



Special Meeting Minutes March 1st 2023, 6pm

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Kristen Wing	Sarah Busmire
Mary Reed	
Nancy Mehaffie	Advisors Present
Associate Supervisors Present	
Visitors Present	Visitors Present Cont.
Gail Hinkle	Keren Rash
Greg Hinkle	Neal Rash
Peggy Bates	Tony Ferguson
Lionel Bates	Mark Bestrom (Zoom)
K & D	Caitlin Overland (Zoom)
Bruce Hunn	Rhonda Cuvillier
Catherine Moore	Loralee Cuvillier
Connie Foust	Frenchy Cuvillier
Gunner Junge	Dan (Zoom)
Beth Junge	Carolyn (Zoom)
Hailey Graf	Carla Butler (Zoom)

- Caitlin and Mark introduced themselves and discussed the letter that was sent out on Monday, the importance of waiting to discuss these agenda items and the issues that could arise by having the meeting.
- The district boundaries were discussed and how those will affect the supervisor who resides in Thompson Falls. DNRC is there to support GMCD, and do not dictate what GMCD can and cannot do.
- Discussion moved to whether or not it is a 5- or 7-person board and how this effects decisions made tonight. Also, the point was brought up about how the agenda acknowledges the fact that 3 is a quorum, but also that there is a 7-member board.
- The donut hole within the district around Thompson Falls was discussed and that DNRC will get back to GMCD by the regularly scheduled March meeting.

Election of Officers:

- Nancy asked for a motion on the election of officers.
- A motion to do the election of officers for the chair, vice chair and treasurer was made by Kristen, 2nd by Mary. Motion carried.
- Nancy asked for any discussion?
- A motion was made by Kristen for the Chair to be Nancy, 2nd by Mary. Motion carried.
- Nancy accepts the nomination.
- Nancy has been proposed as chair, is there any discussion?
- Nancy chair of GMCD. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Kristen to nominate Mary as vice chair, 2nd by Nancy. Motion carried.
- No discussion.
- Mary will be vice chair at GMCD.
- A motion was made by Mary for Kristen to be treasurer, 2nd by Nancy. Motion carried.
- No discussion. Motion carried
- Kristen is the treasurer of GMCD.

Selection of Vacant Supervisor positions:

- Nancy said they were told to not discuss this by DNRC. Asked for discussion. There was none.

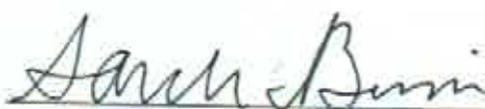
Independent financial audit:

- A motion was made for an independent financial audit because with many of them coming on the board and from here going forward they feel responsible for and want to do an independent professional audit was made by Mary, 2nd by Kristen.
- Discussion was had about the audit, where funds would come from, the cost of an audit and if a grant would be used.
- Public comment was made about the audit and where funding would come from (grant or general funds).
- All those in favor to do an independent financial audit and use district funds. Motion carries.
- Mary asked if we need to have a motion to find someone to look into this and Nancy said we could have a committee and the treasurer could look for people and then present it the district.
- Discussion was had about the documents that DNRC took and if those will be returned and how GMCD will get them back. They will be delivered to GMCD or will be mailed.
- Nancy asked for any other discussion.
- More discussion was had on the district boundaries.
- A motion that if we find out if there is donut hole in Thompson Falls, GMCD will take that into the district boundaries was made by Mary, 2nd by Nancy. Motion carried.
- Discussion was had about the boundaries of Thompson Falls and how the GMCD district boundaries could be adjusted.
- Nancy asked if there are no more comments and thanked everyone for coming.

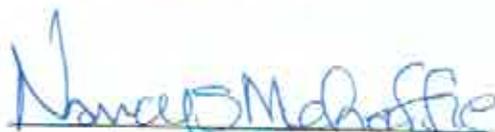
No adjournment motion was made, but meeting ended at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved.



Sarah Busmire
Administrator



Nancy Mehaffie
Chairman

Green Mountain Conservation District Special Meeting

Audio Transcription - 1 March 2023.

Note: *Transcribed by Otter ai on 11 March and corrected by Nancy Mehaffie on 11 March 2023. Some sections of the transcription are garbled and hard to transcribe. Otter first identifies the speaker as unknown and the name following is Nancy Mehaffie's identification by personal voice recognition. Please review the original zoom Audio file for clarification on any section.*

Unknown Speaker 0:13 Supervisor Nancy Mehaffie - Since it is 6:00 I'd like to start the meeting. And just for motion, I think we should have a motion as to who should be chair so the Board can (muffled) start. The Normal Chair is not here and nor the Vice Chair. So, Chatter Mary made a motion to make Nancy Mehaffie the Chair for this meeting. Muffled Kristen seconded it. All voted yay and there were no nays. So, the decision was to make me the Chair for this meeting since the other chairs are not here. And ah, So, we will start the meeting. We will go right to the agenda.

Unknown Speaker 0:51 CD Secretary Sarah Busmire I do know that Caitlin Overland and Mark Bostrom are on the Zoom, or they might want to introduce themselves and chat a little bit too. Okay.

Supervisor Nancy Mehaffie: Ok, that's good. Ok

Unknown Speaker 1:03 Attorney Caitlin Overland Hi Everyone, Umm I can't quite, I know there quite a number of people in the room. And I assume that there are at least 3 supervisors in there and other folks as well. My name is Caitlin Overland and I am a attorney works for representing Conservation Districts around the State. I've represented ah Green Mountain on before on other issues in the past and I'll continue to do so at the Board's pleasure, if you would like me to do so. Um I did I want to bring one thing to issue to your attention before you commence with your meeting tonight.

Unknown Speaker 1:14 Attorney Caitlin Overland My name is Caitlin Overland and I'm a attorney that works representing conservation districts around the state. I've represented Green Mountain before on other issues in the past and I will continue to do so at the board's pleasure if you would like me to do so. I di want to bring one issue to your attention before you commence with your meeting tonight. I sent you a letter via email that I know Sarah disseminated on Monday. I know that some of you have read it because I got some feedback from you. Just kind of basically advising you to not change the composition of your board pending a due diligence review by the DNRC regarding how many members are on your board, whether it's five or seven, there's a lot of historical information to sift through to come to that decision. I wanted to make one amendment to that advice. I It came to my attention this afternoon that one of your recently elected supervisors may not reside in the district because she lives in Thompson Falls. And this is just a pre-emptive comment because I haven't I don't know what the actual underlying information is. But if she does not reside in the district boundaries, then she is not able to serve as a elected supervisor. And the reason I bring that to your attention before you commence your meeting, is because if someone is not able to serve as an elected supervisor, and you want to take action as a board, you can't have her vote. She can't participate in any action you take, may be nullified later if it's determined that she did in fact is not qualified to be a supervisor.

