

Green Mountain Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

March 21st 2018

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Bill Naegeli
Sean Moran
Terry Hightower
Mindy Ferrell

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Samantha Tappenbeck
Travis Lemke
Brita Olson

Associate Supervisors Present

Visitors Present

Mr. Wheeler

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

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

Minutes 2018

- A motion to approve February 2018 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Sean, 2nd by Kent, 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 Mindy, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- The Board welcomed Mindy Ferrell as our new Supervisor
- Annual Plan
 - A motion to accept the annual plan as submitted was made by Mindy, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- Supervisor Training on March 29th. In Polson
 - Kent, Mindy, Sean, Terry will attend
 - Leona will send check for lunches with Supervisor.
- When should meeting be posted on the web site
 - A motion that Leona will send the draft meeting minutes to the Board for review allowing a 1-week turn around for corrections. After said week the minutes will be posted to the web site as draft minutes. Once the meeting minutes are approved and signed at the next scheduled meeting they will be finalized and posted was made by Mindy, 2nd Terry, motion carried.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org)

- The new website is up and running
 - A meeting with Supervisors, Mindy, Leona, and Brita was scheduled for April 12th at 3:30 PM at the GMCD office to discuss what we would like to see on the website.

LCFWG COORDINATOR "WATERSHED REPORT"

- See Attached

MT FWP Report

- NorthWestern received a memo from USFWS approving the expenditure of mitigation funds related to the Thompson Falls Hydroelectric Project in the Prospect Creek drainage. Expenditure of mitigation funds has been previously limited to projects upstream of the Thompson Falls Dam. The first project that will be funded with NorthWestern Energy funds in Prospect Creek will be the design for a stream restoration project in Crow Creek (tributary to Upper Prospect Creek).

NRCS Report:

- EQIP FY2018 Preapproval of **3 applications** in Sanders County that were in the "general" area/statewide pools.
- EQIP FY2018 ranking deadline for statewide EQIP Special Initiative pool is on March 23rd. (2 applications in Sanders County: **Fire Recovery & High Tunnel**)
- EQIP FY2019 application signup deadline will be on June 2st, 2018.
 - Covers sight specific projects.
- CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) FY2018 application deadline was on March 2, 2018 (**1 application received**)
- Staffing is really tight and Travis will be working at different counties as well as ours.

Outreach/Education –

- **Soil Health and Fertility Workshop** was scheduled on March 21, 2018 (see flyer) at the Lonepine Community Hall. Clain Jones with MSU Extension will speak for 1 hour followed by a 1 hour round table discussion to share knowledge/ideas regarding pasture and hayland renovation techniques.
 - NRCS will continue to try and do this every quarter.
 - Travis will be utilizing an intern this year. Hailey Barkley.

(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana

- See Attached
- Samantha gave a presentation to the Board on the Montana Conservation Menu

Old Business:

- Avista: Annual spring Management Committee (MC) meeting went well. All project plan proposals for the 2018 implementation of Clark Fork Settlement Agreement programs were approved.

Building Repair Project:

- Nothing to report

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

- Nothing to Report

New Business:

- Progress on Initiating a Wildlife & Natural Resource Management Class for Jr. & Sr's
 - (see attached report)
 - A motion that GMCD would be willing to investigate the sponsorship of grants for the Wildlife Natural Management internship with the understanding that GMCD will not be responsible for any supervision of the intern was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

- A motion to allow Mindy to purchase an educational book titled "Managing Our Natural Resources" for no more than \$88.00 was name by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Subdivision Review:

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

310 Activities

- We will table the discussion on the 310 law and jurisdiction on Federal Land until next month.

SW-52-17 Henry Complaint

- This will stay on the agenda until the project is complete in August 2018.

