

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

July 19th 2017

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Terry Hightower
Sean Moran
Bill

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Katherine Maudrone
Travis Lemke
Samantha Tappenbeck
Jason Pignanelli Kevin Duffy

Associate Supervisors Present

Jean Dunn
Jackie Nichols
Nate Hall

Visitors Present

Darryl Gingerich Hal Brintzenhofe
Jim Page Al Stohle
John Schnelle Scott Garr
William Schnelle
Peter Hammond
Rick Robertson

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 June 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean, 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 Terry, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- Annual Convention November 14-16 2017
 - Mindy will be going.
 - Sean & Terry & Bill will also be going
 - Leona will book another room
- 310 Grant Funds
 - Leona informed the Board that we will receive \$1,529.17 for our 2016-2017 310 funds
- We are working on putting together the final inspection schedule and will be discussing it next meeting.
- WF Mini Grant
 - Leona suggested that GMCD put in for a DNRC Mini Grant
 - A motion to submit a DNRC Mini Grant Application in the amount of \$500.00 was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.
- 4H Donation
 - A motion to donate \$40.00 this year to the 4H program was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org.)

- The new website is up and running

Coordinator "Watershed Report":

- Bull River Re-vegetation:
 - Watershed Consulting planted at all properties by late June, later than desired because some properties remained flooded/inaccessible until then.

- Jason when to 6 of 7 properties to check on the plantings. Overall the plantings look okay, though sparse in some areas. Watershed Consulting will be back in the fall to plant larger plants, so the hope is that all of these areas will be filled in. We will be checking with Watershed Consulting to confirm this, see if (due to the late planting) any watering will be necessary, and confirm what the plan is for replanting any mortalities in the spring.
- Brita and Jason will have one crew the first week of October, and two crews the second week of October. These crews will complete maintenance at the Wood Duck and Crull properties, and also complete new re-vegetation efforts at the Wood Duck, and potentially a few other landowner's if a landowner agreement is signed prior to August when the plant order needs to be submitted.
- Dry Creek Sediment Reduction project:
 - Because the Forest Service was not able to complete the NEPA process in time for this season, the project has been delayed 2018. Eric Trum (DEQ) has confirmed that DEQ funds will still be available next summer.
- Videos:
 - Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller have been working together to collect interviews for use in a video about the Bull River re-vegetation project and also Miners Gulch.
- Watershed Restoration Plans:
 - Sarah Bowman continues to make progress drafting the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan, and we look forward to a stakeholder meeting in September to review her work and proposed projects together.
 - In July, Sarah has started doing more background reading and research for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan.

MT FWP Report

- No Report

NRCS Report:

- Travis Lemke was here and will be GMCD's Advisor and attend our monthly meetings.
- NRCS is hosting a road trip, Bus tour to North & South Dakota to look at farm land. The speaker is waiving his fees. If anyone is interested please get a hold of Travis. He will be driving to Billings MT and joining the Bus trip. \$175.00 for the trip. Hotel etc. September 12th – 14th.

Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana (SWCDM)

- See Attached

Old Business:

- Electricity in Shop
 - Kent will get some bids for cost and bring them to next month's meeting

Building Repair Project:

- Nothing to report

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

- No-Till Drill
 - Kent would like to examine the value of the No-Till and the cost to fix it.
 - We will look at this at the end of the season

New Business:

- Raking Around Docks for Milfoil
 - Hall provided background: Due to late runoff and funding challenges, the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) treatment will not be performed this year. To date EWM and other weed treatment has kept weed levels maintained, but still present. Due to its continued presence and ongoing activities that fragment EWM, the previous reluctance to allow for hand raking of EWM has been reevaluated.
 - GMCD is in support of Landowners removing milfoil from around their docks.
 - Avista will inform landowners of specification for removal and will keep GMCD in the loop of milfoil removal endeavors being completed.