Unknown Speaker 3:09 Attorney Caitlin Overland I wanted to bring that to your attention before you started. That's why I asked Sarah to Let me chime in briefly, but I can give you advice as your attorney I can't tell you what to do. I can't give you orders. My advice to you would be to wait until the DNRC has concluded. Its due diligence review of all of this historical information. And now with this new information about one of the supervisors potentially being out of district that will change the calculus too as to who's supposed to be on this board. So I'm happy to answer any questions if anyone has them. I know Mr. Bostrom from the DNRC is also on the phone. He

may be able to fill in from their perspective as well. So I just wanted to make that comment before you commence your meeting.

Unknown Speaker 4:01 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom Yeah, hello, everyone. Can you hear me? Well? Yeah, this is Mark Bostrom on the bureau based Resource Development Division at DNRC. You know, I think one of the things and Caitlin mentioned this is we are doing a review of the district looking record of this supervisors that have served in the past we've made it in our intelligence review, we've made it through the 70s to early 71 or so. Looking at this breaking up to take the thing off this better?

Nancy Mehaffie - a little bit more.

Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom - Yeah, can you hear me well now? Yeah, sounds better. Okay. All right. Had a waterproof cover on my screen here. So not sure which parts you heard, but Mark Bostrom, Administrator of conservation Resource Development Division. We are looking through the historical administrative record for conservation for Green Mountain Green Mountain Conservation District and that includes, you know, looking at the district boundaries. There is annexation incorporation into the city of Thompson falls and where those do and do not lie within the district. Looking back to the historical record minutes of previous district meetings going back into the 70s. I think we've we've got record that goes back to 1971.

And I have staff that are looking at that we may have to go over the Historical Society and grab some other records that may have been cycled over to the historical society as well. But we're working through that as quickly as we can. And we would hope to have our due diligence review completed prior to the next general meeting, so that we could present our findings. And when we get those I actually did speak with our chief legal counsel at DNRC. When we complete our review, we'd like to have that presented to the Conservation District Attorney Caitlin overland for concurrence of what we found, then then that information can be presented to you guys at your next general meeting.

Unknown Speaker 6:57 Supervisor Nancy Mehaffie Clarification question for one of you. Are you saying the incorporated part of our district is excluded from the district?

Unknown Speaker 7:11 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom You know, the district boundary has probably changed slower than the incorporation of the city. We do see some areas that in some recent maps that have been uncovered, and that's that's where this question came up of the resonance that's out there. Is it Haley lane or Haley way or something like that? We see at least on our maps that that district boundary intersects the property and that's where one of the elected supervisors resides. So that brings up a question, I guess that Caitlin identified earlier of whether that's in or out of the District line, due diligence,

Unknown Speaker 7:54 Supervisor Mary Reed So I have a question. And some of the records I came down here went through from the 70s and 80s. I found a few places where some of the supervisors' addresses were Thompson Falls, so I'm curious why.

Unknown Speaker 8:09 CD Specialist Hailey Graf So I think I can help explain that. What happens is at the time time, CD is first created, the boundaries of Thompson Falls would have been much smaller, and as Thompson Falls has grown, there are areas that have become incorporated and annexed into Thompson Falls that we know are within the CD boundary. And so it creates this donut of area where Thompson Falls has expanded that is definitely within the CD boundary. It's that doughnut hole that's like they were making 1945 a little rough on the date but I think it's 1945 Thompson Falls city boundary, you have your that we can see that is what we're trying to find out. That is why we were going back through all the historic records.

Unknown Speaker 9:03 Supervisor Mary Reed Well, Like I said, I've seen a few places where there was Thompson Falls addresses so that tells me that the supervisors were once to Thompson Falls so I don't see why that should be an issue now.

Unknown Speaker 9:17 CD Specialist Hailey Graf I think that would be a question for legal counsel. But then Caitlin, you can you can fill in here but I believe the law states that carte blanche, any CD's supervisor elected to a board must reside within the jurisdiction of the CD.

Unknown Speaker 9:36 Supervisor Mary Reed Why didn't they say that when she was running for the office? finds that and instead of wishing I can't answer that.

Unknown Speaker 9:47 Supervisor Mary Reed Other thing I'd like to ask. When you come down and did our training the other day? I asked you I said we as a conservation district in Trout Creek. Are we under the DNRC? And you said no, that you help them funneling money to us. Is that correct?

Unknown Speaker 10:05 CD Specialist Hailey Graf

Sort of and again, Mark, I don't know if you've heard that question or not, but you can jump in here. So it's, it's a supportive relationship where when conservation districts were founded, they were housed within the agency of DNRC. And so DNRC is the conservation districts bureau. Our role is to support conservation districts or technical support, legal support, all these avenues.

Supervisor Mary Reed Look at what Caitlin said in the email and she just stated there that she's here if we want her as support that she did not say that we are obligated to listen to everything she says about the district, right?

CD Specialist Hailey Graf Correct. She is statewide, she has conservation districts legal counsel. Just like legal counsel in any regard and stay with DNRC we cannot force you to make certain decisions. We are here to guide and support to provide counsel.

Supervisor Mary Reed Okay, so Caitlin, if I could ask you why is it an issue now? If there's an elected from the county person here that's in Thompson falls versus over the years and then people from Thompson Falls.

Attorney Caitlin Overland So the statute that is governing all of this controversy that's going on right now, I'll give you the statute number if you want it, it's 76.15.311. And that's in the Montana Code Annotated.

And subsection five of that says that an elected supervisor must reside within the boundaries of the district, and what the DNRC? And there's been a lot of folks doing research, so probably not just the DNRC. But individuals in the community trying to get to the bottom of this. The boundaries of the district may not actually include Thompson Falls. So if a supervisor is living in that area, that is not within the boundaries of the district, then the law says they cannot be an elected supervisor. Now, a lot of this controversy has come to light since the election occurred. So I can't explain, you know, why this wasn't something that anybody fact checked when the election was occurring. But since it's been brought to the attention now it could potentially be an issue to have a supervisor that's not within the boundaries of the district.

Unknown Speaker 12:42 Supervisor Mary Reed Conservation Districts, and Hailey, let's hear from Helena. Neither one of y'all have a map available that has the Conservation District. There's no Map. We can look at it tonight and see can you pull that up on your computer?

Area Specialist Hailey Graf There's a variety of maps online, since this has become has caustic we are trying to go back in the historical ordinances that describe the legal bounds and you cannot at this time know we're trying to validate,

Supervisor Mary Reed Right what I'm trying to validate, validate what we have to so I'd like to see it before we continue on with the meeting.

