



Meeting Minutes August 17th, 2022

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire
Terry Hightower	Advisors Present
Mindy Ferrell (Zoom)	Dillon Martini, NRCS (Zoom)
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Brita Olson, LCFWG
	Arthur Potts (Zoom)
	Jason Blakney (Zoom)
Associate Supervisors Present	Visitors Present
Bud Scully (Zoom)	Ronna LaPierre
	Aaron LaPierre
	Dave and Jamie Edwards

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 July 20th, 2022 Meeting

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

Energy Partners prepay propane

- A motion to prepay for the propane from Energy Partners was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

NRCS Local Working Group Meeting

- This was tabled from the June meeting.
- Administrator was wondering if Dillon had any update on this?

- Table this to the August meeting.
- October 17 would be the best date for GMCD.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report

- Big Sky Watershed Corp Member Application
- Questions were asked about who will supervise the position, how it will affect the supervisors (extra work)? How will GMCD and LCFWG keep the member busy, especially in the off season? How does the member get around?
- There will not be much extra work for supervisors, since they will be at the GMCD office with Sarah. Brita has a plan on how to provide tasks for the member for the duration of their contract.
- A motion was made to give Brita permission to apply for the AmeriCorps person and the cost share application was made by Bill and 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Separate motion will be made for accepting the application, and another will be made for acceptance of the job details, and the exact details of the program.
- Total cost is \$12,250. \$6000 would be from the cost share application, and another from another funding source.
- MCC crew week of October 10
- Harlow Ranch Irrigation Development Grant was evaluated and Brita helped Melinda award a contract to Morrison and Maerle and are awaiting contract from them.

Montana FWP

- Department fishing regulations are going to be updated every two years. They are holding a meeting in Kalispell Sept. 14. If interested let him know.
- Increase Smallmouth Bass harvest limits from Thompson River to the confluence of the Flathead River from 5 to 15 fish a day.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

- Please see attached report.

Avista Utilities Update

- Arthur said that WRTAC and TRTAC meetings are August 30th and 31st at 10am in person and on Zoom at the Noxon multipurpose room.

North Western Energy (NWE) Update

- Nothing to report.

Public Education

- Nothing to report.
- 29th is when school starts
- Noxon starts the 24th.

Supervisor Education

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- Mindy said that the Waterfestival is on Tuesday and area 5 meeting on Wednesday October 5th.
- 17th would be best for the GMCD for NRCS meeting.

Old Business

- Nothing to report.

Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance

- Nothing to report

310 Activities

SW-25-20 Langford

- Looks good.
- Mindy says no final inspection.
- A motion was made to consider SW-25-20 Langford completed and closed was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

SW-31C-20 Graves Creek

- Jason said that Sean and him will be the ones to go up and take care of it.
- This will remain on the agenda to September

SW-13-22 Kowalski

- Mellow grade at crossing and less erosive.
- Should be a good project and the landowner intends to reseed with native grass mix if necessary.

SW-19-22 Stevens

- Hand equipment is going to be used.
- A motion was made to accept SW-19-22 Stevens as a complete application was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.
- A site visit was recommended
- Jason can pair up with someone to do the site visit in the fall.
- Keep on the agenda for next month.

SW-20-22 Edwards

- Terry asked is this an application?
- Bill said that this is in the floodplain, but you will not need a 310 permit for this project.
- A motion was made that SW-20-22 Edwards is denied because not under our jurisdiction was made by Bill, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Administrator will send contact information for Katherine to them.

SW-21-22 LaPierre

- A motion that this is a complete application was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried
- Arthur said the design has changed to a cantilever design and will help to minimize erosion impact.
- Sean was wondering what the size was on the platform,
- Aaron said if it is bigger then it will be easier to cantilever it on the bank. Will go with the 4x6 size. Disabled relatives would be good for them to get around and move on the larger platform.
- Mindy said what are you thinking about the pathway to the dock?
- Aaron said the pathway that was already there, and haven't altered it at all. Same one when we purchased the property
- Mindy asked if it will need to be leveled or will the path be the erosion issue?
- Aaron said that the path will remain the same
- Dock will be floated in and out at Vermillion Bay boat launch.
- Can the gangway be lifted and supported or does it have to come out as well.

- Arthur said that is ok but to send some pictures and as long as it is supported and doesn't disturb any vegetation or damage the structure from snow loads.
- A motion was made to approve the SW-21-22 LaPierre application with the cantilever style versus the platform style design was made by Sean and 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 7:30pm was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Sarah Busmire
Administrator

Approved.



Bill Naegeli
Chairman

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting
NRCS Report
August 11, 2022

- 2022 program obligations all completed

- Local Working Group Meeting – Our last long range plan was written 3 years ago, at the last local work group meeting. I think it would be good to have another LWG meeting to revisit long-term priorities and allow us time to write any new TIPs we would like to pursue. Discussed with ESCCD and September is looking pretty full.....maybe October would work?
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts, high tunnel contracts, CSP contracts, and a few active irrigation contracts
- Working on some conservation technical assistance regarding grazing management plans.
- Working on some conservation technical assistance regarding forest management plans.
- Hoping to begin work on developing new applications for next years contracts.
 - Have people contact me if they are interested in cover crops during their hay renovation years, interested in forestry practices (particularly thinning in areas that support white pine), or interested in high tunnels.
 - No batching date yet but it will likely be October/November, and it would be nice to start doing the field work/planning on these projects prior to winter.

Thank you,
Dillon

Dillon Martini
District Conservationist
Plains Field Office



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District

August 17, 2022

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

Big Sky Watershed Corps Program

See emails to GMCD and LCFWG boards, dated July 19 and August 15, regarding the Big Sky Watershed Corps program. Sarah and Brita are working on proposals for cost-share and an application for hosting a site in 2023, co-hosted by GMCD and LCFWG. These are due on August 29 and September 2, respectively. Voting on GMCD's sponsorship of these proposals is on our August meeting agenda.

WRTAC and TRTAC – August 30 and 31

Sarah could go as one of GMCD's representatives to the CFSA, as this would be a good opportunity for her to meet various stakeholders in the watershed.

Project Updates

Bull River

- Working on funding and site specific plans for further implementation and maintenance in fall of 2022 and 2023-2025.
- Have signed up for one MCC crew which Sarah and Brita will host in mid-October.
- Planning to prepare grant proposals for multiple funders in August 2022 and into the fall.
- We still have almost \$5,000 dedicated funding in our budget for completing maintenance and additional plantings in the fall. Additional resources will be available upon completion of contracting with Kootenai National Forest for Sanders County RAC funds.

Vermilion River:

- Josh Boyd finalized the newest film on the Vermilion River: <https://youtu.be/xOFRvaxBYhU>. It turned out beautifully – check it out and share if you haven't done so already.
- Construction cameras throughout the Sims Meander reach have captured some cool shots of floodwaters on the Vermilion this spring. Josh Boyd has pieced these together into some polished clips for us, also viewable on LCFWG's YouTube channel and website.
- We are working on other education and outreach deliverables. We anticipate making more progress on these tasks in the late summer and early fall.
- Working with the Kootenai National Forest to develop planning and design funds for the next three phases of restoration.

Squaylth-Kwum Creek:

- Irrigation Development Grant to support irrigation diversion upgrades for the Harlow Ranch was awarded, so we are awaiting contracting from the state for that.

- Awarded the contract for this project to Morrison-Maierle and are working with Harlow Ranch to finalize the contract with them.