

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

August 16th 2017

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Terry Hightower
Sean Moran
Bill

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Katherine Maudrone
Travis Lemke
Ryan Kreiner
Jason Pignanelli

Associate Supervisors Present

Jean Dunn
Jackie Nichols
Mindy Ferrell

Visitors Present

Darryl Gingerich
Ronald Kapphahn
Fred Fagen

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

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

Minutes from July 2017

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

Administrator's Report:

- Annual Convention November 14 – 16 Bozeman
 - We have 5 for sure going and there are 3 rooms booked. Sean, Terry, Bill, Mindy & Brita will be attending.
- Area 5 Meeting September 26th
 - Kent, Mindy Sean, Bill, Leona
- NRCS Bus Tour Sept 12th – 14th
 - The bus is full
- Montana Range Tour Lewistown Sept 6th & 7th
 - No one from GMCD will be going
- Final Inspections
 - Not completed working to have list by next month
- WF Mini Grant
 - We received the DNRC mini WF grant in the amount of \$500.00
- Propane Auto Fill
 - A motion to pay in advance for propane auto fill again this year was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- The WF will be held on October 3rd this year and there is a WF committee meeting tomorrow.
 - Ryan has Keys,
 - Ryan will do fishing
 - FWP supplying lunch is in question

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org.)

- The new website is up and running

Coordinator “Watershed Report”:

General

- Staff updates:
 - **Brita:** *Brief trip update – I’ve made it over 3500 miles and am sitting in an ice cream shop in Arcadia, Michigan after coming through the Upper Peninsula and skirting the perimeter of Lake Michigan on the scenic M-22. Tomorrow I’ll say goodbye to the shores of Lake Michigan and head east, expecting to make it to the Atlantic at Bar Harbor, Maine around August 22 (give or take a day or two).*
 - **Sarah:** Sent brief update to Brita (which is attached). This info is included in this report.

Grants/funding/proposals

- Pending: We re-submitted a proposal (after the last grant cycle) to the DNRC’s Watershed Management Program for \$10,000 for additional staff time to work on the Thompson River WRP and Lower Clark Fork WRP.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana awarded us an additional \$1,000 for our work on the Thompson River WRP. The MOU has been executed and funds are available again on a reimbursement basis.

Training

- Brita will attend the Annual MACD (Montana Association of Conservation Districts) Convention in November. There is a crew attending from GMCD and this might be a good opportunity to learn more about 310 permitting which would improve Brita ability to explain this process to landowners, be a better resource, etc.

Projects

Bull River

- Watershed Consulting contract: Watershed Consulting’s crew completed planting at all properties over the course of two trips in early and late June.
- Additional re-vegetation efforts: Plans continue to develop for additional re-vegetation in the Bull River beyond the scope of that being implemented by Watershed Consulting described above. Currently, we have 3 additional properties where we will be actively working this fall. This work will be directed by Brita and Jason, and completed by 3 Montana Conservation Corps crews in early October. An order for plants to the University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery will be placed in August.
 - Wood Duck: In August, Jason and Brita will finalize the number of plants needed for the Montana Conservation Corps to plant in October.
 - Crull: The Crulls and Brita agreed that, instead of expanding the project extensively, we would keep our efforts focused on replacing mortalities of the originally plantings and use funding sources that do not require an additional landowner agreement. Ken Thacker sprayed weeds at this site in July (we can expect an invoice to come in for this), and noted that many of the plantings have died. These will be replaced with new plantings in the fall when the Montana Conservation Corps crews come.
 - In July, Frank Sommer sent some questions he had about the draft landowner agreement, and Brita sent back responses (after drafting and getting reviewed by Eric, Ruth and Leona). She is currently awaiting a response, and hopes to finalize an agreement in August so that re-vegetation efforts can occur in October.
- Outreach video: Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller have been working to coordinate interviews for the outreach video.
- Dry Creek: Plan to implement this project in 2018, after the USFS completes the Environmental Assessment and comes out with draft decision over winter 2017/2018. DEQ funding will still be available after a modification to the GMCD/DEQ contract in the spring.

Miners Gulch Restoration

- Josh and Susan are coordinating interviews for this video over the summer. If you have questions about this video, please contact them.
- Report to the Western Native Trout Initiative is due at the beginning of next week, in time for the end of their fiscal cycle. Brita will send an informal status update after she receives an update (and hopefully photos) from Doug, Craig or Josh.

Prospect Creek

- Various communication has occurred between the Yellowstone Pipeline (YPL), the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Montana Aquatic Resources Service and resource representatives from the lower Clark

Fork (Jon Hanson, USFS; Ryan Kreiner, MFWP; Jason Blakney, MFWP; and Brita Olson, LCFWG) regarding compensatory mitigation required by YPL for work they've completed in Prospect Creek. This could potentially be channeled towards continued planting efforts, or a larger riparian habitat enhancement project, such as large woody debris placement, but ACOE's requirements for this mitigation is still unclear.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)

- Sarah began draft LCF WRP introductory material and continued report reading and research needed

Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)

- Sarah further developed her knowledge of TRW streams through report reading and research
- Sarah further finalized Sections 1-4 and Section 5 through requestion and incorporating edits from Sam and Brita
- Sarah received some feedback from a few stakeholders on topics that should be included in initial Thompson River watershed stream summary information
- Sarah began drafting section 7 (progress evaluation and monitoring)

Other Thompson River projects

- On the horizon is developing an idea for monitoring and data collection in Fishtrap Creek. Brita and Jon hope that some data can be collected this fall, preliminarily, and inform a proposal to Northwestern for a large woody debris addition project in Fishtrap Creek. We will see how this pans out as both Brita and Jon were gone this summer.