Attorney Caitlin Overland And that's what that's what the DNRC is trying to do is do their due diligence of pulling all these all these records. and I've previously served as a county attorney and I've spent more hours than I'd like to admit to sifting through county records. It takes a long time and it's not it's not like a Google maps that you can

easily pull up you've got to like Hailey indicated. You've got to pull up metes and bounds and legal descriptions and it's, it's unfortunately, not as simple as we would hope it would be. But that's that's what the DNRC is attempting to do right now in this in this research effort in the next couple of weeks. Is to get a definite boundary for you.

Supervisor Mary Reed To make clear here, you're telling me the doughnut hole in Thompson Falls. That if she lives in at hole she might not be in the district. Is that what you're telling me?

Attorney Caitlin Overland That's the issue.

Unknown Speaker 14:17 Supervisor Mary Reed Thompson Falls that does not. Why would a Conservation District leave out a little section out of Thompson Falls? That makes absolutely no sense to me.

Unknown Speaker 14:28 CD Specialist Hailey Graf That would have been I've seen another other counties is that when the conservation district was originally founded in the 1940s, that municipality would have at that time opted not to be within a jurisdiction it would have been. I understand things, it likely would not have been a decision that the CD made it would have been the city. But like I said, that's the piece that we're trying to verify. We don't know.

Supervisor Mary Reed Let me let me explain this to you all you might or might not be aware of the city and I looked through years, years and years of the city minutes from their meeting and I come across in the 80s I come across a motion from the mayor to do away with some of the records from 78. And prior that these were election records, citations. I don't know there's four or five things and someone's second it question. How are we ever going to get back what was in and what was out street there's actually one home which is years. Garbled

Unknown Speaker 15:45 CD Specialist Hailey Graf I can't answer that.

Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom Well, that's a that's a really difficult question to answer if the records are no longer existing. I know that the state has the records and information management policy that's heard policy. It's a law that's required to be followed under the Secretary of State and so we have records of, you know, board decisions and things like that and we retain a number of those for a number of years. But then we have a retention schedule that's required by the Secretary of State and we offer those records up to the Montana Historical Society who either opts to retain them or not. But as I indicated earlier, you know, we do have records of minutes that go back quite far. But we're not the ones that that watch out for the boundaries of cities, that that's a different, you know, if an annexation occurs and it, you know, extends out into the district there has to be an action on both the city and the districts part to exclude that, if that's the case. So we see this across the state. The state's grown a lot since, you know, particularly the 40s but, you know, more recently in the 70s and 80s and beyond. That many of these cities have gone and expanded and extended out into the district boundary. And there hasn't been an official action of either the city or the district to exclude those new areas that have been so I mean, it's entirely possible and it was mentioned before that, you know, someone with a Thompson Falls address could lie within the district.

Unknown Speaker 17:32 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom But we need to search that out and figure out through metes and bounds what exactly is in and what is actually is actually out before we really take all these actions. I looked at the agenda that you have and you've got, you've got on there, appointment of new supervisors and you know if we have a kind of a hanging chad or question of do we potentially have a supervisor on the board that's that's not allowed to be a supervisor because there are a resident of Thompson Falls, I think we want to make sure that we're not making an action that that would have to be undone later. And decisions made at a meeting that would have to be undone later because of this question is hanging out there. It could fall in one way or the other. And I think I think Caitlin's advice is solid and that is not to make any broad sweeping actions, particularly in a special meeting like this one. Did you did you look at quorum today I mean, you've got three people. They're three supervisors.

Several Speakers -Yeah, supervisors, three supervisors.

Unknown Speaker 18:42 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom So you know, the later in the agenda, you also have appointment of supervisors, which would indicate that you're readily acknowledging that this is a seven member board.

Unknown Speaker 18:55 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom So if you're if you're making that acknowledgement that this is a separate seven member board that quorum number is four.

Unknown Speaker 19:10 Garbled several speakers

it's not even it's crazy. That's a stretch.

Unknown Speaker 19:17 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom I don't know. I'll pose that on, Caitlin. If if, if this has been at seven member board, and was officially recognized as a seven member board with quorum be four or three, or just the people showing up.

Unknown Speaker

People showing up?

Unknown Speaker 19:38 Attorney Caitlin Overland Well, I mean, we're talking in hypotheticals at this point, because, as I as the advice I gave earlier this week about you know, we're trying to they're trying to figure out a five person board or a seven person board. If you're a seven person board quorums four, if you're a five person board, quorum is three.

Unknown Speaker 19:55 Attorney Caitlin Overland But at this point, we just don't know the answer those questions. And I think it's it is better to exercise caution for another couple of weeks. To let all his due diligence ferret out and get a recommendation on you know how your Board is composed. And then then take action because if you do something as Mark, as Mark indicated, if you take action now as a board, it can potentially be nullified later. If it turns out that your board is not composed as a five member board.

Unknown Speaker 20:29 Attorney Caitlin Overland I think I don't see that there. I mean, I don't know all the exact agenda item plans that you had for this evening, but I think patience and waiting just a little bit longer may serve your interests as a board to legally protect the decisions that you make.

Supervisor Mary Reed Well, we were going by your advice in the email, go ahead and look at the board at this time as if it was a five member board.

Bruce Hunn and maintain status quo. Your quote.

Supervisor Mary Reed And maintain status quo and have been a meeting tonight, and also as I explained, to Bill too when I asked about the special meeting. The next meeting, I'm going to be in Florida. Visiting my brother lives out in the sticks they don't have internet. I'll probably have 15 - 20 miles to find service. I'm not sure if I'll be able to join the meeting. To him while we want to go ahead and hold the Special Meeting.

Garbled lost signal

Unknown Speaker 21:27 Attorney Caitlin Overland I guess the only the only comment I would I'm sorry you broke up just a little bit there. I think someone doesn't have their phone on mute if you could do that that would help us out.

Unknown Speaker 21:40 Attorney Caitlin Overland The the issue. I guess the change from my letter on Monday to today is that I didn't realize before this afternoon that one of your members, supervisors may not reside within the within the district. And that adds a new wrinkle to me, I guess, giving you the advice that I think it's better to wait

until that part of this controversy is sorted out. Because if you've only got three supervisors there, and one of them may or may not be able to vote lawfully on your board.

Unknown Speaker 22:15 Attorney Caitlin Overland Again, it puts any decision you make as this three person quorum it puts it at risk if they're not able to serve on the board. So that's the change from Monday. That's new information that I got today. That's why the information is changing. So that's that's the explanation for that.

Garbled Speech

Unknown Speaker 22:44 Bruce Hunn The decision was provided that this person may or may not. That election is over and done.

