

# **Green Mountain Conservation District**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **Supervisors Present**

Kent Wilby  
Terry Hightower  
Bill Naegeli

#### **Associate Supervisors Present**

#### **Employees Present**

Leona Gollen

#### **Advisors Present**

Brita Olson  
Ben Montgomery

#### **Visitors Present**

Sean Moran

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

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

#### **Minutes from September 21st, 2016**

- A motion to approve October 16 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion Carried.

#### **Financial Report**

- Leona reviewed the financial report with the board for the last 3 periods.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

#### **Administrator's Report:**

- Sponsorship of WRP 223 Grant.
  - A motion to sponsor the WRP 223 Grant was made by, Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.
- New Supervisor – We are still looking for 1 more Supervisor to fill the empty position. We are also looking for Associate Supervisors.

#### **GMCD Website: ([greenmountaincd.org](http://greenmountaincd.org).)**

- The new website is up and running

#### **LCFWG Coordinator "Watershed Report":**

##### **General**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter LCFWG Meeting and Board meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2017 Budget and Annual plan were approved at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board meeting.
- Sarah Bowman was hired to work part-time during the first half of 2017 as a WRP developer. She will start in early January after the holidays.

##### **Grants/funding**

- Reports: Annual report to DEQ and Annual report to NorthWestern were completed.
- DNRC 223 grant for \$5,500 to increase funding for WRP development has been sent. GMCD agreed to sponsor this proposal.
- LCFWG is investigating the opportunity to be a partner on a proposal to the Trust for Public Lands for Thompson Falls to participate in a facilitated planning effort for public lands and resources, which could be complementary to the development of Watershed Restoration Plans for the area.

##### **Training**

- Brita attended Restoration Project Management class in Portland at the beginning of the month. It was very pertinent to the Coordinator's position, and provided good insight into considerations for planning and projects into the future. For example, sessions included info on various contracting mechanisms or considerations when contractors will be hired for various projects.

## **Projects**

### **Bull River/Dry Creek Sediment Reduction and Riparian Revegetation**

- Annual report to DEQ was completed this month. This is a month earlier than contractually required because of changing EPA deadlines that needed to be met by DEQ. Therefore, it did not capture the entirety of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, but this will be reconciled with the 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report.
- The 2017 Calendar was completed and sent out to all Noxon addresses. Additional calendars are available for pick-up at the Heron community center and the GMCD office.
- The LCFWG has been updated with additional information this month on this project, including a link to download the calendar.
- Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller will be meeting in January to plan out interviews and approaches to the Bull River outreach video.
- Leona, Ruth, Brita and Susan met in January to evaluate where we are at on this project, funding-wise, and make a plan for the remainder of the grant contract.

### **Miners Gulch Restoration**

- Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller will be meeting in January to plan out interviews and approaches to the Miners Gulch outreach video.

### **Graves Creek**

- The Lolo NF included a potential LWD enhancement project in Graves Creek on their 3 to 5 year work plan. They submitted a proposal to Appendix B proposal this year to develop this project, among others.

### **Prospect Creek**

- The Lolo NF has also included a few projects in the Prospect Creek drainage as a part of their 3 to 5 year work plan: Crow Creek Stream Restoration, Upper Spokane Gulch Culverts, BPA powerline vegetation management, and Cooper Gulch powerline remediation. They submitted a proposal to Appendix B this year to develop these projects. As these projects develop, the LCFWG will be involved as appropriate.

### **Thompson River**

- Reporting for NWE was completed and Ryan Kreiner presented information on behalf of the LCFWG to the Thompson Falls TAC.
- LWD enhancement in Fishtrap Creek and improving the density of streamside roads impacting the health of riparian areas in Fishtrap and the mainstem Thompson River are also on the Lolo's five-year workplan, which they will be developing over the next few years.
- LCFWG approved sponsoring the Beartrap culvert removal project to be completed by the Lolo NF in summer 2017
- With Sarah Bowman starting work in January, work on the WRP will commence with more gusto.

