



Meeting Minutes February 15th, 2023

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli, Chairman	Sarah Busmire
Terry Hightower	Advisors Present
Kristen Wing	Arthur Potts (Zoom)
Mary Reed	Jason Blakney
Nancy Mehaffie	Dillon Martini
Associate Supervisors Present	Andy Welch
Sean Moran (Zoom)	
Mindy Ferrell (Zoom)	
Visitors Present	Visitors Present Cont.
Mark Sheets	Neal Rash
Jim Elliott	Peggy Bates
Rusti Leivestad	Lionel Bates
Stephanie Criswell	Larry Hoffland
Gunner Junge	Dean Johnson
Beth Junge	Nancy Johnson
Keren Rash	

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear.

Introductions

- This meeting will be recorded.

Minutes From January 18th, 2022 Meeting

- A motion to approve January 18 2023 meeting minutes was made by Nancy, 2nd by Kristen. 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 January 2023 and accounts payable for February 2023 was made by, Nancy 2nd by Mary. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

Mark Sheets (2 urban supervisors)

- Mark said MCA says we must, appoint 2 supervisors. Letter of Interest, resume, rating form the council, resident address; have to have at least one within city limits and one outside city limits.

They also need email, and mailing addresses, why they want to be appointed, and represent the best interest of the city why it is important to protect our water resources, resume 1 page, listing experience working on or with CD board of supervisors, experience working on conservation projects, experience working with conservation groups and FERC renewals. City council will make the appointment and will put a few forward who are best qualified and the top folks will be brought up at the next council meeting. Decision made at March council meeting, on the 13th, ad in the ledger towards the end of the month and give people a week to get the info in and another week to review applicants for March 15th GMCD meeting.

- Member of public said it sounds like you need a degree? Is that how this is going to be advertised?
- Mark said you won't always find someone with the experience, so that would be ideal that is why we are asking for that first and foremost. Really want to make sure that they are aware of the FERC licensing, the parks, waterfront properties and people who want to do stuff along the reservoir.
- Nancy asked if this process is similar to hiring a normal person you employ?
- Mark said this isn't as detailed as that, and that we are trying to get the most interest out of this.
- Nancy asked how you are handling diversity?
- Mark said they are not worried about it and they are looking at qualifications of it, no special points given to anyone and they are all on the same footing.
- Kristen asked if he would prefer two people from the city?
- Mark said yes that would be preferred, but we need at least one from inside the city.
- Mary asked why you have the qualifications to apply for this?
- Mark said you have to have some way to judge the way that people are appointed. This is not a paid position.
- Member of public asked the new people voted the board were asking for why aren't they voted in?
- Mark said by law it is appointed by law, and it is not a vote in the state code.
- Member of public asked why this isn't a vote?
- Mark said that it is the city council appointment. Mark said that they are representing in the city.
- Mary thought that none of them have to be in the city limits?
- Member of public said, person decides who and what qualifications are asked for is the mayor?
- Mark said yes. It will be put into paper, open to the public and not hiding everything and allowing an equal opportunity.
- Member of public said because that the city council should be allowed to determine the say of the qualifications.
- Member of public said how did you find out that this is the way that it is?
- Mark said someone brought it to me and I talked with the attorney and now we have to do it since we are aware of it.
- Bill said that there is a law where we have to have two city appointed supervisors and GMCD thought that was an assumption and optional. A lot of other counties have 7 members and since we had such a changeover of the board and our laws were looked at the state, MACD, lawyers have all looked at the law and now we must appoint these people. There wasn't an agenda from the people, and this is a non partisan position about conservation issues, resources and 310 permitting.
- Mary said she is not making it political.
- Bill said that the affiliation has stirred up people at Helena.
- Mary asked who told Helena about this?
- Stephanie said that how we were interpreting it is accurate. There is a difference between the elected supervisors, she just started in this position, and someone got in touch with the person

who ran the bureau but we have all come to the consensus of what Mr. Sheets has come to. There is a best practices paper and Mark did describe the qualifications.

