



Meeting Minutes July 20th, 2022

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire
Terry Hightower	Advisors Present
Mindy Ferrell (Zoom)	Dillon Martini, NRCS
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Andrew Welch, NWE
Associate Supervisors Present	Visitors Present
	Donna and Dave Oelschlagal (Zoom)
	Tom Inman
	Shelly Wrightson

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 May 18th, 2022 Meeting

- A motion to approve June 22nd, 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 June 2022 was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for July 2022 was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion Carried.

Sanders County 4H Donation

- GMCD received a letter in the mail at the end of June asking if we would like to donate to the Sanders County 4H/FFA Fair Awards. In the past we donated \$40.00. How much would we like to donate?
- A motion to donate \$50 to the Sanders County 4H/FFA was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

Bridger Plant Materials Center Donation:

- This center is owned jointly by the Montana Conservation Districts and Wyoming Conservation Districts. It serves as an important on farm research center for both native and crop plants in Montana and Wyoming. They have 2 roofs that need to be replaced. They recommend a \$35.00

donation, but if GMCD donates \$50 or more we will be recognized on their website and publication materials. How much would we like to donate?

- A motion to donate \$100 to the BPMC was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

Northwestern Energy Realtor Workshop

- Mark said that he has only heard back from Bennett Homes and Realty. Not a peep from either Elliott Realty or Realty Northwest in Thompson Falls, or a few other real estate companies he sent emails to. He may try calling Elliott or Realty Northwest, but he also doesn't want to plan the event if people are not going to attend.

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.

Area 5 Pollinator Grant

- Administrator met with Heidi last week about this grant. This will allow a native grass seed cost share program, wildflower plugs, and the continuation of the pollinator program.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report

- Please see attached report.

Montana FWP

- Nothing to report.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

- Please see attached report.
- WRP working in progress, some logging and thinning progress, a few high tunnels and irrigation projects are happening.
- A few larger ranches getting a grazing management plan and some are weedy to determine best way. If you hear of anyone interested in white pine restoration work, please send them to the NRCS office.

Avista Utilities Update

- Arthur sent administrator a report
- Sean said that also the FERC person and showed him large woody debris structures in Graves Creek.
- Sean said that the Cabinet Gorge dam fish passage facility is in the middle of stress test and is working well. A few fish, browns, Mountain Whitefish and Northern Pikeminnow were caught on first run.
- Continue the operation in the coming weeks of the trap. Contact Nate or Shanna with any questions.
- Andrew said that the first week in August is when they will use the Eurasian Watermilfoil harvester.

North Western Energy (NWE) Update

- High water is receding so sealing up the dam after spill. Shoreline monitoring event around reservoir. A few down trees on south shore that ripped out part of the banks.
- Talked about doing the realtor workshop, not good feedback yet.
- Power Park is moving along on the development of the facility. Changing the design and separating a bathroom from pavilion.

- 2nd year of study for relicensing focusing on cultural resource inventories for the reservoir. Access request forms were sent to all of the landowners. Other studies related to tagged fish are occurring as well.

Public Education

- Nothing to report.

Supervisor Education

- Nothing to report.

New Business

- Administrator said that GMCD did received the admin grant from DNRC, which helps to cover operating costs.
- Administrator mentioned the Sanders County Forest Fest which will be happening on September 17th.

Old Business

- Nothing to report.

Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance

- Nothing to report

310 Activities

SW-13-22 Kowalski

- Bill said not up to us for 404 permitting. He may need other permits and a 404.
- Jason and Sean want a site visit.
- Bill this is a decision on the location change, we have already sent out the permit and approved it.
- Bill said this isn't a new application, it is just a modification.
- Does Northern Lights have to be there?
- A motion to approve the modification to SW 13-22 Kowalski 310 by the movement of the location of the stream crossing and pending the results of a site visit was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.
- Administrator will schedule site visit with Jason and Sean.

Sw-31C-20 Graves Creek

- Administrator spoke with Michele Swing today about the violation. She is ok with us going to the property and removing the diversion. She does want pictures of before and after the removal of the diversion. We have a good phone number and email address for her as well.
- Sean said to table this to schedule a visit by Jason and Sean at a later date.

SW-11-22 Schneiter

- A motion to approve the application as complete was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Terry said there is erosion right where the stairway there is erosion elevated stairway that the top of the site to the landing/platform would be best. Roadway has some erosion on it as well.
- Arthur is in support of building a floating staircase
- A motion to approve the application with the installation of a raised or floating stairs was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

SW-17-22 Inman

- A motion to accept it as a complete application was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- The discussion included that the site is mellow and that it should be a low impact project.
- A motion to approve SW-17-22 as submitted was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

SW-18-22 Oelschlegal

- A motion to accept SW-18-22 as a complete application was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Discussion about the stairs with the screw anchors if they will be dug into the bank or floating above the bank.
- Bill said that Gene designs are suspended above the bank.
- Mindy would like a site visit before approval.
- Bill read off Jason's statement on the application and that FWP waives the site visit.
- Sean did not think it needed a site visit.
- Sean recommend a minimal removal of any vegetation.
- The applicant will check with Gene about the stairs.
- A motion to approve SW-18-22 with the staircase to be elevated above existing bank profile versus embedded staircase was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy. Motion Carried.

A motion to adjourn at 7:22pm was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Sarah Busmire
Administrator

Approved.



Bill Naegeli
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
July 20, 2022

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

Big Sky Watershed Corps Program

See email to GMCD and LCFWG boards, dated July 19, regarding the Big Sky Watershed Corps program. While I'm not able to attend the July meeting in person, I hope to pull together a proposal for cost-share and hosting a site in 2023, sponsored by GMCD. These are due on August 29 and September 2, respectively. Please add discussing and voting on this opportunity to your August meeting agenda.

Project Updates

Pollinator Program

- Completed final report for the 2021 Pollinator Program grant sponsored by GMCD.
- Compiled all notes from plots over the last year and shared with Sarah and Emily.
- Sarah and Emily will continue working on the program under the 2022 Pollinator Grant sponsored by Eastern Sanders Conservation District.

Bull River

- Finished monitoring all properties, and are now working to gather notes, observations, and conversations with landowners into site specific plans for further implementation and maintenance in fall of 2022 and 2023-2025.
- 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, which Brita will work on distributing soon.

- Sarah and Brita have started brainstorming and planning to split up tasks and start working on other education and outreach deliverables. We anticipate making more progress on these tasks during the summer, as we don't have any more lingering spring fieldwork.

Squaylth-Kwum Creek:

- Irrigation Development Grant to support irrigation diversion upgrades for the Harlow Ranch was awarded, so we are awaiting contracting for that.
- Held pre-bid tour and received three bids. We hope to award a contract this week, and complete contracting as soon as our Irrigation Development Contract is finalized.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting

NRCS Report

July 18, 2022

- Almost done with all obligations for this year
- 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. Maybe in August?
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts, high tunnel contracts, CSP contracts, and a few active irrigation contracts
- Beginning work on some conservation technical assistance regarding grazing management plans.
- Hoping to begin work on developing new applications for next years contracts.

Thank you,
Dillon

Dillon Martini
District Conservationist
Plains Field Office