

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

October 18th 2017

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Bill Naegeli
Sean Moran

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Ryan Kreiner
Travis Lemke
Brita Olson

Associate Supervisors Present

Jean Dunn
Jackie Nichols
Mindy Ferrell
Jim Carrabin

Visitors Present

Louis Hannum
Darryl Gingerich
Brian Scott

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 September 20th 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Kent, 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 Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- Water Festival
 - The water festival went great this year. We had 134 5th students and 8 high school student helpers. Even though more than half of the teachers were new this year, everything thought it went very smooth and we all believe that it is partly because Mindy went into all the class rooms before the water festival and taught about the watershed and also talked to them about what to expect at the water festival.
- There are now 3 different outdoor events that Mindy is involved in now in our area. So, in early spring Mindy will try to align the school's needs for curriculum with the 3 known OE entities.
- Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Donation
 - Thanks to Mindy's diligent efforts, at the last minute we received a \$200.00 donation from the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness to help with the cost of the Water Festival.
- Group Picture
 - Leona informed the Board we need a Board Picture for the MACD convention.
- MACD Convention Information
 - We discussed the events and room arrangements for the MACD Convention this year. We have 5 people attending. Leona gave everyone their room and registration information. Also informed them that Tuesday there is a dinner that is paid for as well.
- 310 Administration Funds
 - We were informed by DNRC that due to budget reductions we will not be receiving our 310 funds this year.
- New DNRC Application for WF

- Since we did not receive the DNRC mini Grant for the Water Festival this year due to the same budget reductions as the 310 funds, GMCD talked to Linda at DNRC office and she told us to go ahead and submit an application for next year now.
 - Also, ESCD is submitting an application for new animal tracks for the water festival since the old ones are hard and brittle.
- **November & Decembers meeting**
 - A motion that GMCD will cancel Novembers meeting and move the December meeting to 13th was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org)

- The new website is up and running
- Leona & Brita will be meeting on November 9th to add new forms to the site.

COORDINATOR “WATERSHED REPORT”

- See Attached

MT FWP Report

- Past few weeks doing Reservoir Monitoring and Bull Trout Redd Counts
- Data has not been tallied yet because they are still electrofishing.
- FWP saw more reds in the upper part of the creeks. East fork and vermilion are quite low. Miners Gulch new channel had 4 reds in it.

NRCS Report:

- Currently, the Plains FO is focusing conservation efforts on 4 primary areas of emphasis throughout Sanders County; 1) Improving Forest Health, 2) Improving grazing management on pasture and rangeland, 3) Identifying resource concerns and addressing concerns found within our WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) easement properties, 4) Assisting local growers with addressing resource concerns and promoting the NRCS high tunnel and organic initiative programs throughout the county (eligible Ag producers).
- Troy and Travis have been actively engaged in initial site assessments throughout the county to determine eligibility for possible funding through the EWP Program (Emergency Watershed Protection). The EWP Program is designed to conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by natural disasters...fire in our case (Highway- 200 Complex Fire 2017). This process will be ongoing through the spring/summer of 2018.

(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana

- See Attached

Old Business:

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Building Repair Project:

- Nothing to report

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

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New Business:

- Karl Christenson from DNRC call and informed us that there is approximately \$200,000 that DNRC has to award to people that may need help with fire recovery and or prevention. He will be sending more information soon but if anyone knows of someone that has the need for assistance please let them know.
- Thanks to Sean for submitting the report at our Area 5 meeting.

Subdivision Review:

- None

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

310 Activities

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

- We are waiting for their final clean up report.

SW-45-17 Martin

- A motion to approve the permit with the following modifications: *The top platform will be supported by Heli-coil tubes posts at location A1* was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, Motion carried

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

- A motion to approve the permit with the following modifications: *You may not move the stream cobble at this time.* was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

SW-51-17 Mt. Rail Link Coal Car Derailment

- A site visit was conducted on October 13th 2017, Kent, Sean, Ryan from FWP along with a MRL representative attended.
- MRL had a barge come in and clean up as much of the coal in the water as possible. EPA said that they are fine with what was done.
- 32 cars were derailed and 2 nose down in the water.
- A motion to accept the application as complete and approve the project as submitted was made by Sean, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

SW-52-17 Henry Complaint

- Mr. & Mrs. Henry were asked to submit an “after the fact” 310 application for the work that was completed on their property located on the Bull River and they complied with the request.
- A motion to accept as a completed application a was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.
- A site visit will be scheduled with the applicant and Jim, Ryan, Kent, Sean November 1st 10:00 am.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, 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
- Progress report sent out to all survey respondents and interested stakeholders; update added to Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group website
- Attended stakeholder group meeting on 9/28/17
 - Revised and finalized timeline:
 - 11/30/17: Draft WRP sent to SWCDM
 - 12/31/17: Final deadline for all input from stakeholders
 - 1/31/18: Final draft of plan sent to SWCDM and DEQ for review and approval

Reminder about SWCDM programs...

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

Conservation Menu (SWCDM)

www.mtconservationmenu.org

- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- Six program categories:
 - Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds/AIS, Pollinators, Rangeland
- Consolidates diverse and numerous programs available into one user-friendly format
- Over 70 programs, organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search
- Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact me (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)



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COORDINATOR "WATERSHED REPORT"

Bull River Riparian Re-vegetation and Sediment Reduction

- The 3rd Quarter report was submitted to DEQ last week. Additional reports to other funders will be submitted for October's activities at the end of this month.
- Watershed Consulting sent a crew out to the Bull River the week of October 9th to complete gallon size planting on all properties – focusing on areas that have had the highest mortality.
- Brita worked with two crews on additional maintenance and revegetation work on multiple sites during October 4-13th
 - Crull Replacement Planting: Replaced mortalities throughout the project reach with a combination of small and large cottonwoods.
 - Sommer Planting project: Followed site-plan to implement new revegetation effort on the Sommer property. Brita and Frank Sommer worked together for exact placement, within the project area. MCC members mechanically removed reed canary grass in roughly 3x3' square in identified planting locations (pulaskis or pickmattocks). Trees planted in center, with weed suppression fabric placed around the base and secured with landscaping staples, and an 8-10' section of fencing will be installed around the tree as a browse protector, secured to a 6 1/2' t-post. A total of 70 cottonwoods, alder, willow and conifers were planted on this property.
 - Wood Duck (new/west): This new planting was implemented on the West side of the river, moving north from the bridge about 1,000'. This followed the same technique as that on the Sommer property, described above. 200 cottonwoods, willow and conifers were planted at this site using this technique. An additional 100 unprotected conifers were disperse planted throughout the project reach with browse protection as well.
 - Wood Duck (old/east): About 600 plants supplemented the existing re-vegetation on the east side of the Bull River on the Wood Duck property. The remaining exclosures were fixed, and old exclosure material was removed, and all of the existing exclosures were planted with a second tier of vegetation, adding longer living species to established willow and alder groves. Conifer species and willow was also disperse planted in specific areas. These areas, along with the unprotected conifers will be monitored for comparison with the other more expensive planting techniques.
- Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller completed interviews with two landowners, and Josh now has enough footage to complete a video about the Bull River re-vegetation project.

Dry Creek Sediment Reduction Project

- Still plan to implement the Dry Creek road removal 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 Project

- Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller also completed interviews for the Miners Gulch stream restoration video.

Watershed Restoration Planning

- Held a stakeholders meeting for the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan on September 28. Developed a detailed timeline for work on the plan through the fall and completion by the end of January.

- As we are wrapping up the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan, we will be kicking off an update of the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan for all the downstream tributaries.

Brita Olson - LCFWG Coordinator