- Mary said she has read the law multiple times and is suspect of why it is enforced and someone has found out in Helena. And she is just trying to wade through this and what is going on? Mary asked how is it legal and now three people are bringing it up to dilute the vote.
- Jason Blakney said there really isn't anything political that we decide here.
- Bill said that Mark must follow the law now.
- Member of public asked why not being able to have a vote of the people in May?
- Bill said that it is unheard of to have three new supervisors and they have to do more trainings and start looking at other things too.
- Member of public asked since there has been not past practice in the past, how are you coming up with the protocol?
- Mark said what is in the best interest to do that and elected how to do that. Decision is made by the council and he looks at what the needs are of the city or the CD and the city.
- Member of the public said who says the protocol?
- Mark said it is nondiscriminatory and as fair as possible and that there is a fair appointment and everyone who wants the opportunity that has to be subjective and then go from there with the top candidates. Local Gov center, MMIA set up the hiring procedure and he has to follow the procedure. Mark said that the planning board just doesn't get that many people to come in and no one does. The CD has a lot of interest and the you have to pick the best qualified candidates.
- Stephanie said that there are 57 other districts in the state, and that's is precedents and the NACD, and the model policy and if there is no policy on record, it will default to model policy to protect the districts from litigation or being out of compliance of the law. Should have been addressed a long time ago, but the bureau must protect the district.
- Hailey mentioned the confusion on how this got brought forward her understanding is that this issue was brought to DNRC by a member of the public of someone who sat in on January meeting and called DNRC to get more information and that is how they found out about it.
- Kristen asked what the guy was concerned about and someone who used to be a supervisors and was wondering why this wasn't a 7 member board?
- Mary was wondering what his concern was?
- Hailey said it's not a concern and it was just confusion.
- Mary mentioned that the district can vote on the qualifications?
- Stephanie that what we do is that we can work on the ARM which has not been done in this case and the law does specify that his has to be a 7 person board and as a bureau and when there is vagueness in the law an there needs to be a protocol then we work with MACD, NACD and the conservation community.
- Mary asked if what he has as an outline is in line with the report?
- Stephanie said that you should forward concerns to the mayor.
- Stephanie said the law doesn't say when you need to appoint urban supervisors there is just one 76.15.303 it doesn't tell you how to go about it. The law says that it has to be appointment and it cannot be a vote. Even though the law its vague, it has to be an appointment.
- Member of public said that is not the law, and he process is not there but the city council.
- Stephanie said that this is a law.
- Member of public said that we are asking to change the law.
- Mark mentioned that an election will cost \$5800 of tax payer money.
- Member of public mentioned who came to the meeting and saw the problem and someone did not mention it to the board and they went to Helena and does feel like it was an open process.
- Stephanie said that it is illegal to have nepotism with CDs, but in rural communities there is an exception. Someone brought forth a law to mirror the exception and that there is stuff that gets

discovered and to get the district back into compliance. Talk to your legislature if you want to fix the law, and this is something that they can come up with.