Unknown Speaker 23:00 Bruce Hunn In a post hoc change to this smacks me as illegal in the area.

Unknown Speaker 23:07 Peggy Bates While I'm I'm confused at the last meeting, it was said as they found that rule that they had to get two people from Thompson Falls.

Unknown Speaker 23:19 Peggy Bates from the Fall selected by the Thompson Falls city council, and then after night, we're going we can't have any now your may not be legal because you're from Thompson Falls.

CD Specialist Hailey Graf Can I explain that.

Lorilee Cuvillier No there is no explanation for that.

I mean, and I explained them that no, there's no. It's a bureaucratic runaround

Unknown Speaker 23:38 one around me I guess right.

Unknown Speaker 23:45 CD Specialist Hailey Graf May I explain that. May I try.

Lorilee Cuvillier - No. You can speak.

CD Specialist Hailey Graf - So if there is a single municipality, wholly CD the boundary like I talked about, sometimes you have that doughnut or an annex part of the city is in but the original part is not. If it if the whole thing is within a CD boundary, then the law states that they must have seven member board with two of the members being appointed by the city.

Unknown Speaker 24:15 CD Specialist Hailey Graf Not the case. By the city. They're appointed by the city council. However, that's not the case. And there are no incorporated municipalities only within the city boundary than they are a five person person board with elected officials. Now there's the other law that Caitlin mentioned. Layered on top of that, that in order to legally be elected to the CD, you have to reside within that CD jurisdiction. And so that would be the same if he resided in another county. They couldn't legally be on that ballot. So if that's the case, then it's been it's an error. Is all. It's not any it's not a new rule or anything. That is what is in Statute.

Garbled

Unknown Speaker 25:12 Supervisor Mary Reed I'm sorry.

Unknown Speaker - That's just relation.

Supervisor Mary Reed - That's that's just how it is.

Unknown Speaker 25:20 Did you have something?

Greg Hinkle Yes.

to 2012. ~~Senator Greg Hinkle~~ For the record, I am a Senator Greg Hinkle, State Senate from 2008

Unknown Speaker 25:39 Senator Greg Hinkle And I've been going over the MCA with the concerning in the district.

Unknown Speaker 25:45 Senator Greg Hinkle And the question I have right from the get go this person that resides in the city of Thompson Falls was duly elected by the citizens of this county. I would like to know how the DNRC or anyone else can nullify an election by the people.

Unknown Speaker 26:10 Senator Greg Hinkle I would like to see a distinct statute in the MCA where you have the authorization to do that. I think you're gonna have to go to the legislature legislature to get that figured out.

Unknown Speaker 26:22 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom Senator Hinkle, Former Senator Hinkle I think it's not a question here of overturning election you know that the person standing for election should have been certified by the county clerk before they were listed on the ballot I don't know what the registration looks like for running for office. I have not run for office and how you certify that you are qualified to stand for election I guess is a matter that the county clerk would certify before they would be listed on the ballot.

Unknown Speaker 27:03 Senator Greg Hinkle My response to that would be Article Three, Section no Article Nine, paragraph three of the Montana Constitution, or the oath of office states are no tests will be given another test is a qualification. When you when you sign up, to be registered to run for any office. You do not have already graduated from what your experience is.

Unknown Speaker 27:31 Senator Greg Hinkle Once you're certified where you live, all you do is you go down and you file and that's it. There's no test. So consequently, I would question whether some of these things you're bringing up that they would have to do to be certified. But notice that kind of a test just for your residents and so on. I mean, just it's a bigger issue that you're going to deal with here. And I can see the handwriting on the wall if there's any attempt to nullify the election of this individual that's going to end up in a courtroom and I'm sure you don't want to go there.

Unknown Speaker 28:10 Senator Greg Hinkle But anyway, just read parts of 76.15. 311 it does say down in B where there are two or more municipalities, that are completely within the boundaries of the district. The two appointed supervisors shall represent all the municipalities and urban interests of the district. A municipality may not have more than one appointed supervisor residing in that municipality.

Unknown Speaker 28:51 Senator Greg Hinkle So there is one, what the difference is between appointed and elected the legislative bodies, of the incorporated is municipalities within the district shall agree on a person's appointed to serve as the appointed supervisor.

Unknown Speaker 29:10 Senator Greg Hinkle And it goes on in other parts of the MCA where these people have to agree on whoever is the appointment is that goes on down ends section five that says an elected supervisor must reside within the boundaries of the district. And that's what these people here have done. They have elected a supervisor that does live within, the boundaries of the district. You can't nullify it, that's an election by the people. I mean.

Unknown Speaker 29:43 Senator Greg Hinkle This country is deteriorating faster than I thought. If we're going to have agencies, state agencies or local governments or whatever, nullified and election by the people. We don't want to go there. To me that's antithetical to everything that this country stands for

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

Part 2

Unknown Speaker 0:09 Senator Greg Hinkle I would just recommend the selection of supervisors was taken off this agenda where I understand it but there was a couple other things you have election of officers and independent financial audit around here and I think those are necessary and should be done as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 0:36 thank you for your input.

Unknown Speaker 0:49 Lorilee Cuvillier Who's contesting this?

Unknown Speaker 0:53 CD Specialist Hailey Graf No one specifically.

Unknown Speaker 0:54 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom We're not contesting anything we want to we want to check the boundaries of the district. And we want to see if one of the supervisors resides in Thompson Falls proper, which is not in the district. It's not wholly within the district. And that's the point that Hailey was making.

Unknown Speaker 1:17 Gerald Cuvillier Your three officials, you have a quorum right now.

Unknown Speaker 1:23 Gerald Cuvillier Make your choice. Draw your own boundaries, you get your elected and to do that they are unable to come up with boundaries. Are you drawing your own boundaries to get Thompson Falls out of it if you have to.

Unknown Speaker 1:44 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Anyone else?

Unknown Speaker 1:47 Bruce Hunn Yeah, I got a comment or two Bruce Hunn 's the name. We reviewed, I reviewed the MCA in great detail regarding conservation districts. The way I read this is that there's a couple of simple principles to follow. And I could cite them if I have the time, but that is when a Conservation District is formed, it must have five members by law. Okay. At some point after that, the municipality, the petition to increase that to seven members. That's a law we have found, for example, then 1973 there were seven members of this board. Okay, that existed, and that included two appointees, those appointees constitute the balance of the seven. What this means is, is that there was a seven member board at any time in the past. This group is supposed to be operating under a seven member board which includes representation by the cities. Now the reality is, is sometime after 73 and we reviewed all the records since then, this has been a six member board, then a five member board, and last year it was a four member board. Now if it was a four member board, then what is the legality of every action this board took in the last year when they had the four supervisors explain that to me. In Simple English, and don't talk about donuts. Tell me how the actions this board have been illegal for the last year with four supervisors. I look for a simple explanation for that.