### **Outreach mailing (Granite Creek Riparian Road Obliteration/SWCDM Water Quality Mini-Grant)**

- Susan Drumheller finished the final press release need to complete reporting requirements for SWCDM's Water Quality Mini-Grant. Final Report and reimbursement is in the works.

## **Potential projects**

- The USFS is pursuing a large road relocation project in upper Elk Creek.
  - This was discussed at greater length at the LCFWG meeting. See 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes for more details.

## **MT FWP Report**

- No Report

## **NRCS Report:**

- Plains NRCS Field Office has a new District Conservationist
  - Travis Lemke, Soil Conservationist in Missoula has been selected as the new District Conservationist for Sanders County. Travis has been a Soil Conservationist Technician in both Chinook and Lewistown before moving to Missoula in 2012. Travis is both highly motivated and experienced and we are very, very lucky to have him! He will start in mid-February.
  - Ben Montgomery will continue to supervise the Plains and Ronan Field Offices and will spend time in both counties.
- NRCS is busy ranking EQIP Applications for funding in 2017.
- Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference will take place in Missoula on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree Hotel.

**Old Business:**

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**Building Repair Project:**

- Shop Roof Bid
  - We received a bid from Rob Kjos for shop repairs
    - A motion to accept Rob's bid of \$15,900. was made by Kent 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill motion carried.
    - Kent will notify Rob and lock the bid in but the work will not happen until this spring some time.

**No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:**

- The no-till will be ready for spring planting

**New Business:**

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**Subdivision Review:**

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**Time Allowed for comments from the Public not already on the agenda:**

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**310 Activities**

**SW-01-17 Avista Bank Stailization**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion carried.
- FWP wave their participation in the site visit
- A motion to accept the project as submitted was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, Motion Carried.

**SW-02C-17 Noxon Motel Complaint**

- A site visit is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> and Kent, terry & Ryan will attend.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen  
Administrator

Kent Wilby  
Chairman

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Plains Field Office  
7487 Montana Hwy 200  
Plains, Montana 59859  
406.826.3701

10/18/2016

Dear Green Mountain Conservation District Members,

I apologize that I'm unable to attend our meeting tonight as I have other conflicts. I wanted you all to know how much I appreciate the warm welcome that you have provided me. I look forward to continuing to strengthen the long-lasting and constructive partnership between NRCS and your Conservation District. To that end, I wanted to take a moment to put some thoughts down on paper.

First, I wanted you all to know how much I value and appreciate the partnership between the NRCS and your Conservation District. Truly the relationship between the NRCS and Conservation Districts is unique and beneficial and can lead to some unparalleled opportunities for conservation. One of my most important long term visions and goals is to significantly increase the extent of NRCS' working relationship(s) within your service area.

I have only had the opportunity to spend a short time with all of you and within the Green Mountain CD's service area over the past several months. However, in that short time I have been impressed at the exceptional quantity and quality of work with which the CD and our close partners are engaged. I see great opportunity for the NRCS to increase our level of engagement and I am going to see to it that it happens. As you know, the NRCS is currently in the process of hiring a new District Conservationist for the Plains field office. I will still maintain supervisory roles over both the Plains and Ronan field offices and will be heavily involved in both counties. As soon as NRCS is able to fill the Plains position (hopefully with someone in place by late winter), we will immediately set forth a plan to increase our level of support and assistance to your service area. Troy Hidy and I have had several discussions regarding ways in which we can better utilize our resources in Sanders County and I think both of us are excited to start to engage in some new ways.

The NRCS Area Office in Missoula has also welcomed a new supervisor, Mindy Gauthier. Mindy will bring strong leadership with an exceptional background in 'boots on the ground' conservation to the Missoula Area. I have had the pleasure of working with Mindy when she was the District Conservationist in Helena and I am really excited that she's been chosen to lead our area.

As you know, there is an upcoming Soil Health Workshop, to be held in Missoula on Tuesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree hotel. You can sign up online (<http://swcdmi.org/>) or at the door!

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Ben Montgomery  
District Conservationist