- Mary said we knew nothing about it, until Bill knew about it and that we didn't discuss this as a board.
- Kristen hoped that you would know why we are upset about it and just said why you are upset about it.
- Bill said that what difference does it make, we are on the board to take care of our conservation resources, issues for public, education, what difference does it make, honest role to find two more supervisors.
- Member of public said there were secret meetings between the mayor and Bill and that they went ahead and found this rule and discussed this without the board.
- Jim asked what the purpose of the political operative of a CD, they used to elect a county surveyor this is not about politics but about preserving our resources and in the county.
- Member of public asked if there are any other laws that are not being followed.
- Bill said he has assumed that they had the option, and he has always known that, but they always thought it was optional.
- Mark said since the late 1990s he has not heard about it but have to do it now.
- Member of public said that other people were being voted on also, why isn't that discussed?
- Bill said that they are appointed for 3 years and it's the governing body of the city which is city council.
- Member of public said that then it would go to 5 and then we just go from there.
- Terry said that we were working with a 4 man board because no one wanted the job. The only reason there were three people on the ballot is because we had the open seat on the ballot.
- Member of public asked if that this is the conservation or preservation.
- Bill said that preservation is like the mansion on the bank with the daylight basement, versus the simple stairway with a nice visual on the stream.
- Member of public said does the state regulate how far down on the shore you can be?
- Jason Blakney said that the 310 law is the streambank and streambed. Minimize erosion and plant native plants, and we don't want to hurt our neighbors property and we are able to keep the resources as best as possible. Avista and NWE own a lot of property on the reservoirs.
- Nancy said that not only the conservation, but answering to our citizens and taxpayers in our county and looking at how we look at spending the funding and it is a very critical part of the mission.
- Kristen said it looks funny and why it didn't happen last year?
- Mary asked why wasn't a special meeting called and before we found out along the way.
- Bill said that the city came up and said it.

Associate Supervisors

- Mary was wondering why and how long we have had them in Sanders and in the December meeting Mindy Ferrell asked to be put on as one.
- Bill said that there are various numbers throughout the year.
- Bill said that a lot of times it is a former supervisor and they still want to stay involved in what we do. Kent Wilby is an example and he schedules the use, cleans it and he enjoys the no till drill management and it is something that he can do for the community. Mindy helps on the water festival and helps to go into the classroom portions before the WF and that is why she wanted to keep on. Sean is just interested in being involved.
- Jason said Jay Stuckey up prospect is helpful.
- Stephanie mentioned the different advisors and the technical advisors in the contact book.
- Mary wants to know how the associate supervisors get there and how to be involved?

- Jason said that they are a glorified member of the public because they have been involved in the past.
- Kristen asked why we don't have a secretary or treasurer.
- Bill said it is because of the administrator.

Grant Contract Extension for District Development Grant

- Administrator explained this
- Bill said that this is for the 310 site permitting process.
- Jason mentioned for consistency sake to be in the field to chat with them as well. Keep us out of hot water.
- Kristen asked how did we get in hot water before?
- Bill explained the Rehm issue and how the site visit form and about the alternative route and didn't specify the alternate route and he wanted to do a bigger trail and basically the owner of this property wanted his ATV trail to the water and got a ruling from the judge.
- Nancy asked about the 310 permit.
- Terry and Bill explained the 310 processes.
- Hailey mentioned the technical assistance grants, the stream permitting book.
- A motion to extend the contract was made by Terry, 2nd by Kristen. Motion carried.
- Mindy mentioned the 310 process and the inspection process after the work has been done.
- Mary was wondering in our meeting with Hailey, you mentioned a \$50,000 grant?
- Bill mentioned the Vermillion project.
- Brita said that after the watershed group hired Sarah, she was going to present it as an option and to the extent of any decision making, see if county would entertain the option of that. The county will but we have to schedule a meeting to meet with the county to discuss what the options would be. If GMCD really wants to sponsor the grant, it's possible, never wanted to take it away and wanted to help support the option of working under the grant
- Mary asked if this grant is through GMCD?
- Brita said we sent it to GMCD in the fall to review and there is a formal motion in the minutes where GMCD made a motion to sponsor the grant application. Brita was concerned about the LCFWG good fortune to hire Sarah wanted to assess options to maintain good dual control and with physical sponsorship and see what the options are and she has reached out to Jorri Dyer and asked if there was an option for another fiscal sponsor and she said that it is appropriate and that the Sanders County commissioners need a formal acceptance of the grant contract from a local government entity.
- Stephanie said that the fiscal sponsor has all of the liabilities.