Unknown Speaker 3:34 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom Caitlin Do you want to do that or

Attorney Caitlin Overland - so I'm, I apologize since I'm upfront on Zoom, I can't really tell. There's public comment going on and their supervisors speaking so I'm not going to offer a legal opinion to just a public comment. I've made my recommendation to the three supervisors. That's my function as your legal adviser. As I said before, you don't have to take my advice. I recommend that you not take any action tonight until this is all sorted out. As the gentleman that just spoke indicated, there has been a lot of change. And a lot of issues that have come up over the past six decades for this district. And that I'm just reiterating. That's why I think it would be more appropriate for you to wait a couple of weeks until all of this information is sussed out and reviewed before you proceed with any kind of action. So I'm going to leave my comments at that.

Unknown Speaker 4:34 Bruce Hunn Point to debate in that what was the legality of this board for the last year with four members? And we don't look for an answer today. That should be part of the inquiry. But this idea that we're going to readjust the boundaries of the city based on some historic district, when at no time in the past has

anyone ever questioned the boundaries of a city and were considered legal residents and elected to office from quote, Thompson Falls and we have reviewed the records there have been numerous people elected from Thompson Falls. I don't see where you're going with this donut hole theory. Typically boundaries for our metes and bounds that is correct. And typically boundaries are linear functions that go down such and such a street, for such a distance and things like that. I have never in my life heard of a donut and as applied to the districting of any political district. I mean, it makes gerrymandering look silly. So I'm just saying this is a public comment. The supervisors have not said one word about five member versus seven member.

Unknown Speaker 5:43 Attorney Caitlin Overland Regarding the phrase donut, I have to chime in because I live in Flathead County and for the past 20 years, there's been a planning and zoning issue with the city of Whitefish and they refer to it as a donut. So it is actually a legal term that is used when you're talking about political boundaries, but it's possible that it is in Thompson Falls.

Garbled Speaking

Unknown Speaker 6:23 Supervisor Mary Reed Have a donut conservation district because I have right here from when I come to look through some of the records. Jim actually 1974 there were there was one guy elected for three years. There was two guys appointed and one of them was from Thompson Falls. And then there was four more that was holdovers. That was a seven man board. Sorry, I think well there was a lady but what I'm saying is I have multiple times here that I found in the records where we had members or not, supervisors. There's this board whose addresses and Thompson so I guess we just narrow it down to a doughnut hole. Is that what we're doing?

Unknown Speaker 7:17 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom That's, you know, it's entirely possible that someone could have a Thompson Falls address and reside in the district because of the annexations that have occurred through the years.

Unknown Speaker 7:28 Bruce Hunn Let me interject one more point. And that is reviewing all the records here, including meeting minutes, annual reports, election records, and every single detail that we can find on this district indicates for probably the last 30 years and that's an estimate. This district has functioned as a five member board and it was construed as a seven member board in 1973, for which we have proof. My question is, why weren't seven members seated on this board for 30 years? And the second question is goes back to the first How can this be a valid board when by law, it has to have five members and it had four last year? I know they're rhetorical questions. I'm not looking for an answer.

Lorilee Cuvillier – Would All their decisions be nullified?

Unknown Speaker 8:18 Yes

Unknown Speaker 8:19 Bruce Hunn Well, I don't see how under MCA you can have a valid board when the MCA clearly says you have to have five members minimum and if it is reorganize seven. So take that for what it's worth. Like someone else said there's bigger issues here. Much bigger issues than the boundaries within the city limits.

Unknown Speaker 8:42 Supervisor Mary Reed Totally And like a donut hole in the City of Thompson Falls. I'm just saying.

Bruce Hunn Than the boundaries within the City Limits.

Tony Ferguson Is this a sleazy backdoor way to Nullify these ladies? That is all it is.

Supervisor Mary Reed. Yes. There's for some reason since we got voted in by the people. All the laws are boiling up everything coming to the top and I'd like to know why. It's like I told Mark way the other day when I talked to him. I said I feel like there is a political agenda for these three ladies. We have not brought any politics into anything. And then Bill Naegeli confirmed it the next meeting we had when he said I'm sorry. It had to do a politics that not

his exact words and my affiliation. And I don't see why that we should have all these laws and doughnut holes and stuff now boiling to the top. There is something going on that we will go further. Be assured.

Keren Rash - Yeah, you guys were elected by the people. You have a quorum and they have not been able to find this one in a month or so and how long and how many attorneys or whatever has been looking for it. Like they're just waiting to find it. I think you need to do your job. That's what we were like, Yes, that's what you were elected to do by the people. And if they come up with something that's legit, then that then we'll deal with that then but right now, there's a meeting you're a quorum you've been elected. It's official. That's my opinion.

Lorilee Cuvillier - Don't buy the bureaucrats.

Unknown Speaker 10:17 Keren Rash if they find something they can deal with it later.

Unknown Speaker 10:20 Keren Rash Do your job well

Unknown Speaker 10:26 Bruce Hunn It's clearly in 76.15.312 section Four a vacancy occurring must be filled by appointment by the remaining supervisors until the next election. The intent of the law is that the supervisors have the authority to appoint the other two supervisors or, for that matter, the other four supervisors, okay, and it's a temporary appointment until an official election can occur. And I don't see how any of this is nullifying that MCA section

Unknown Speaker 11:08 Chair Nancy Mehaffie well, somebody want to make a motion

Unknown Speaker - I'd make when

Unknown Speaker 11:22 Supervisor Kristen Wing I make a motion to do the election of officers to elect the chair the vice chair and a treasurer.

Supervisor Mary Reed seconds the motion.

Unknown Speaker 11:35 Chair Nancy Mehaffie

So a motion has been made to continue with the election of officers the chair vice chair and treasurer.

Unknown Speaker 11:46 Chair Nancy Mehaffie

So Is There any discussion about that between Supervisors. We will take a vote. The vote is to decide to go ahead with the election of officers for the chair and vice chair and treasurer. All in favor say aye. Aye. Those opposed. Okay. It has been approved by the supervisors that we will go ahead with the election of officers for chair vice chair and treasurer. So we would like a motion for the chair position.

Supervisor Kristen Wing -I'll make a motion to for the chair to do Nancy for the Chair. Okay,

Supervisor Kristen Wing do you except it?

Supervisor Mary Reed She accepts.

