for 6 months due to their supply issues was made by Mindy, 2nd by Terry. Motion Carried.
 - SW-25-21 Schipporeit
 - Looks good to Mindy and Sean.
 - A motion to consider this a complete project for SW 25-21 was made by Mindy, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 7:44 pm was made by Bill, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sarah A. Busmire

Sarah Busmire
Administrator

Approved.

William D. Naegeli

Bill Naegeli
Chairman

Montana FWP

Jason Blakney 310 Report for May 18th, 2022 Meeting

SW-01-22 Noack- already signed

SW-02-22 Osborne- If the application is deemed complete by the board, I would request we conduct a site to ensure that impact to the stream bank from the trail construction is minimized.

SW-03-22 Wakefield- If the application is deemed complete by the board, I would leave it up to the board whether they would like to do a site visit, and I will join if they choose to...since Gene is doing it I'm not too worried about unforeseen issues with stair installation on the lower bank.

SW-04-22 Edwards- If the application is deemed complete by the board, I would request we conduct a site to ensure erosional issue with pad construction are minimized.

SW-05-22 Folks- If the application is deemed complete by the board, I would waive the site visit on this one given they are just changing the orientation of the dock and the anchor pad, and because all stream bank work has been completed

SW-06-22 Scully- If the application is deemed complete by the board, I would waive the site visit on this one but the applicant should provide pictures of the completed project.

SW-26-21 Palm (Extension)- sounds good

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting
NRCS Report
May 17, 2022

- Amy helped out with the 6th grade campout at Bend and did a soils presentation.
- Assisted ESCCD and GMCD with the Pollinator Days. We enjoyed being a part of the outreach opportunity.
- Still obligating EQIP applications...about ½ way completed.
- Still waiting to hear if additional funding will come through to fund any of our CSP applications.
- Met with the Cabinet Ranger District to discuss NRCS/USFS cooperative/collaborative opportunities in the area. They are interested in attending our next Local Work Group Meeting
 - Thoughts on a good time to have one? It would be good to update our Long Range Plan and revisit conservation priorities within the county. This will help to guide future Targeted Implementation Plans (TIPs).
- Attended Sanders County Collaborative Meeting. Provided information about NRCS programs. Toured some projects the FS is working on.
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts and a few active irrigation contracts
- For our covid restrictions, visitors are allowed in the office. Masks are no longer required. We are up to 100% staffing. It's nice to be open to the public again! To guarantee someone is at the office, we recommend calling and scheduling an appointment, but there is someone here most of the time now.
- FYI, the Blackfoot Challenge is hosting a prescribed burn tour on June 2nd. If landowners are interested in learning about prescribed burning, this could be a great opportunity! It looks like the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network is also doing a tour on June 16th. I believe Blackfoot Challenge's tours will take place on at Lubrecht Experimental Forest as well as near Brown's Lake. The Northern Rockies Fire Science Tour will be north of Whitefish, in the Olney area. I will email Sarah the email chain for anyone who is interested.

Thank you,
Dillon

Dillon Martini
District Conservationist
Plains Field Office