Annual Plan

- Discuss over email with edits over email.
- A motion to table the discussion for one month on the annual plan was made by Kristen, 2nd by Terry. Motion carried.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Report

- Brita said that Sarah is working for the watershed group 20 hours a week. She is working one day a week now and is in the background helping Sarah and if you have questions you can call either of us.
- See attached report.
- Brita discussed the DEQ 319 grant for the funding for that project to the end of the year and then the next part is the next phases of the Vermillion river to garner funding for the next phase. What approval process is best to follow for purposes of financial management to switch fiscal sponsor?
- Stephanie said that we can put it as an action item on the next agenda.
- Mindy asked if Daniel was able to find housing for him?

- Brita said that Daniel found a room to rent from someone.
- Mindy asked if we can see and hear Daniel?
- Mindy said that house sitting is potentially still available.

Montana FWP

- Jason said that the fishing licenses expire at the end of this month.

NRCS

- Dillon said that there is lots of funding opportunities for forestry projects.
- See attached report.

Avista Utilities Update

- Arthur said that they are hiring several full time and season positions and onboarding them in the coming months and the MC meeting is in Sandpoint in March and that meeting will have the finalized projects for 2023 and if any are 310 type permits they will be in touch with GMCD.

North Western Energy (NWE) Update

- Andy said that the Northwestern is in the relicensing project for Thompson Falls hydroelectric project. Second study season of Thompson Falls relicensing and final study report out in May 2023 and then more meetings and proceedings following that and final application is due end of 2023 for licensing. FERC licensing is 30-50 years and is typically 40 years.
- Bill asked about the individual wanting to remove dead trees in the reservoir?
- Andy said that NWE doesn't support that type of action since trees provide habitat and that he would be more than willing to talk to what he's trying to accomplish with the activity. Andy also talked with him as well.

Public Education

- Mindy said that she would like to set up a date with Sarah and ESCCD and anyone else who is interested for Aril to get squared away for the Water Festival to meet in April. Early April/late March. Presenters organized and the schools before they leave for summer.
- Discussion was had about envirothon host between Mindy, Bill and Stephanie.

Supervisor Education

-

Old Business

-

Building Repair/Grounds Maintenance

-

310 Activities

- SW-01-23 LaPierre
 - Bill said that this is something approved through Avista in prior time, and it is something that we have may permitted and Avista directs them to GMCD.
 - Terry asked how long is a work authorization good for?
 - Arthur said that there is no expiration date in that documentation.

- o A motion was made to approve of SW-01-23 LaPierre was made by Kristen, 2nd by Mary.

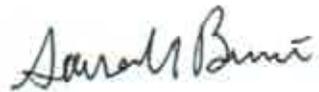
New Business

- ESCCD meeting
- Pull your share
- Katherine shared the Bull River subdivision it may be months before the letters come out and Jason will be getting one also but the bank in the entire stretch of the Bull River is under a conservation easement and is pretty restricted and what can happen in the easement and as we get closer that document is available at the courthouse and she can email that to them. Katherine said that she will ask for comments for subdivisions or floodplain administration and overlapping with permitting.
- Arthur asked about the easement for the Bull River and what is the extent of the easement?
- Katherine said just within that subdivision with the previous land owner and is an NRCS easement.
- Stephanie said thanks for having her today. New to her position and looking at overhauling how the bureau serves districts and evaluating on the ground administration.

Public Comment

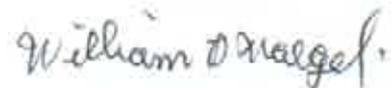
A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm was made by Terry, 2nd by Kristen. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah Busmire
Administrator

Approved.



Bill Naegeli
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
February 15, 2023

Transition plans and LCFWG staffing

Brita is down to only working 1 day a week, which will mostly be Fridays. Sarah is also an employee of LCFWG, and is working 20 hours a week to maintain continuity for our projects.