Chair Nancy Mehaffie Okay, so, Nancy Mehaffie just posed as chair. And is there any discussion about that? Okay, all those in favor for making me the chair of the Green Mountain Conservation District say aye. All ayes Those opposed? No nays, Motion carries that I have been elected as chair of the Green Mountain Conservation District. Now we'll move to Vice Chair. Are there any nominations for vice chair?

Supervisor Kristen Wing - I like to make a motion to nominate Mary as vice chair.

Chair Nancy Mehaffie - and I second that? Is there discussion? All those in favor of making Mary vice chair please say aye. Aye. Those opposed a motion no nays. The motion was carried that Mary will be elected as vice chair for the Green Mountain Conservation District. Next position is treasurer and a nomination for treasurer.

Supervisor Mary Reed - I make motion to nominate Kristen Wing as Treasurer.

Chair Nancy Mehaffie I second that motion. Any discussion? Those in favor of making Kristen the treasurer say aye. Aye. Aye. Any people voting nay to that? No nays. Okay That motion carries it Kristen becomes the treasurer of the Green Mountain Conservation District

Okay that finishes that line item next. The next agenda item is a selection of vacant supervisor positions and we were told not to do that. So is there any discussion about that or? Okay, so we've run past that. So the next item is an independent financial audit Is there a motion for that.

Unknown Speaker 14:57 Supervisor Mary Reed I'll make a motion that we do independent financial audit. Halley brought this up in our training the other day. It's good to do audits every so often. And me just coming on to the board I'd really like to have an audit done because you know from here, moving forward, whatever monies are there, I feel kind of forced. So I make a motion that we do an independent professional audit.

Chair Nancy Mehaffie Okay.

Unknown Speaker 15:23 Supervisor Kristen Wing seconded the motion to do a financial audit.

I'll second.

Chair Nancy Mehaffie Okay. Further discussion? I, Okay.

Unknown Speaker 15:30 CD Specialist Halley Graf Just a point from what I've heard from other CDs is the audits can sometimes be quite expensive. So that might be something that if you look at the budget and you can't afford it at this point in time, you could do that in your if you choose to do a conservation district administrative request to the state that would be allowable.

Unknown Speaker 15:51 Supervisor Kristen Wing Okay, and administrative.

Unknown Speaker 15:53 CD Specialist Hailey Graf We call it the CDA grants, conservation district administrative grants

Unknown Speaker 16:01 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Can we apply before we go out and look for an auditor?

Unknown Speaker 16:05 CD Specialist Hailey Graf Those Those are annual it's that legislative funding that we just that the DNRC disseminates. So those applications are currently open close May 1 and they're doing the monies dispersed at the end of the fiscal year once the state has the budget from the legislature. So you wouldn't actually receive that funding until summertime.

Unknown Speaker 16:25 Supervisor Mary Reed Okay, do we have to use a grant do that?

Unknown Speaker 16:27 Supervisor Mary Reed or no, just use your own money let you know that can be expensive, so

Unknown Speaker 16:34 Supervisor Mary Reed I think they're around \$10,000 If I'm correct, can be there. You know, they can go up that high but hopefully cheaper than that I hope.

Unknown Speaker 16:45 Supervisor Mary Reed So I don't know if we finished the motion on that.

Unknown Speaker 16:49 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Discussion, any other discussion? I

Unknown Speaker 16:54 Supervisor Mary Reed would like to see us use some of the funds that were district had already and not wait on the grant process. So they don't make the motion to do that.

Unknown Speaker 17:03 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Oh, we're already into a motion. Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker 17:07 Supervisor Kristen Wing Can I ask a question? Yeah. So if we apply for that grant, can we still use our own money and then apply for the grant and reimburse ourselves?

CD Specialist Halley Graf - No, we you can't pay for any expenses until you're under contract. But you could get a little creative and look at your budget and potentially there's something you are going to pay for later that you would apply for grant funding with pay for the audit now and kind of make that change

Unknown Speaker 17:37 Tony Ferguson and proceed with this audit. I will pledge \$500. You right, good.

Unknown Speaker 17:47 Supervisor Mary Reed I was just thinking whenever the district has

Unknown Speaker 17:53 Supervisor Mary Reed I don't know why we can't do that. We're advised audits. I rarely go ahead since we're just a moment that way, possibly for a year to get grant money from their last deal. And y'all tell me how you feel about

Unknown Speaker 18:08 Chair Nancy Mehaffie I think we should proceed because we're brand new into position and we need to know

Unknown Speaker 18:13 Supervisor Mary Reed exactly. I don't want any past thing coming over. To where I'm responsible as well as saying so I would say the sooner the better. Just use some of the funds from the district that we have.

Unknown Speaker 18:27 Bruce Hunn But folks that did not hear that. Mr. Ferguson pledged a \$500 amount of money from his own personal expenses to help with this. And I just want to make that a matter of record. He spoke up and I'm not sure everybody heard me. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 18:45 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Okay, all those in favor to proceed with a motion to do an independent financial audit. And use district funds say aye. Aye. Those opposed? No nays That passes the district will do an independent financial audit.

Unknown Speaker 19:09 Supervisor Mary Reed We need to then a Motion think in depth about how we're going to do that.

Unknown Speaker 19:13 Chair Nancy Mehaffie We could have a committee of the treasurer could look at recommendations and then provide it to the whole panel. The whole district and we'll make a decision or a motion.

And a last item is the return of the Green Mountain Conservation District records from the DNRC. At The last meeting and the records were taken for I believe preservation and digitization. And we're wondering about getting those back.

Unknown Speaker 19:55 CD Specialist Halley Graf I do know that that's currently in the process. The their Helena office getting scanned and they're working with the records retention office and Helena to get those files safely and then they'll be returned to you soon.

Unknown Speaker 20:14 Chair Nancy Mehaffie So they will be delivered to us or do we have to go pick them up?

be expensive so we'll figure out how to get it otherwise.

Unknown Speaker 20:34 Chair Nancy Mehaffie Any other discussion. Okay, that was the sum total of the agenda. Are there any other public comments?

Unknown Speaker 20:46 Bruce Hunn And I think this is important. The current chair of this board, who's not present tonight, or the co chair who was not present tonight. The chair of this board approached the mayor of Thompson Falls. Now this is public knowledge and was in the newspaper suggesting without concurrence with the other board members without a vote and without discussion, took it upon himself to talk personally with the Mayor of Thompson Falls and the city council to appoint people to this Board. Again, every member of this council has equal rights under the law and no consultation was made and the law is very clear that you have to have consultation and you have to have discussion. And you have to have concurrence before any action is taken by this board on any subject. And yet this Chairman went off on his own and in my opinion, that's an act of either malfeasance or dereliction of duty, and I want that recorded for the record because that is what these supervisors are dealing with right now. Somebody obliquely said we've had issues with this district for 60 years that came from Helena wasn't my quote. That was something I just heard in the meeting. Well, those issues are coming to fruition right now. And I think if this wants to remain in a non legal contestant status, that a lot of hard decisions have to be made about policies in the past violations of MCA in the past, and perhaps ongoing violations of MCA and that's going to take some serious judicial review.

