

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2017

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Terry Hightower
Bill Naegeli
Howard Bakke

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Brita Olson

Associate Supervisors Present

Jim Carabin

Visitors Present

Sean Moran
Mr. Gingerich

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

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Minutes from January, 2017

- A motion to approve January 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Howard, 2nd by Terry, motion Carried.

Financial Report

- Leona reviewed the financial report with the board for the last periods.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Bill, 2nd by Howard, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- LCFWG & GMCD Master Agreement
 - A motion to accept the master agreement between LCFWG & GMCD was made by, Bill, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.
- Howard Bakke's Possible retirement
 - Howard Bakke last day as Supervisor will be March 31st. 2017
 - We will need to replace Howard as the GMCD representative for the Avista Management Committee, WRTAC & TRTAC committees. Howard will represent GMCD until March 31st.
- Jean asked if she could borrow the awnings in June for a wedding.
 - The Board said it was fine for Jean to use them.
- New Supervisor – We are still looking for 1 more Supervisor to fill the empty position. We are also looking for Associate Supervisors.
 - A motion to appoint Sean Moran as Supervisor was made Kent, 2nd by Bill motion carried.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org.)

- The new website is up and running

LCFWG Coordinator "Watershed Report":

New funding opportunity for WRP updates.

- LCFWG will sponsor this application not GMCD
- A motion to submit a letter of support from GMCD for this application was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

General

- Sarah Bowman began working with us this month. Her hours will be focused on the LCF and T. River WRPs.
- Joe DosSantos resigned from the LCFWG board (effective February 1).

- Leona and Brita completed the transition of Brita taking over QuickBooks early this month. 2016 taxes were paid and income tax information were sent to accountant by Leona. Brita will be processing all payroll, payables and receivables, and taxes starting this month, and will be responsible for bookkeeping into the future.

Grants/funding

- DNRC 223 grant (sponsored by GMCD) for \$5,500 to increase funding for WRP development was submitted GMCD agreed to sponsor this proposal.
- Contemplating submitting a proposal to the Cinnabar Foundation or to the Watershed Management Program (DNRC) for additional funds for the Watershed Restoration Plan.
- Thompson Falls moved to the second stage in applying to be a community that the Trust for Public Lands works with to develop a community plan for public lands and resources. They will have an interview on February 8.

Training

- Brita and Sarah will be attending the MWCC Annual Meeting in February. Education/training and mileage funds from NorthWestern and Thompson River WRP funds from SWCDM will support this trip.
- LCFWG became a member/partner of the MWCC. This cost \$100 which came out of administration funds as Joe suggested that it would be inappropriate to bill this to another organization.

Projects

Bull River/Dry Creek Sediment Reduction and Riparian Revegetation

- Josh Boyd, Susan Drumheller, and Brita met to plan out interviews and approaches to the Bull River outreach video. Shooting and interviews will occur this spring and summer.
- A few updates to the website about the Bull River were also completed.
- Board met to discuss plans for the remainder of the project and use of remaining unallocated funds. Will be meeting with funders to finalize plans in early February.
 1. Our number one priority over the next 1.5 years of our contract with DEQ will be to take care of existing exclosures, maintaining fencing and replanting where it might be necessary.
 2. Our second priority is maintaining other re-vegetation exclosures from past properties (Ross, Crull, Wood Duck) and could include a significant amount of additional plantings and minor experiments with techniques at the Wood Duck property if we get approval.
 3. We could also potentially bolster some of the USFS re-vegetation efforts, though opportunity and need there is up in the air.

Miners Gulch Restoration

- Josh Boyd, Susan Drumheller, and Brita met to plan out interviews and approaches to the Miners Gulch outreach video. Shooting and interviews will occur this spring and summer.

Thompson River

- Sarah began working on the Thompson River WRP with Brita this month.
- Timeline for overall project in 2017 was completed and sent to SWCDM and DEQ for review.
- Rough draft outline of the WRP was developed, to be finalized this month.
- Kick-off meeting with stakeholders was planned for February 16, and preparations for this meeting have begun.
- Sarah also has been reading the TMDL and collecting the information needed from this document for the watershed restoration plan

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

- Final press release was written by Susan Drumheller, with the primary purpose of explaining what watershed restoration planning is to the public and communicating how to get involved. This was paired with the outreach mailing.
- Final reimbursement request and report to SWCDM was completed.

MT FWP Report

- No Report

NRCS Report:

- Travis Lemke, future District Conservationist for Sanders County is currently awaiting further instructions regarding job placement and start dates. The Federal Hiring Freeze has basically shut down hiring and our administrative people are awaiting guidance on how to proceed.
 - For now, assume that Travis won't be actually starting for 2-4 months (my best guess, but it's only a guess).

- 2017 Western MT Grazing and Agriculture Conference was a resounding success.
 - Despite horrendous road conditions, the turnout at the event was mostly unaffected. Approximately 180 attended and the event was well-received.
- NRCS is currently ranking EQIP applications for funding in 2017. The Green Mountain CD's Priority Resource Concern is Forest Health and applications addressing that resource concern will receive highest priority for funding.

Old Business:

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Building Repair Project:

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No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

- The no-till will be ready for spring planting

New Business:

- Terry Hightower participated in the invasive mussel conference call as a representative from GMCD.
 - (Troy/Hwy 56), T. Falls, and Ravalli EUM stations are all part of or tuned into the mussel check stations they talked about in the call. The Idaho check stations are as well including the one in Clark Fork). As far as check stations go, Sanders County seem to be setting very well compared to eastern Montana, which is the high priority area because of the large number of out of state boats that come in to an extremely large area.
 - We do not think we would have a chance for any grant money (this go-around) considering the priorities of the mussel folks...but more grant funds should be available in April/May (if funding passes in the legislature) and in 2018. This round of grants have to be in by March 1.
 - Terry believes we need to look into some mussel education materials to post with EUM info. Several conservation districts requested mussel info to enclose in their 310 dock/ramp permits. They have a draft education "package" on the invasive mussel danger and will be sending it out.
 - Other highlights: The Mussel group is in the rapid response phase; check station priorities are Hardin, Culbertson, Wibaux and Eureka. Biggest threats are from the Great Lakes and Colorado basin...goal is to stop at Montana borders
 - Talked about how some CD's (eastern MT) are and want to approach this...public education and outreach is first priority
 - Leona will contact the Bass club and ask if they would please insert the flyer in their registration packets.
 - Leona will contact Stephanie about the flyers
 - Leona will look into sending out the 310 flyers again along with the invasive mussel flyer
- Bill reminded us that any emergency work done in a flood plain needed to be reported to the Flood Plain Coordinator within 5 days.

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-02C-17 Noxon Motel Complaint

- There was a site visit on 1/25/17 and Terry, Kent & Ryan were in attendance.
- It was determined at the site visit that there was no visual violation.
- A motion that the activity being completed is not a violation defined by District Rules was made by Bill, 2nd by Howard, motion carried.

SW-03-17 Gingerich Culvert

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried.
- A site visit will be scheduled after the snow melts.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm was made by Howard, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

Approved.

Kent Wilby
Chairman