One aspect of supporting a smooth transition is ensuring that we have documentation and agreements for our projects and jointly funded program of work (also described below). These will be drafted for your review as funding contracts become available.

Big Sky Watershed Corps Program

Cost-share proposal for \$6,000 was awarded to GMCD by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) which already GMCD's first payment of the host site fee which is due as soon as possible. This is a requirement as per GMCD's Host Site MOU with the Montana Conservation Corps.

The DNRC Conservation District (CD) Project funds (formerly called HB223 funds) to support the rest of the host site fee for the Big Sky Watershed Corps program, as well as Sarah's time and a high school internship with Project ASCENT to work in the Bull River, was awarded. We expect a contract should be coming soon.

(1) Sarah and Brita plan to develop a MOU between the GMCD and LCFWG to reflect our mutual commitments in hosting a Big Sky Watershed Corps member over the next year (e.g. LCFWG is providing in-kind match funding, a housing stipend for Daniel, and co-hosting for Daniel which GMCD will need to report as match).

Project Updates

Bull River

- As we prepare for spring planting work in the Bull River, we'll be making sure we have agreements in place for funding contracts and with landowners (as required to meet the requirements of funders and document landowner support and permissions for the

work). These agreements are entirely voluntary for landowners, however required if property owners would like work completed on their property.

- (2) LCFWG does expect to secure funding this spring through Avista's Clark Fork Settlement Agreement to work on maintaining/removing fencing around past plantings. LCFWG/GMCD match contributions for the DNRC CD Project funds will either be documented in one agreement (mentioned above) or in a separate Bull River MOU.

Vermilion River:

- DEQ is preparing an extension for the Sims Meander contract (our last major project on the Vermilion), funded by the GMCD-sponsored 319 grant, which will allow Sarah, Brita, and partners to complete remaining deliverables throughout the coming year.
- 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. GMCD was awarded a DNRC planning grant to support this effort, and should see a contract for that in the next 1-2 months. Given staff changes that leave Sarah as the primary staff person at both the GMCD and LCFWG, we are exploring the option of having Sanders County be the fiscal sponsor for this Vermilion River project.
- The KNF is also pursuing additional funding, and you may see some requests for further GMCD or County grant sponsorship in the future, Sarah will keep you apprised of this.

Squaylth-Kwum Creek:

- We met with Harlow Ranch and Trout Unlimited to discuss this project in the last month and expect an update from Morrison-Maierle, the engineering firm, soon.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting
NRCS Report
January 12, 2023

- Secretary position was flown. Waiting for cert list.
- New sign up for EQIP funds for the Community Agriculture fund pool. Deadline to apply is February 14th.
- Working on redoing our long range plan based on our discussions from the Local Working Group Meeting
- Continued work on applications we have received for next year. Hopefully know which projects are funded by mid March.
 - Ventenata TIP edits were completed. Eventually I will have to present it to our State Leadership Team.
- Dave Wroblewski, District Ranger for the Lolo NF, and myself are working on a Joint Chief's application for funding for forest management in the Thompson Falls area.
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts, high tunnel contracts, CSP contracts, and a few active irrigation contracts.

Thank you,
Dillon

Dillon Martini
District Conservationist
Plains Field Office

Transcribed by Otter ai.

Unknown Speaker 5:01

All right, we've got six o'clock we'll go ahead and get this video started we have gone recorded Yeah. Okay, this meeting is being recorded we have quite a turnout today we're gonna go ahead and just start down our agenda for our minutes so those have been sent off to the supervisors and associates are there any additions or corrections to the minutes if there are no additions or corrections but I have a motion to approve the January 80 minutes I'm still trying to find a second

Unknown Speaker 6:04

I can't go ahead I'll just make a motion. So the what we've been trying to do is sending you know sending out our packet so that you get a chance to look at it when we see any that we can get corrected so we can move through our meeting so we are here to hold it nice. So Frank, call me on set or there's another question.