Unknown Speaker 22:29 Supervisor Mary Reed I might add to that. We went to the mayor and the city council it was also wrote up I believe in the paper it was that they were required to have either two from Thompson or at least one had to be in the city limits of Thompson. That's what the mayor stood right here and told us and then

Bruce Hunn just as a side-Unknown Speaker 22:49 Bruce Hunn note, yeah, created requirements. Yeah, long list of requirements, talking about all your experience and all your capability that are associated with this job now in my opinion, set it down to people that have already served on the board. The other issue here is not only is it illegal to have those criteria applied to a volunteer job, whose only criteria are residency in the district, and I believe voting status. So all of a sudden now we have published in the newspaper a criterion for a job that requires no criteria and other things I just mentioned, in the same way that our mayor was not a mayor before he was elected in the same way our sheriff was not a sheriff before he was elected. Now we have criteria published in paper. Sort of my irritation you're, I think you're gonna see there are a lot of people that are just as irritated to design now, because we are seeing wholesale violation of the MCA and provisions of the MCA and it's giving the conservation district a bad name. And that issue needs to be addressed rather than the search for boundaries within Thompson Falls that that's my opinion.

Unknown Speaker 24:10 Gail Hinkle Like maybe you can answer this question. I was wondering why they're talking about seven members would like for 40 years, there's been five or less. And then they were talking about seven members after they elected these people. And I thought, well, what are they talking about? And then there's talking about doing it through the City Council or something that that has nothing to do with the laws. And so I wondered why they went that way. And it just seems wrong to me to be talk they have all this talk about this. And nobody knows why did they want seven now when they didn't? They wanted seven Why did they have seven vacancies whenever people voting Well, I don't understand

Unknown Speaker 24:55 what those are the we know what

Unknown Speaker 24:57 Tony Ferguson To nullify the entryway, that is what it boils down to.

Unknown Speaker 25:03 I just, I just kind of wonder but you know, like you saying the paper and everything understanding and I think they were elected and let them do their job.

Unknown Speaker 25:15 Supervisor Mary Reed But just to have a big loud so they can hear you.

Keren Rash Okay. I'm just kind of curious, if you ladies, because I was here the last meeting and I saw the big box of files that was going to Helena and I'm just kind of curious if you guys had the chance to go through them see what was in there before because this is what a lot of this hinges on, you know their issues and trying to find some issues. So I was just kind of curious if you guys had a chance to look at them before. And maybe that that's kind of been a misstep, because that's your right and obligation to see those records should have been able to first Yes, and now they're, they're there. So, and I'm not saying anyone's doing anything. I'm just saying, I believe everyone you know, usually that's my first instinct. But but because of this whole big issue and it's become a big issue, which shouldn't be it should be a simple, you know, you're elected do your job. But anyway, so I was just kind of curious if you guys got to preview them.

Unknown Speaker 26:20 Keren Rash I think that's an issue.

Unknown Speaker 26:26 Peggy Bates I think it would be important to clarify who the boss of this organization is. There have been some questions as Helena, tell you what to do. Do the electronic telling you what

Unknown Speaker 26:37 Supervisor Mary Reed to do. And I answer that force. Okay, then could you answer that, please? So

Unknown Speaker 26:45 Attorney Caitland Overland Someone asked, Who is the boss of the Green Mountain Conservation District? Is that the question? So you as a board get to make decisions when you have a quorum, but the DNRC I think Hailey mentioned this towards the beginning of your meeting, the DNRC acts to provide support guidance, resources, but they're not your boss. There's five bosses, the five as it is now, putting aside the controversy of five versus seven. There's five bosses, the current supervisors, not one of you is has any more authority than the other four. So you don't really have a boss the the voter who votes you in, chooses you I guess that's ultimately who the who the boss is, but it's it's five. It's a five part equal boss structure.

Unknown Speaker 27:43 Supervisor Mary Reed I would like to

Unknown Speaker 27:45 make a motion here. That if we find out there's a doughnut hole in Thompson bar, that the Conservation District takes that in and smart boundaries, the cover that

Unknown Speaker 28:00 Chair Nancy Mehaffie I second that motion

Vote on Motion was all ayes no nays.

Unknown Speaker 28:07

Unknown Speaker 28:10 CD Specialist Hailey Graf go ahead. There's a very formal and very detailed process for how you go about that laid out in the code. And it's, it's a bit of a long process. I'll just warn you of that, but the information as to what yep, I can certainly pull out the sections of relevant code and send them

Unknown Speaker 28:32 Supervisor Mary Reed to you. When can we look to hear from whoever's looking up the maps, when can we love to hear back from yellow net? Or can you give me a big bet again, if you could just give me a website where I can go find it?

Unknown Speaker 28:47 CD Specialist Hailey Graf My understanding is that the GIS department at the state was having a meeting. Without the information in front of me I want to say it was either this afternoon or tomorrow afternoon and they were gonna get back to us

Tony Ferguson because of the area of Thompson Falls Can that be grandfathered in because of how old it was?

Hailey Graf That area of Thompson Falls?

Tony Ferguson – No that donut hole.

Unknown Speaker 29:11 It was a fun one.

Unknown Speaker 29:14 The circle

Unknown Speaker 29:18 Yeah, like so.

Unknown Speaker 29:22 Supervisor Mary Reed because of the area of Thompson Falls

Maybe that should be my motion. And

Unknown Speaker 29:24 CD Specialist Hailey Graf yeah, it was weird father, and hey, if we if we find that it's not currently in the conservation district jurisdiction, then the law very, has a very formal process for how the city and the CD would go about incorporating that and there's a, an ordinance that has to be signed. There's multiple steps. It's not just a matter of making a motion and grandfathering it in, but the law does provide a mechanism to bring it within the conservation service that I don't know. I do not know that. They could if they wanted to keep

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Unknown Speaker 0:00 Keren Rash I'm Keren Rash. And I'm just kind of curious if you guys had a chance to go through them see what was in there before because this is what a lot of this hinges on, you know, their issues and trying to find some issues. So I was just kind of curious if you guys had a chance to look at them before. And maybe that that's kind of been a misstep because that's your right and obligation to see those records should

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Unknown Speaker 0:28 Keren Rash and now they're, they're there. So, and I'm not saying anyone's doing anything. I'm just saying, I believe everyone you know, usually that's my first instinct. But but because of this whole issue, and it's become a big issue, which shouldn't, it should be a simple you know, you're elected do your job. But anyway, so I was just kind of curious if you guys got to preview them.

