



## Meeting Minutes September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

<b>Supervisors Present</b>	<b>Employees Present</b>
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire
Terry Hightower	<b>Advisors Present</b>
Mindy Ferrell	
<b>Associate Supervisors Present</b>	<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 From August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting

- A motion to approve August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 August 2022 was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for September 2022 was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.

#### Administrator's Report:

##### **NRCS Local Working Group Meeting**

- Administrator will talk with Dillon.

##### **Area 5 Meeting**

- A motion to pay \$20 a piece to go to the area 5 meeting as well as mileage was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.

##### **Agricultural Day in Plains**

- Administrator asked if anyone would be interested in helping out at this event. Also, mentioned that this could be an event that we participate more in next year.

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

- DNRC Project Grant to support Big Sky Watershed Corps Member and ongoing Bull River Revegetation efforts
  - A motion to apply for the DNRC Project Grant to support the BSWC member and ongoing revegetation efforts in the Bull River was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.
- DNRC Reclamation and Development Planning Grant to support Vermilion River Restoration and Project Effectiveness Monitoring
  - Mindy wants to know about the liability insurance, who is falls on in the project? Is that the contractor, LCFWG or GMCD?
  - Administrator will ask Brita for clarification.
  - A motion to apply for the DNRC Reclamation and Development Planning Grant to support Vermilion River Restoration and Project Effectiveness Monitoring was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.
- Letter of Support for the Bull River Revegetation from GMCD to the LCFWG.
  - A motion to write a letter of support for the Bull River Revegetation for the LCFWG was made by Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.

### **Montana FWP**

- Nothing to report.

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

- Please see attached report.

### **Avista Utilities Update**

- Arthur would like to schedule site visit for Steven's property.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Public Education**

- Mindy will get 8 walkie talkies for WF to maintain communication between stations.
- Bill said for administrator to call Thompson Falls ambulance and let them know that we are having the event.
- Mindy said for Emily to give all presenters her cell phone number to cover for emergencies.

### **Supervisor Education**

- Nothing to report.

### **New Business**

- Mindy said that the Water Festival is on Tuesday and the area 5 meeting is on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- All agreed that the 17<sup>th</sup> would be best for the GMCD for NRCS meeting.
- Administrator will schedule a site visit with Stevens for their 310 application. It will be scheduled between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Leave Stevens 310 on the agenda for next month.

### **Old Business**

- Bill said only three people using the no till drill.
- Administrator asked if there would be other good equipment to purchase for people to use? Bill said a smaller Brillion seeder might be good to purchase.

- Administrator said she is going to contact snow plow person to see if they will do another contract for this winter. The board said to try to get same person as the gas station and the local store.

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

- Nothing to report

### **310 Activities**

#### **SW-22C-22 Mosher**

- Bill said it is on Miller property and will need to get ahold of them to start from there.
- Mosher said that the rocks have been built up and now the cut branches are in the creek as well.
- Bill will check out the complaint and we will follow up from there.
- Bill suggested we get ahold of Jason to go together or get the game warden to go.
- Bill will follow up with the Millers and will follow up with the administrator.

#### **Sw-17-22 Inman**

- A motion to consider SW-17-22 Inamn as a completed and closed 310 application was made by Mindy, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.

#### **SW-14-22 Avista EWM Mechanical Harvester Pilot Project**

- A motion to consider SW-14-22 Avista EWM Mechanical Harvester Pilot Project as a completed and closed 310 application was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

#### **SW-03-22 Wakefield**

- A motion to consider SW-03-22 Wakefield as a completed and closed 310 application was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

#### **SW-02-22 Osborne**

- A motion to consider SW-02-22 Osborne as a completed and closed 310 application was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

#### **SW-13-22 Kowalski**

- A motion to table and keep on the agenda SW-13-22 Kowalski so that administrator can ask the applicant about seeding the project site was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Administrator will check with Kowalski about the seeding and inform the board at next months meeting.