Unknown Speaker 6:29

I had some questions and and that's really not a part of the minutes that you can go ahead with approving the minutes

Unknown Speaker 6:36

okay, the motion for that she made I made him a vote I'm sorry. I missed any of the second okay, it's been moved and seconded for the approval of January 18 minutes any further discussion? Hearing none all in favor signify by saying hi Shawn No Schultz I'm so

Unknown Speaker 7:02

sorry I'm so used to see him isn't there it was earlier

Unknown Speaker 7:07

I don't mean don't vote right all right I'm back I'm here

Unknown Speaker 7:30

financial report

Unknown Speaker 7:48

one more bill was coming today and that was for the internet

Unknown Speaker 7:53

so that's actually

Unknown Speaker 8:04

keep an eye out for the door

Unknown Speaker 8:20

motion to collateral report suggests

Unknown Speaker 8:42

to be ad special

Unknown Speaker 9:04

Las Vegas you all all woman

Unknown Speaker 9:31

she she's got everything now. I'm still using

Unknown Speaker 9:44

buddies in town

Unknown Speaker 9:54

assays is there's a couple of them that were already So.

Unknown Speaker 11:33

Since some machines

Unknown Speaker 12:00

you once

Unknown Speaker 12:24

that's the seats

Unknown Speaker 12:44

oops

Unknown Speaker 12:59

so

Unknown Speaker 13:07

these worksheets are

Unknown Speaker 13:22

that's contained on the show notes Mark sheets America's ops ops my extension that weren't following gems but seven and that Whippets we need to do is muster we'll do this some retention so with this two supervisors up to the Green Mountain Conservation District on this to be able to get blind applicants who are onto it for two things firing in interest and other residents person that will counsel counsel

Unknown Speaker 14:27

letter of interest or as we need to know named resident address, phone number, email address

Unknown Speaker 14:39

let you know why you want to be appointed

Unknown Speaker 14:42

how you represent best see. Also why is it important to see so that's what we'd be looking for. Also, we'd like to imagine that a resume one day Ah let's say you've had experience working on C span

Unknown Speaker 15:16

since this is one of the things that conservation has

Unknown Speaker 15:21

this past experience working submission loose experience with work cut out

Unknown Speaker 15:39

see

Unknown Speaker 15:51

so

Unknown Speaker 15:56

new changes support

Unknown Speaker 16:16

other experienced staff

Unknown Speaker 16:24

sushi

Unknown Speaker 16:35

and the speaker is spicy so, maybe

Unknown Speaker 16:46

yeah. Hi, can you hear me Sara? This is Shawn, loud and clear. Okay, I

Unknown Speaker 16:54

heard you loud and clear this gentleman I'm sorry, I haven't heard. But like resume from what he's been saying. So thank you.

Unknown Speaker 17:02

Okay, well for resume on here we're looking at a one page. And it will be experience working on are with the Conservation District Board of Supervisors experience working on conservation projects, experience working with conservation groups, experience with FERC hydropower, permit renewals, and any other experiences that the applicant may have that they think is important that we should know about. And then in the letter of interest, it would be of course, we need the name resident address, because we have to have at least one person from within the city limits, and that we can do one person outside of the city limits, of course, phone number, email address of applicable and a mailing address, why you want to be appointed how you'll represent the best interests of the city of Thompson falls? And why is it important to protect our water resources? Those would be things that we'd be looking at, and what kind of rate the applicants off of that. And again, the appointment would be the city council would be the ones making the appointments on it. Exactly, to have them all appoints a couple of folks that they would, or at least put forth a couple points that they think are people that they think are the best qualified, I'll probably put forth who couple folks I think are best qualified. And then we'll work it out that time, the top folks from there, hopefully to get them to the meeting, so that any questions can be answered and everything for the council make a final decision. And the decision will be made at the March council meeting, which is on the 13th of March, and will go in the ledger for this and it will be probably toward the end of this month. Give the people a week to get the information in. And then that will give another week for the council to review applicants and to be able to make their decisions from there, or at least who they think they would like to recommend for that position. Now if we get two people from the in the city, that would be great. But with it, we have to have at least one.