Subdivision Review:

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

310 Activities

SW-25-17 Finch

- Application accepted at last month's meeting
- Avista is requiring a survey to be completed before they approve any work on the project. They stated that after the survey the landowner may be required by Avista to move the dock to a different location.
- Due to the possibility that the 310 application might have to be change in the near future according to Avista requirements, GMCD has decided to table this until Avista has made their decision.
- Leona will notify the Landowner of this decision.

SW-26-17 Lot 4A of Lot 4 Mountain Springs Bank Work

- A site visit was conducted to view the area and determine if this bank is indeed in GMCD's jurisdiction.
- Mr Bennett was informed that GMCD does have jurisdiction over the properties located at Mountain Springs and any work considered would require a 310 application be submitted

SW-27-17 Brown

- Application accepted at last month's meeting
- A motion to accept the project with the following modifications; 4 helical anchors will be used to support a 4'X4' deck with step(s) to the anchoring point supported by 2 helical anchors and connection to 4x4' platform of ramp and dock. Was made by Kent, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

SW-28-17 Cox

- Application accepted at last month's meeting
- A motion to approve project as submitted was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

SW-29-17 Leufkens

- The City responded to our letter and asked that we follow through with our 310 process for the project.
- A motion that the application was complete was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.
- A site visit was scheduled for July 26th 10:00 am
- Leona will inform Dennis Schwehr, Mark Sommers and Mark Sheets of the scheduled site visit.

SW-31-17 English-Refuse

- Application accepted at last month's meeting
- A motion to accept the project with the following modification; Change angle of rock armor to follow the angle of the stream using 2 ½ 'or bigger rock, place root wads where shown on attached drawing. Also **DO NOT** remove the 20 ft. of the material outlined in picture #2 was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, motion carried

SW-33V-17 McCully Bank Disturbance Possible Violation

- After a site visit was conducted and a conversation was held with Land Owner it was determined by GMCD Supervisor and FWP that there was no visible work or violation committed.
- The complainant has been notified.

SW-34E-17 Island Park Sub Division

- A motion to accept this as an emergency project was made by Terry, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

SW-35-17Kappahn Bank Stabilization

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.
- A site visit will be July 25th 10:00 am, Kent, Sean, Ryan & Katherine will attend.

SW-36-17 Avista Improve existing structure

- A motion to accept as a completed application and approve the project as submitted with the 10 year maintenance plan was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.
- FWP Waived site visit

SW-37-17 Vermillion Bay HOA

- A motion to accept as a completed application and approve the project as submitted was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

Kent Wilby
Chairman

Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP

- Landowner outreach to residents/private landowners in the Thompson River basin is ongoing
- Information about WRP and link to more info and online survey
- There have been 10 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent - Currently editing sections 1-4

Opportunity to host a Big Sky Watershed Corps member:

- This program places a young professional into a basin to assist with local conservation efforts.
- Projects often relate to watershed research, project planning and implementation, watershed education and outreach, and community engagement.
- Host sites are responsible for a \$10,000 cash cost share to host a BSWC member. There are some financial assistance programs available to support hosts; host partnerships among organizations is an option.
- If there is interest among organizations, I would be happy to coordinate a host partnership and assist the lead organization with the application.
- Deadline to apply is July 28, 2017. Here's a link to the program info from SWCDM: <http://swcdm.org/programs/big-sky-watershed-corps/>

Reminder about additional SWCDM programs:

Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):

- \$65K available for projects
- Pilot from last year spent \$40K on 5 smaller projects - Funding is from EPA, CWA section 319:
- Can only be spent in areas with an accepted WRP (Lower Clark Fork accepted, Thompson River in progress)
- Monitoring component - with permission from landowner, will conduct monitoring over time
- Logistics on the producer side:
- 50% cost share - infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.
- Landowner agreements
- Grazing assistance from certified grazing assistance plan developer - Complementary to NRCS programs:
- Support single practice projects that may not rank well in the EQIP program
- Tentative deadline of August 31st and there will be a review of applications by a committee, then open enrollment after that if \$ are not all allocated
- Contact me (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711)