#### **SW-31C-20 Graves Creek**

- Mindy said that GMCD appreciates the continued monitoring by Avista and MTFWP during their survey times and would appreciate them having a report back to us.
- A motion to consider SW-31C-20 Graves Creek as a completed and closed 310 application was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.
- Administrator will contact the trustee with the information.

A motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

*Sarah Busmire*

Sarah Busmire  
Administrator

Approved.

*William D Naegeli*

Bill Naegeli  
Chairman



LOWER CLARK FORK  
WATERSHED GROUP

Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District  
September 21, 2022

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

Please see numbered items below. I have requests for 3 motions from the GMCD board.

### **Big Sky Watershed Corps Program**

Cost-share proposal for \$6,000 was awarded to GMCD.

Brita and Sarah prepared another proposal for DNRC Conservation District Project Funds (formerly called HB223 funds) to support the rest of the host site fee, Sarah's time, an internship with Project ASCENT and other expenses related to hosting a Big Sky Watershed Corps member as well as implementing Bull River revegetation projects.

- (1) Please see draft proposal and consider a motion for GMCD to sponsor this funding request on behalf of this joint LCFWG/GMCD project (to support a Big Sky Watershed Corps member and implement Bull River revegetation efforts).

### **Project Updates**

#### Bull River

- Have continued working on funding and site specific plans for further implementation and maintenance in fall of 2022 and 2023-2025.
  - Prepared a draft proposal for DNRC Project funds (see above).
- (2) Plan to prepare a proposal for 319 funds to support ongoing revegetation efforts in the Bull River. Please review draft letter of support and consider a motion to provide this letter of support for LCFWG's fundraising efforts this fall.
- Have signed up for two MCC crew which Sarah and Brita will host in mid-October, focused predominately on revegetation maintenance tasks.
- 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, which may or may not be done in time for fall planting season.

#### Vermilion River:

- Working with the Kootenai National Forest to develop planning and design funds for the next three phases of restoration and a large project effectiveness monitoring program that we would complete in partnership with the USGS.

(3) Please review draft DNRC Reclamation and Development Program Planning Grant and consider a motion to support on behalf of this joint GMCD, LCFWG, USFS and USGS project.

- Proposed project will be presented in full at the LCFWG's Quarterly Meeting on October 20, 2022.
- Also, Brita and Sarah continue working together to complete education and outreach tasks associated with the Sims Meander grant, funded by the GMCD-sponsored 319 grant.
  - Received an invoice from Josh Boyd for video edited services he provided to prepare timelapse video collected during spring 2022 for distribution.
  - Gave a presentation to the Idaho Master Naturalists on September 16, 2022.

Squaylth-Kwum Creek:

- All contracting is complete and Morrison-Maierle have begun data collection to inform design for irrigation upgrades for Harlow Ranch. A kick-off meeting will hopefully be scheduled in early October.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting  
NRCS Report  
September 15, 2022

- Local Working Group Meeting – Scheduled for afternoon of October 17<sup>th</sup>, time? Place? Potential ideas include Thompson Falls Senior Center or community center, the senior center in Dixon, and the Camas Prairie Gym. Making calls to see availability.
- Beginning work on applications we have received for next year
  - 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.
  - **Batching date is October 28<sup>th</sup>, so all applications must have been received by then for both EQIP and CSP.**
  - **CSP now requires producers to fill out a workbook about their operation as part of their application.**
  - **Do board members feel like they understand NRCS programs or would they like a presentation at the next meeting?**
- Working on document that outlines current NRCS funding opportunities for producers in Sanders County.
- 2022 program obligations all completed
- Helping with Ag Days and Waterfest. Helped ESCCD with their River Clean-up. I will be at the Area 5 meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, I will be at the MACO conference in November.
- 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.
- Processing CSP payments soon.
- Money coming from the infrastructure bill but we still have not heard any details.
- Special funding for nutrient management, but no critical areas identified in Montana. Possibly next year.
- Urban ag push within NRCS
- If any of you know Austin Allen (Soil Con from our Ronan office), he has taken a new position as the District Conservationist for the Philipsburg office.

Thank you,  
Dillon

Dillon Martini  
District Conservationist  
Plains Field Office