Unknown Speaker 19:24

You open the question. Okay. Sure. I have one question. Sure.

Unknown Speaker 19:28

It sounds to me like you need a degree to do this.

Unknown Speaker 19:32

No, you don't need a degree. Well,

Unknown Speaker 19:35

the way you're putting it out there it's well with

Unknown Speaker 19:39

the one hour

Unknown Speaker 19:41

or well we're this is what ideally we're looking for. It's like any job. You know, you're out there; you're looking for the ideal person. A lot of times you don't find that ideal person. I mean, you may ask them to have, say three years of law enforcement experience. If you can find some Who will apply for your job that has that you're really lucky. Most of the time you end up having to bring somebody in that then you have to send to post to get taken care of, or even for public works. We had a lot of times asked for folks that have both sewer and water, you know, certifications, everything, we can't find that. So again, those are folks that we have to turn around and turn in for training, we're hoping to get somebody who can come in right away the right on to the job and go forward with minimal amount of orientation and everything else from there, especially because of the FERC. relicensing it's important to the city because so much of what happens at that reservoir and with the dam really does have an effect on us, especially for our parks. They have their own private park there, we have sewer project going on, that is dealing a lot with the stream side, the waterfront, and we're getting changes in people that are wanting to do things along the reservoir that we need to be aware of, and keep on top.

Unknown Speaker 21:16

Thank you, Mark.

Unknown Speaker 21:19

Is this process similar to hiring a normal person that you've employed? Are you diverging from that?

Unknown Speaker 21:28

This isn't as detailed as that, again, because, you know, we're looking at with any of our appointments in the city, we tried to put it out there tried to get as much interest as possible. Because without a good grouping of folks applying, you know, you don't get to, you know, choose who do you think would be best to represent the city. On to it, we're trying to keep it as objective as possible. So that onto it, you can look at it and hopefully get the better ball by people that want to take part of it. Because this is like a three year position, you know, could carry on into the future. I'm not going to be there forever. council people aren't going to be there forever, you know, and it's a constant turnover. And hopefully, it's somebody that's interested in there. Maybe from there, they'll move on to become council people or do other things. So

Unknown Speaker 22:22

as an extension of that, how are you handling diversity?

Unknown Speaker 22:27

Diversity? With that we're not worried about we're looking at qualifications at this point. That's open to anybody on to it. There's no special all points are anything given to anybody, everybody's on the same footing.

Unknown Speaker 22:49

Do you prefer to have two people from the city is that your preference,

Unknown Speaker 22:53

it would be the best because again, that would be the best representation for us. But we're looking at qualifications. If we can't find equally qualified folks from there, then it may be somebody outside the city and somebody inside the

Unknown Speaker 23:10

city. Questions. I'm just

Unknown Speaker 23:17

I'm just curious why you've got all these qualifications where we didn't have to have any of those who run for this position.

Unknown Speaker 23:24

Well with it were appointed. So with it, to be able to open it up, you have to have some way to judge the people that are applying, you have to have some way to break it out. So it's not a popularity contest or anything. And I try to keep everything as objective as possible. That's basically

Unknown Speaker 23:42

non aligned with that whoever

Unknown Speaker 23:43

has the most credentials. So

Unknown Speaker 23:46

that's what we're looking at. So is this a paid position? No, no. Volunteer this volunteer position. So the new people that were elected to the board, they were elected to older representation. Right. Why would you not go back to open or asking the voters to approve Snoogle? Well, according to the law, it's appointment by the council. That mess why,

Unknown Speaker 24:18

how long is this involved? And in fact, not all of

Unknown Speaker 24:21

it? It's been in the back for I don't know exactly how long it has been followed essentially because nobody knew about it is brought to the attention with that. Got a follow up.

