



## Meeting Minutes September 20, 2023

<b>Supervisors Present</b>	<b>Employees Present</b>
Nancy Mehaffie-Chair	Morgan Owens
Mary Reed (Zoom)	<b>Advisors Present</b>
Kristen Wing	Dillon Martini (Zoom)
Bill Naegeli	Arthur Potts
	Jason Blakney
<b>Associate Supervisors Present</b>	<b>Visitors Present</b>
Mindy Ferrell	
<b>Visitors Present</b>	

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

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

- This meeting will be recorded.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### MINUTES FROM August 16th, 2023 MEETING

- Approved as submitted- Kristen motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill. Motion carries.

### 310 ACTIVITIES

#### **SW-21-23 Potts/Avista**

- Jason started discussion about material used, where old material is going, amount of foot traffic in the area and how it will improve the site.
- Motion made by Bill to accept as a completed application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.
- Motion made by Bill to approve application as submitted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.

#### **SW-11-23 Zimmerman-Completion**

- Motion made by Kristen to approve and close project as completed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill. Motion carries.

#### **SW-15-23 Clader**

- Nancy asked about history of flood plain and discussion was had about dam control.
- Needs to be noted that excavation projects such as this are on a case-by-case basis on other properties.
- Motion to approve application with modifications as submitted made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.

#### **SW-17-23 Rahi/MRL**

- Bill states that existing infrastructure work will not affect bank structure.
- Motion made to send letter stating that it is out of our jurisdiction due to above point made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy. Motion carries.

### **SW-18/19-23 IIG/Aldous**

- Boring under stream banks will be outside high-water mark.
- Motion to send letter stating that it is out of our jurisdiction if boring is in fact outside high water mark and not affecting the bed or bank, then no permit will be required made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.

### **SW-20-23 Normandin**

- Jason started discussion about the use of rip rap not being effective stabilization and excavation plan needs evaluated with landowner.
- Motion made to accept as a completed application with a site visit made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.

### **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 September 2023 was made by Kristen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill. Motion carries. Mary abstains.
- A motion to pay all accounts payable was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- EMEET camera arrived, just needs to be hooked up.
- New email is set up along with email forwarding from old email to new email.
- Confirmed attendance for area V meeting in Phillipsburg on 9/26.
- Morgan is not planning on doing any grants for current grant cycle is open due to having Area V Pollinator grant, the pollinator initiative grant with Eastern Sanders CD and learning the role in her new position.
- We are looking into bookkeepers to do a financial review and close the books to start fresh with new administrator.
- MACD Conference Nov. 14-16<sup>th</sup> in Billings. Morgan and Bill planning to attend. Mindy made to comment to compare flying versus driving.

### **LOWER CLARK FORK WATERSHED GROUP (LCFWG) REPORT**

- No Report

### **MONTANA FWP**

- Jason reported on the Fish ID activity they are doing for Watershed Festival. He also reported on the westslope cutthroat trout project he has been working on. Kristen asks about what they consider "native" fish species. Jason stated they consider "native" to be species found in Lewis and Clark documentation. Jason goes on to talk about westslope cutthroat and bull trout being our native trout species and described the process of what they are doing to protect the species. He gave us information on why bull trout are harder to protect due to their sensitivity to their living environments.

### **NRCS**

- October 27th is the deadline for putting in applications for our EQIP and CSP programs.  
I did put in a proposal to expand the boundaries of two of our TIPs as well as lengthen them. I added Big Beaver Creek, Little Beaver Creek, and White Pine Creek areas to the White Pine Restoration TIP. I added the Pilgrim Creek drainage to the Roots for Rivers TIP. I extended both TIPs to last through FY27.
- Working through initial site visits on the applications we are getting. Mixture of interest in thinning for white pine, high tunnels, and cover crops.
- Working on Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) on a few properties for plant identification and pasture management recommendations.
- Administering a number of active forestry contracts, high tunnel contracts, and CSP contracts.
- Kristen asked about the White Pine boundary and why it was moved. Nancy asked about why it was extended on one side of the river and not the other. The boundary was moved due to successful growth area zones and interested landowners that wanted to be apart of the project.

## AVISTA UTILITIES UPDATE

- Avista Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 9/20 with a tour for stakeholders on 9/21. Avista has submitted an application for an erosion project at Pilgrim Creek Park to address public safety concerns at the shoreline access and below the fishing platform. We also have sediment sample collection scheduled for 9/19 to test for potential contaminants in the sediment at Flat Iron boat launch. Assuming this material is not hazardous, we are working to schedule dredging operations sometime between October 1 and May 15. The material we are removing will be taken to Avista property located on Graves Creek and placed into a former gravel pit and utilized to assist in revegetation efforts of the pit. The Flat Iron project is a joint effort between Avista and Montana FWP.

## NORTH WESTERN ENERGY (NWE) UPDATE

- Dam draw down scheduled to start October 6<sup>th</sup>. Gradually dropping 16 feet to replace flashboards. Maintenance to be done and water near full again October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Watershed meeting on 9/11 went great. Watershed Festival is ready. Class visits scheduled. Date is October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Motion made to reimburse Mindy for mileage for Watershed Festival activities made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen. Motion carries.
- Ag Days hosted by Wendy Carr is happening at the fairgrounds for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the county on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Morgan and Emily Baker will be doing a pollinator table for the event.

## SUPERVISOR/EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

- Morgan had training with Kay Webb from Employee Organization on 9/11.
- Morgan attending EO area V training and rolling rivers training in Kalispell on 9/22.

## OLD BUSINESS

### BUILDING REPAIR/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- Electrical work is finished and we are now waiting for the invoice.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Motion made to open a First Security credit card account made by Kristen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy. Mindy questions accountability on credit versus debit card/checks being a government entity. Accountability is assured through financial report and signature system.
- Motion amended to open a First Security credit card account with two cards by Kristen. Amendment accepted by Nancy. Motion carries.
- Motion made to set up online banking made by Kristen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill. Motion carries.
- White Pine seedling pre-sales have begun. Dillon will research to see if we want to pursue.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

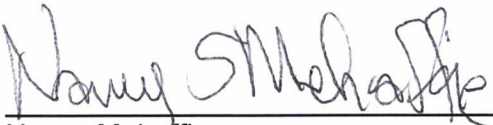
Meeting adjourned at 828 pm.

Respectfully Submitted.



Morgan Owens  
District Administrator

Approved.



Nancy Mehaffie  
Chairman