

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2017

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Terry Hightower
Bill Naegeli
Sean Moran

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Ryan Kreiner
Katherine Maudrone

Associate Supervisors Present

Jean Dunn

Visitors Present

Darryl Gingerich	Rupert Nason
Susan LaMont	Michael Baxter
Jodi Nason	Mindy Ferrell
Susan LaMont	Kent Johnson
Leann Johnson	

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

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

Minutes from April, 2017

- A motion to approve April 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Bill, 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 Sean, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- 310 Flyers & Mussel Flyers
 - The 310/Flood Plain flyers with the mussel invasive flyer insert was printed and mailed to every door in Thompson Falls, Trout Creek, Noxon, and Heron.
 - It was brought out that we have already seen an increase in 310 applications from previous years so we are hoping that this has brought some awareness to the law and procedures.
 - Sanders County Flood Plain Administrator has donated \$934.50 to this outreach project. We still have not received an answer from FWP if they will be donating anything.
- Good Paper Shredder for the office
 - Leona researched the cost of different paper shredders and there was quite a range in price and size. The one that was suggested was the Fellowes Powershred and the cost is 209.88
 - A motion to purchase the Fellowes Powershred for \$209.88 was made by Sean, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- Social Security 218 Form
 - Leona informed the Board of what exactly is the 218 agreement and that it was required by law to offer a retirement plan to all employees. GMCD has always paid in Social Security and has not had a different retirement plan.
 - A motion to enter into an agreement with the Federal Government and adopt the 218 agreement as GMCD's retirement plan was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.
- Bank Paperwork
 - We need to make some changes to GMCD's checking account information.
 - A motion was made to remove Jay Stuckey, and Howard Bakke from the GMCD checking account and add Sean Moran as a signer was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- Annual Convention:

- It was brought out that there is going to be an annual convention after all this year. It will be in Bozeman on November 14-16.
- GMCD is not sure if anyone will attend this year. We will keep this on the agenda for further discussion.
- Mindy Ferrell
 - The Board was very delighted with Mindy's interest in becoming an Associate Supervisor and believes that she will be a great asset to the GMCD Board.
 - She brings knowledge of invasive milfoil education, she is an educator and her Masters is in outdoor education. She has wildlife biology experience.
 - She would like to attend site visits when possible to get familiar with the process.
 - A motion to appoint Mindy Ferrell as an Associate Supervisor was made by Terry, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- Bill will be gone for the meeting in June

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org.)

- The new website is up and running

Coordinator "Watershed Report":

Training on Watershed Restoration Planning

- In April, Sarah and I attended a training in Missoula on Watershed Restoration Planning put on by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council. This was really beneficial and gave us ideas for use on both the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan and the eventual update to the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration plan.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan

- The LCFWG plans to work towards updating the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan in 2017 and 2018. Sarah will begin doing some preliminary work on this over the summer and fall, and in the winter Sarah and Brita will kick off more deliberate planning and engagement work.

Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan

- The Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan continues to develop well. In April, Sarah and Brita sent out a draft of Sections 1-4 (of 7 total) out to the stakeholder working group, as well as plans for outreach within the drainage. Sarah will continue drafting further sections and soliciting input over the summer.

Bull River/Dry Creek Sediment Reduction and Riparian Revegetation Project

- Bull River - Brita visited all the exclosures this spring, and most are doing well though there are a few that will need to be fixed when Watershed Consulting comes out to plant. They are planning on sending a crew late May or early June, depending on runoff, to complete planting in all of the exclosures. Brita is also in communication with a few additional landowners who have expressed interest in re-vegetation on their properties. Josh Boyd has also started working on a video about this project.
- Dry Creek - We hope to complete this project in the fall, but this depends on an Environmental Assessment being completed and released with a draft decision by June 1 and the draft decision to complete the project being upheld through the objection and objection resolution periods of the NEPA process.

Miners Gulch Stream and Riparian Restoration Project

- We are excited to see how this project fared over last winter. Josh is also working on a video about it and will have a "preview" out sometime this month.

Prospect Creek

- Jason Blakney and Brita will be planting more trees and doing some maintenance on work completed by a Montana Conservation Corps crew in Crow Creek for one day in May

MT FWP Report

- Finished Walleye Sampling catches were low due to high water
- Running fish ladder
- Pit tag readers flooded
- Kids fishing Days are going on

NRCS Report:

- The Federal Hiring Freeze was recently lifted and NRCS began the processes of filling previously advertised vacancies (such as the one in Plain, however, within days of hearing of the lift in the hiring freeze it was learned that the USDA/NRCS needed to submit a staffing plan before action could take place to hire employees. This staffing plan is due in Sept. There are still many unknowns. Thus, we are still in a

holding pattern of sorts which means NRCS still cannot bring on new staff, including the District Conservationist in Plains. Timetable is still (and again) unknown.

- Troy Hidy and Travis Lemke met with some producers in the Green Mtn area who are interested in using cover crops and soil health strategies to renew and improve pastures and cropland. Both Travis and Troy were excited about the work and interest of these producers.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Society of Montana will be hosting a 3-day bus tour to showcase some of the most well-known and successful farmers who are employing soil health and progressive agriculture on their operations. The tour will be in September, 2017 and will tour farms in Bismarck North Dakota, South Dakota and SW Montana. This is one of the best tours that has ever been offered to showcase soil health implementation. They are asking Conservation Districts to sponsor an attendee or two from each of their respective counties. As I understand it the cost is about \$300 for the tour, not counting hotels (3-4 nights) and meals. Troy and Travis were thinking maybe it would be worth discussing the potential to send one of the producers they met with, if both he and the Green Mtn CD were interested? Travis and I will be at the June meeting to discuss the idea with more concrete information once it becomes available.

Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana (SWCDM)

First annual meeting of the Clark Fork / Kootenai Basins Council (CF/K BC) in Missoula (April 19-20, 2017)

- Official formation of the CF/K BC as a “revisioning” of the Clark Fork Task Force
- Formed and elected representatives to the Executive Committee: representation from the Bitterroot, UofM, Trout Unlimited, Irrigators, and others
- Vote to include the Kootenai Basin in this council, although representation from the Kootenai was sparse at this first annual meeting
- Goals: implement the State Water Plan, serve as regional forum to address basin-wide issues and implement projects at the local scale
- Formed working groups to address:
 - Stakeholder engagement, education/outreach, and data interpretation
 - Available data gathering and consolidation
 - System planning and ensuring natural conditions
 - Linking water quality and quantity
- The council is interested in engaging and involving CDs

Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP

- April 26, 2017: Brita and Sarah sent out a draft of sections 1-3 to stakeholder group for review and comment
- Outreach materials are drafted and ready to be sent to landowners in the Thompson River Basin:
 - *Landowner outreach letter* - direct mailing to residents/private landowners in the basin
 - *Postcard* - mailing to serve as a reminder about WRP and link to more info, sending to residents/private landowners and additional stakeholders/organizations
- Online survey available to help gather info from interested stakeholders
- Samantha will handle responses to survey respondents and landowner correspondence and follow-up

Interest in collaboration with landowner for restoration project on Elk Creek?

- Received phone call from Darryl Gingerich regarding interest in doing restoration work on his section of Elk Creek
- Horseshoe bend on the property which is getting narrower and narrower; stream is close to breaking through (about 10-12’); concern that it will speed up Elk Creek
- Have the 310 permit to do 290 feet of restoration work
- Project may not be ideal - Avista not interested as it would benefit non-natives (Elk Creek is full of brown trout), FWP may not be interested due to benefit to non-natives, does not rank well as a priority for LCFWG because there are three projects proposed on Elk Creek already, but Brita may be able to line up an MCC crew to do a planting
- **If there is interest on behalf of the CD in pursuing a restoration project on the Gingerich property, Samantha could work to assist GMCD with further research into funding opportunities and application for a planning grant (we can discuss further at the June meeting)**

Old Business:

- **None**

Building Repair Project:

- The door knob needs to be fixed on the shop. It is on backwards.

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

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New Business:

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Subdivision Review:

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

- SW-23-17 Nason Dock
 - A site visit was scheduled for May 19th, and 10:00 am and Kent, Kenny & Sean will attend.
 - Landowners were at the meeting so they are aware of the site visit.

310 Activities

SW-05-17 Thomas Dock

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made in March
- Mr. Thomas asked that we withdraw the portion of his application that requests the re-construction of a pathway from the fire pit to the dock. If they find that they need it in the future they will submit another 310 application
- A motion to approve the project with the following modification: *The pathway re-construction from the fire pit to the dock is withdrawn from this project and is excluded from this permit* was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

SW-10-17 Northwestern Energy

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made last month
- A motion to approve the project as submitted and issue a permit was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried

SW-11-17 Lamont

- After the site visit and discussion with Mrs. Lamont she sent a revised 310 application for us to consider.
- A motion to accept the revised application as a completed application and approve project as submitted in the revised application was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

SW-15-17 Pardee/Robert Windemaker Dock

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made last month
- A motion to approve the project as submitted and issue a permit was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

SW-16E-17 Refuse Emergency

- Per Bill's request Leona sent a letter along with an emergency 310 action sheet to Mrs. Refuse and requested that she complete it outlining the emergency work that she had completed. To date we have not heard from or received any information from Mrs. Refuse.
- Bill will contact her to get the emergency form completed.
- A site visit is schedule for May 19th with Kent, Ryan & Sean in attendance.
- Kent will contact Mrs. Refuse and inform her of the inspection.

SW-17E-17 Philips 66 Emergency

- A site visit was scheduled for May 19th, and Kent, Ryan, Sean will attend.
- Kent will contact Phillips 66 and inform them of the site visit.

SW-18-17 Ramos Dock

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion carried
- FWP Waived site visit
- The Application was reviewed and a sight visit was scheduled for May 24th at 10:00 am and Kent & Mindy will be in attendance
- Kent will call Mr. Ramos to inform him of the site visit.

- FWP waived the site visit.

SW-19-17 Klucewich Dock

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried
- The Application was reviewed and a sight visit was scheduled for May 24th and Kent & Mindy will be in attendance
- Kent will contact Mr. Klucewich to inform him of the site visit.
- FWP Waived site visit

SW-20-17 Carabin Improvement

- A motion to accept as complete application and approve project as submitted was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, Motion Carried.
- FWP & GMCD representatives are aware of this project and all agree that it needs to be completed.
- FWP Waived site visit.

SW-21-17 Cocchiarella Dock Replacement

- A motion to accept as complete application and approve project as submitted was made by Terry, 2nd by Bill, Motion Carried.
- FWP Waive Site Visit

SW-22-17 Baxter Bank Repair

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried
- The Application was reviewed and a sight visit was scheduled for May 19th and Kent, Ryan & Sean will be in attendance
- Mr. Baxter attended the meeting so is aware of the site visit.

SW-02-16 Cox Extension

- A motion to extend Mr. Cox permit # SW-02-16 to May 17th 2018 was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

Review of Notice of Emergency 310 action form.

- The Board reviewed the notice of emergency procedures per Don McIntyre e-mail. The GMCD Board understands that after a site visit on an emergency project, if they agrees that the emergency work that was done was necessary to protect life and or property and they agree with the methods used, then no additional information or forms are required from the landowner other than the initial Emergency action form.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

Kent Wilby
Chairman

Terry Hightower
Secretary