Unknown Speaker 24:31

Why don't you wait till the election process? It hasn't been Paul and I understand for like 82 years, when our wait till the next election and let the voice of the people pick these.

Unknown Speaker 24:43

But that will be the voice of the people will be the city council because again, they're representing the city. Next city council elections, people can go ahead, put in for that next mayor election Put in for

Unknown Speaker 25:00

that, because we're not in this conference city fault, right?

Unknown Speaker 25:04

That's what we're worried about is representing the city. We're not to worry about when you save one in the city. And one of the caveats, what's allowed by the law, if we can do to folks within the city? Wonderful.

Unknown Speaker 25:18

I believe if you can't find two in the city, you're allowed to take two from the county,

Unknown Speaker 25:23

you know, no one has to be from the city. No, and again, the with the Eastern Sanders County. District. Again, from there, again, you have the two surrounding municipalities, plains and hot springs, they have to work out because it was seven member board. So it might be one from each of one from planes, one of them Hotspurs

Unknown Speaker 25:43

receive a wall?

Unknown Speaker 25:46

That's right. That's right. They're like,

Unknown Speaker 25:48

I can read it if you guys are okay. And from what I understand from the city council meeting, the other night person who decides what qualifications are going to be asked for this, you

Unknown Speaker 26:03

know, and I tried to be, you know, as specific as I could, for the position that's there. And then as a council decision from that, they've already said that she would you got to that

Unknown Speaker 26:17

place? No,

Unknown Speaker 26:18

we don't know, essentially, this will be put into the paper open to the public, just like anything else that we do is totally in the open, and try not to hide anything, and allow everybody an equal opportunity to do one person deciding what qualifications are necessary. And then how and city council should have input into what

Unknown Speaker 26:41

they want for the city. And not just, you know, not just,

Unknown Speaker 26:45

they're going to be making choices, not me. I don't have a voice. I don't have a bolt in any of it. I'm only if there's a tie. But one of the qualifications, I looked at, you know, with the position and what we need to represents. And so yes, I made that decision.

Unknown Speaker 27:05

to frame the process, how you arrive at discovering law that hadn't been called, it's

Unknown Speaker 27:11

only just large my attention, I looked at it went to the city attorney, he looked at it and said, this is, you know, now that we know about it, we have to do something. And again, it's just even like zoning, Thompson falls to not have gone. But the law says you have to have it. So we did it is just after

Unknown Speaker 27:34

we've had three people on board. And now, this isn't the change at all. So the people that are elected or all of a sudden,

Unknown Speaker 27:43

that may have met, I have no idea what the outcome will be.

Unknown Speaker 27:47

Maybe bill could explain to us how the law came about. Can you explain that to us?

Unknown Speaker 27:52

Which one, the one we're implementing knowledge is one of the conservation districts were established, there was there was a law there to include representation from the municipalities in a conservation district. We had gone under the assumption that that was an option after and that law has been in place since the 40s. And a lot of other counties and conservation districts have seven members and it works just fine. Since this year, we had quite a change over on the board to our board was looked at and laws were reviewed. And look, that's what I'm talking about. That's why we've had state we've had MACD we've had other lawyer, conservation lawyer looked at it and and that's where it was pointed out. And that's where he came out to mark that it does now say in their law that you must. Now it's been pointed out to us, they're putting one So from my point of view, it is simply giving to more people, to our board to work with to preserve our natural resources, and to work on doing the 310 permitting so that people can do their docks, and they're stuffed in there. It gives us two more people on here. If there was I'm sorry to say it. If there was not an agenda from some people, this would not be a big deal at all. One of the things that came up first your training step and correct me if I'm wrong, you are not supposed to is a non partisan position, but the non political agenda We are looking at conservation issues where our people, our resources, and what do the 310 permitting

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