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Unknown Speaker 1:15 Attorney Caitlin Overland someone asked, Who is the boss of the Green Mountain Conservation District? Is that the question? So you as a board get to make decisions when you have a quorum, but the DNRC I think, Haley mentioned this, towards the beginning of your meeting, the DNRC acts to provide support guidance, resources, but they're not your boss. There's five bosses, the five as it is now, putting aside the controversy of five versus seven there's five bosses, the current supervisors, not one of you is has any more authority than the other for so you don't really have a boss the the voter who votes you in, chooses you I guess that's ultimately who the who the boss is, but it's it's fine. It's a five part equal boss structure.

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Unknown Speaker 4:35 Supervisor Mary Reed

Let me ask you, Hey, I brought it up about one of the residents not being in the district. Yeah,

Unknown Speaker 4:41 I don't know that either. So you never know. I'm sorry. I didn't know

Unknown Speaker 4:45 Supervisor Mary Reed who brought this up. Now that they're one of the elected supervisors may not be in the district.

Unknown Speaker 4:52 Attorney Caitlin Overland I was. There was an email chain from the DNRC. That included on this afternoon that indicated that one of the supervisors might not be in the district, and I found that out a couple hours ago, I guess it was probably 233 o'clock. So I don't know that. I don't know the origins of it. Yep, that we had had a conversation. So Miss Criswell and Mr. Bostrum and it from the CD bureau. Those folks that had indicated that issue to me but I'm not I'm not sure who brought that up initially.

Unknown Speaker 5:42 Supervisor Mary Reed And you forward those emails on to the supervisors. Sure,

Unknown Speaker 5:48 Bureau Administrator Mark Bostrom and we can get those to probably tomorrow.

Unknown Speaker 6:00 Senator Greg Hinkle So one last comment People already know. Bruce Hunn really nailed it. Let me read, 75. 15 314 removal of a supervisor. The supervisor may be removed by the department and a vacancy created under 76. 15 .312 (2) (d) upon notice and hearing for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason. That's it but to go outside and do this conduct business, for the Green Mountain Conservation District without the knowledge of any other members, the supervisors. That's malfeasance of office. That is what it is. And so that needs to be dealt with. Regardless of all the other issues out there. We live in a nation where all our agencies should have complete transparency go around we can all name different countries around the world. But

that's not done. Look at this. Yes, this is an independent and a free nation, a republic under our Constitution. Everything that our agencies that are wide open for all to see just how much smoother local government would run. State government would run the federal government right. Everything that was out there was open, every single person instead of me again, to go outside. Have the duly elected supervisors of this district and do things without their knowledge is exactly that. It doesn't matter whether it's this issue where we're going out and seeking grant money or going out doing anything that represents this district. Without all this knowledge is a serious issue. The MCA just a standard that totally go by doesn't matter where all opinions. Those are they really don't matter. What's the law, that's what matters is right here. And desperately the district is going to get away from that. Then we got some serious issues.

Unknown Speaker 8:32 Bruce Hunn I mean, a lot more ideas for some again, I can't stop myself sorry. Each one of these supervisors in good faith, I applied for a volunteer job and were elected by the people to that position. The breach of that trust that the people put in these elected officials, in my opinion, is a crime. Okay, now if people want to invent and since these people have conceded, there have been numerous attempts, using every kind of ruse we can imagine, to diminish their power by appointing other people by making excuses about districts by you name it. We've heard so many stories. Just by trying to cancel meetings. Yes, we have two members that aren't here. Okay. We're accepting would attend and then said, No, we're not attending. There's been every kind of contrivance done to diminish the people's vote in these three candidates. And we are really tired of this kind of behavior. We're tired of excuses. We're tired of we're tired of people justifying illegal behavior that happened before these candidates came in to clean up this organization. And I think that's my opinion. I think it's the opinion of a lot of people. We have seen and we have lived here for years, and we have seen how this organization has been run, and in my opinion, and others run into the ground, because of nepotism because of inadequate numbers of votes, because of all kinds of things that have occurred and these three candidates have stepped up to the plate and tried their best to change that pattern. And we are not seeing support from Helena yet on that issue. And we're not going to give this issue up. They're not going to let this just slide under the table under some pretense which seems to show up just before every meeting. That's all I've got to say.

Tony Ferguson. And let me

Unknown Speaker 10:36 Tony Ferguson like Bruce was saying We the people, the voters of this district are watching these proceedings and we want them done in a transparent manner. And if there are some backdoor proceedings to try to get new members that were given a pink slip by us voters, that in the back door you will hear our voice again the next election cycle. We will not go in any way shape, or form.

Unknown Speaker 11:15 Supervisor Mary Reed I guess my question goes

Unknown Speaker 11:16 Supervisor Mary Reed back if our

Unknown Speaker 11:17 Supervisor Mary Reed boss is the people of Sanders County. Why is the DNRC trying to stop us every way we turn we shouldn't go. We are voted in legally by the people. How can the DNRC say oh, there's this there's this there's this No, I don't understand that. Caitlyn, maybe you can answer my question on that.

Unknown Speaker 11:42 Gerald Cuvillier Not only that, you are elected officials. Whether it is the DNRC Forest Service, federal government. You they can sit down and be at the table and you are equals. You are equals to whatever other donor hemorrhage Energy wants to sit down. They don't tell you what to do. We do.

Unknown Speaker 12:06 Supervisor Mary Reed exactly if you're our boss. I mean that's what I've heard two three times the people that voted is Dan is the boss right? So why are we waiting on the DNRC to find out if there's a doughnut hole.

Karen Brown - Any amount of time we just set up for them to get their crap together. To have it together. Before this Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 12:37 Supervisor Kristen Wing Well, you know what's really discouraging to me is real hard to get any work done in this district. But the way everybody is acting, I mean, I gotta say it the fact that it's disgusting. We have been railroaded. Since day one. Yeah. Yeah. And I personally am tired of it and I'm ready to do whatever we got to do to get it figured out.

Unknown Speaker 13:01 Karen Brown We're behind. Well, I don't know what kind of people to have

Unknown Speaker 13:12 Chair Nancy Mehaffie meetings and stuff. So I have no more comments. I'm going to adjourn the meeting. And I thank you all for coming. This is a very vital conversation we had tonight. It helps us very much. And I think it reveals a lot of information to other people that needed to hear some of it.

Unknown Speaker 13:31 Chair Nancy Mehaffie I appreciate you all coming tonight. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 13:34 We appreciate you.

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