

# **Green Mountain Conservation District**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

#### **Supervisors Present**

Kent Wilby  
Terry Hightower  
Sean Moran

#### **Employees Present**

Leona Gollen

#### **Advisors Present**

Ryan Kreiner  
Travis Lemke  
Samantha Tappenbeck  
Brita Olson

#### **Associate Supervisors Present**

Jackie Nichols  
Mindy Ferrell  
Nate Hall

#### **Visitors Present**

Louis Hannum

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

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

#### **Introductions**

#### **Minutes 2017**

- A motion to approve August 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

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

- Reminder area 5 meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Double Tree Motel in Missoula
- WF mini Grant
  - DNRC cannot honor the \$500.00 mini grant that was granted to us for the Water Festival this year because of the state financial shortfall.
- Basket for convention
  - A motion to spend 50.00 – 75.00 on the travel basket for the convention action was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried
- Chocolate bars & educational books for teacher's water festival goodie bags
  - A motion to pay for the chocolate bars and education booklet for the teachers goodie bags was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- Letter to MACD explaining Mill Levy over payment.
  - A motion to send a letter to MACD explaining the mill levy overpayment and send a check in the amount of \$805.51 for MACD dues (which is based on 2016 dues) was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.
- Supervisor Summit Great Falls October 31<sup>st</sup> – Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No Supervisors are able to go this year
- Training Heads Up
  - GMCD will participate in the training that DNRC is offering.
- NRCS Agreement.
  - A motion to accept and sign the new NRCS agreement was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

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

- The new website is up and running

### **COORDINATOR “WATERSHED REPORT”**

#### **Bull River Re-vegetation Project:**

- Through the 319 program-funded effort, contractor Watershed Consulting planted containerized stock, completed this year's monitoring, weeded, and maintained the fencing at all 7 properties involved in this project. Larger (gallon-sized) stock will be planted this fall.
- Montana Conservation Corps crews will be coming in the first two weeks of October. These crews will fix/maintain fencing on the Wood Duck property, and complete new and mortality replacement plantings on the Wood Duck, Crull, and Sommer properties (the Sommer landowner agreement is waiting to be signed at this coming meeting).
- I will be working over the next month to purchase materials and line out a plan for the crews in October, schedule interviews for an outreach video, and connecting with Watershed Consulting when they come out for fall planting.

#### **Dry Creek Sediment Reduction Project:**

- Our plan is to implement this project in 2018. We hope that an Environmental Assessment and draft decision can be completed over winter 2017/2018. Will be confirming a timeline for this with the forest service soon, so that we can be sure that we are on a timeline that allows our 319 funding to be used for this project.

#### **Miners Gulch Project**

- Activities completed this season: The USFS has completed a portion of the required Army Corps of Engineers monitoring of the in-channel construction described above and completed last season, and will continue to collect data and complete before the end of the fall. A report on this is expected early winter. Additionally, 400 cottonwoods were planted this spring and cages were installed around naturally sprouting trees. They were irrigated once a week through the dry season, and will be watered in a similar manner for two more years.
- Status reports were sent to the Western Native Trout Initiative and Future Fisheries.

#### **Watershed Restoration Planning**

- Sarah Bowman has continued to make good progress on the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan. This document has been largely drafted, and a stakeholders meeting is planned for September 28.
- Efforts to update the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan will be picking up over the late fall and winter. A first kick-off stakeholder's meeting will be held in February, and we hope to follow a similar timeline in updating this document as we have in drafting the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan.

### **MT FWP Report**

- Finished up stream efishing (focused again in Thompson River)
- Working with multiple entities to develop restoration projects for the Thompson
- Ladder and arrays still operational
- Collected salmonids for Pancreatic Kidney Disease testing
- Gillnetting to come

### **NRCS Report:**

- Soil health bus tour was awesome. The farms and ranches visited were Dakota Lakes Farm in Pierre, SD, Gabe Brown's Ranch in Bismarck, ND, Menoken Farm, and Jerry Doan's Ranch. Very diverse soil health applications on each ranch.
- It was like 16 hours of soil and health questions and ideas after the tour.

### **(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana**

- See Attached

### **Old Business:**

- Electricity in Shop
  - We will wait and discuss this at a later date.
  - We have some building sinking issues we will need to discuss

### **Building Repair Project:**

- Nothing to report

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

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### New Business:

- Clark Fork Settlement Agreement Amendment
  - A motion to accept and sign the Amendment to the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.
  - Amendments deals with Approving a fish capture facility at cabinet gorge. Postponing a decision pursuit of fish way at Noxon Dam until 2021. Fish pathogen component, changing the minimum flow from 5,000 cubic feet per second to 3,000 cubic feet per second.