MT FWP Report

- Electrofishing tributaries
- Re-installed PIT tag arrays
- Fish Ladder are running

NRCS Report:

- The Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS) sponsored bus tour to Dakota Lakes Research Farm (Pierre, S.D.), Menoken Farms, and Gabe Brown's Farm/Ranch (Bismarck, ND) on September 12th-14th is officially booked to capacity. Approximately 44 seats have been reserved for Ag. Producers, CD board members, and a few NRCS staff members that reside throughout the State of Montana. Additional names of Ag. Producers who have expressed interest in attending the event have been added to a waiting list just in case a few folks that currently have reserve seats are unable to attend.
- Due to the tremendous response and lack of available space/seating on the bus there was a brief discussion by SWCS board members regarding the possibility of adding a second bus for the tour to accommodate those additional people who have expressed an interest in attending the bus tour. The idea of a second bus was dismissed due to the added planning logistics and costs involved, as well as the lack of available hotel accommodations. However, the possibility does exist that a similar bus tour could be in the works for next year. Stay tuned
- The NRCS-MT did request funds from our national office to help offset some of the costs associated with the bus tour. The request was for full payment of the bus rental, which would be extremely helpful and generous indeed! Also, Travis has yet to receive a final list of those individuals who have signed up for the bus tour so He is currently unaware if anyone from Sanders County is planning on attending. Travis will update the board as soon as I know more.
- Travis submitted the civil rights paperwork for us to complete

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
 - No-Till needs new tires

- 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:

- "Swimming Hole" Dams – Sean
 - Avista found new dams on lower East Fork Bull R. (USFS property).
 - Incidence has increased last couple of years and stream-side signs in Thompson Falls and LPO areas have helped reduce new dams.
 - Plan to develop additional outreach materials for this issue.
 - Avista will remove the rocks when dams are spotted
 - Avista will notify GMCD if they see anything on private land
Sean will put Green Mountain Conservation District's and MFWP's contact info on the posters that are placed in our district
- Dredging on Lyons Creek
 - Mr. Fagan had questions concerning dredging. He was told to contact DEQ and the Forest Service for more information and he stated that he has done that.
 - He will be exploring in different areas of Lyon Creek.
 - He was asked to be very detailed in his 310 application, to explaining what equipment will be used, where the outlets will be, pictures of the area, what bank disturbance if any etc..
 - He may need to contact NRCS for water rights or water usage issues.

Subdivision Review:

- None

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

310 Activities

SW-25-17 Finch

- 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.
- Avista has a meeting September 10th and is waiting on cultural review.

SW-29-17 Leufkens Fishing platform

- A motion to approve the permit with the following modifications: *The rock trail will be a switchback design to the platform instead of straight down and there will be a small rock ledge along top of bank to square up the lawn. No Rock walls were approved lower down on the slope* was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

SW-35-17 Kapphahn Bank Stabilization

- A motion to approve the permit with the following modifications: *Armor bank from where stump across the road and the start of the riffle line up to 200 ft. downstream, interspersing root wads or logs every 10-15 ft. tying in with existing downstream armoring. Maintain existing trees and shrubs to the greatest extent possible* was made by Bill, 2nd Sean, motion carried.

SW-38-17 Avista Boat Restriction Cable

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted with no need for a site meeting was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion Carried.
- FWP Waived Site Visit

SW-39-17 Stimson Lumber Ford

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project with the stipulation that use is limited to when no stream flow is present was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion Carried.
- FWP Waived Site Visit

SW-40-17 Avista Expand Parking Lot Finley Flat

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted with no need for a site meeting was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion Carried.
- FWP Waived Site Visit

SW-41-17 Kivett Dock

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean. Motion carried.
- A site visit was scheduled for Sept 5th at 10 am, and Ryan & Kent will be in attendance.
- Leona will call Mr. Kivett and inform him of the site visit

SW-42-17 Avista Dock Bull River

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted with no need for a site meeting was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion Carried.
- FWP Waived Site Visit

SW-43-17 MT. Rail Link Coal Car Derailment

- This will remain on the agenda until cleanup process is complete and final information is sent to GMCD.
- Cars will be salvaged in place

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm was made by Sean, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

Kent Wilby
Chairman

Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP:

- Sections 1-5 drafted
 - Provided edits to Sarah Bowman for sections 1-5
- Landowner outreach to residents/private landowners in the Thompson River basin is ongoing
 - 12 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent
- The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group is sending out questionnaires to all of the organizations involved or affiliated with the Thompson River WRP (including Lincoln County)
 - Opportunity for each organization to review and add to the information that will be included in the document about that organization's role in watershed restoration and management for the basin.

SWCDM Water Quality Mini-Grants:

- Up to \$3,000 will be available for projects focused on education and outreach efforts that address non-point source pollution.
- Call for Applications will be sent out by mid-August for fall/spring 2018 projects.
- More info about program on our website or by contacting Jessica Makus at jessica@macdnet.org

Update from the Clark Fork / Kootenai River Basins Council:

- CFKRBC awarded \$10,000 out of the initial \$18,500 applied for through the DNRC Water Management Grant (WMG); half will be used to fund the BSWC Member, remainder will fund administration, travel, and other related expenses
- On August 1st, Erin Farris-Olsen provided the Water Policy Interim Committee with an update on MWCC and CFKRBC activities; offered assistance in redrafting the Clark Fork Task Force Statute to reflect the new organization as well as other regional coordination efforts.

Other relevant information:

- DNRC was recently awarded a Drought Contingency Planning Grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation under its WaterSMART Drought Response Program for "Building Regional Drought Resilience in the Greater Upper Clark Fork Basin
- DNRC Water Resource Planner for the Clark Fork/Kootenai, Ada Montague, has left her water planning position for one in DNRC's legal offices