### Subdivision Review:

- None

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

### 310 Activities

#### SW-25-17 Finch Trail & Dock Installation

- Application was accepted as complete at June 2017 meeting
- A second site visit was conducted
- A motion to approve the permit with the following modifications: *The trail is to be moved to the location discussed at the site visit on 9/11/17, the trail will include 2 switchbacks that were also discussed at the site meeting on 9/11/17. The trail is to be 36" wide. One 3" diameter alder by reservoir bank and a small number of .5 – 1-inch seedlings by the upper end of the trail may be cut if needed. Ensure that you stay off of FS Land.* was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, Motion carried

#### SW-41-17 Kivett Dock

- A site visit was conducted
- A motion to approve the permit with the following modification: *The portion of the dock that is in the water will be removed annually* was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

#### SW-43E-17 Mt. Rail Link Coal Car Derailment

- We are waiting for their final clean up report.

#### SW-44C-17 Henrey Complaint

- A preliminary site visit was conducted on September 13<sup>th</sup>, by Sean & Ryan. They did not access the Landowners property. They were granted permission from the adjacent landowner to access his property and then they accessed the site in question by wading down the channel.
- A motion to send via certified mail, a 310-violation letter with pictures of violation and requesting a completed 310 application was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

#### SW-45-17 Martin

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- It was brought to the Boards attention that both Katherine Madrone & Jason Pignanelli would like to attend the site visit when conducted.
- A site visit was scheduled for Friday Oct.13 at 10:00 am meeting at office, Kent, Terry, Ryan, Jason & Katherine will attend.
- Leona will notify Jason & Katherine & Mr. Martin and inform them of the site visit time & date.

#### SW-46-17 Stewart Bank stabilization and dock instalation

- A motion to send a denial letter with the following statement; *Your Application/ project is denied because we do not allow excavation of this magnitude on the banks of Montana Rivers and stream. You are welcome to submit a new application with alternative access that complies with the 310 laws.* Was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- Leona will notify Katherine of this decision.

#### SW-47-17 Avista Stabilize and extend existing Noxon Rapids Dam Wingwall

- A motion to accept as a completed application and approve the project with no need for a site visit was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

- FWP waived site visit.

**SW-48-17 Kennedy Above ground fire ring and removable bench**

- The permit was reviewed and a motion was made by Terry 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent that this project does not require a 310 permit. Motion carried

**SW-49-17 Peters Rebuild Existing Floating Dock**

- A motion to accept as a completed application and approve the project with no need for a site visit was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- FWP waived site visit.

**SW-50-17 Hannum Bank Stabilization, Flood Protection & Channel Alteration**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.
- A site visit was scheduled for Thursday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am, Sean, Terry, Katherine & Ryan will attend.
- Leona will notify Katherine inform her of the time and date of site visit.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen  
Administrator

Kent Wilby  
Chairman

Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP:

- Sections 1-5 complete; sections 6-7 in draft
- There have been 12 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent
- Progress report sent out to all survey respondents and interested stakeholders; update added to Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group website

<http://lowerclarkforkwatershedgroup.org/trwrp-august-23-update/>

Attended Avista WRTAC meeting on September 12th:

- Review and update on all projects
- Overview of proposed changes to project ranking and evaluation criteria
- Update on pending acquisition of Avista by Hydro One
- Management Committee meeting: September 26th

**Reminder about SWCDM programs...**

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.
- Closing date: September 29th by 5pm
- More info about program on our website or by contacting Jessica Makus at [jessica@macdnet.org](mailto:jessica@macdnet.org)

Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):

- \$70K available for projects to support responsible grazing of the riparian zone: benefits to landowners, benefits to the river
- Funding is from EPA, CWA section 319; Watershed Restoration Plan required
- Focus on western Montana
- Logistics on the producer side:
  - 50% cost share - infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.
  - Landowner agreements
  - Includes assistance from certified grazing assistance plan developer
- First round of applications due: September 22, 2017
  - Late applications accepted on a rolling basis, considered for next round in spring
- Contact me (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711)
- Opportunity for Flathead Conservation District to host workshop on riparian pastures