SW-03-18 Lovell

- Application was accepted last month.
- A site visit was conducted on 3/16/18
- A motion to accept the project with the following modifications; *The fir tree on the bank upstream from the location marker #1 can be topped 10-12 feet from ground level.* Was made by Kent, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

SW-04-18 Avista Finley Flats Dock Improvement

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted with no need for a site inspection was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, Motion Carried.
- One Board member abstained
- FWP waved site visit

SW-05-18 After The Fact Wheeler Skidoo Dock

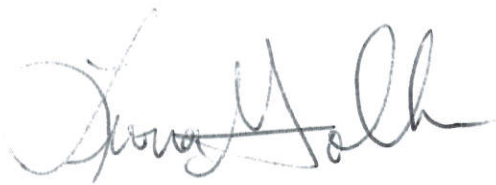
- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve the "After The Fact" project as submitted with no need for a site inspection was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, Motion Carried.
- The post will stay in the water but the water is not navigable
- FWP waved site visit.

One Board member abstained

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm was made by Kent, 2nd by Bill, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.



Leona Gollen
Administrator



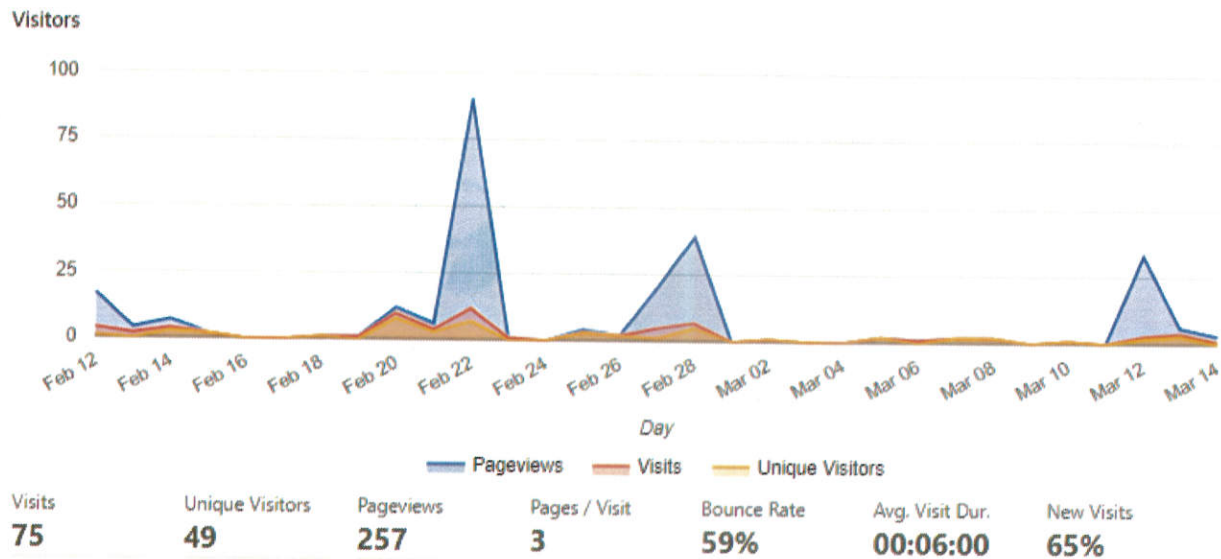
Kent Wilby
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
 March 21, 2018
 Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

Website

- February 2018 Minutes were posted
- Went to website training with Leona, see if you can guess which day on the graph below?
- March 2018 Agenda was posted
- Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan update was posted



Project Updates

Bull River Riparian Re-vegetation and Sediment Reduction Project

- Remaining open contracts for this project include DEQ and Avista.
- Planning for 2018 activities underway, which include final monitoring under Watershed Consulting's contract, and maintenance and supplemental planting with Montana Conservation Corps crews end of April and end of May/early June
- Outreach
 - "Roots: Bringing Back the Bull River" will be included in the Thompson Falls Fly Fishing Film Tour April 28.
 - Will be giving a presentation to the Idaho Master Naturalists group on March 24 about restoration efforts in the LCF, including the Bull River Re-vegetation Project.
 - Will develop signs about the project to be posted along the Bull River on Avista properties, including a newly acquired parcel that will be a public access boater take-out site.

- Will coordinate a meeting of the Bull River Watershed Council, sometime in early summer
- Dry Creek project will not be taking place this year. This was confirmed with the forest service and communicated to Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This will mean that \$76,000 of this contract will not be billed for the Dry Creek portion of the contract, along with an associated \$6,990.30 in Administration Funds.

Miners Gulch Project

- Josh Boyd is working on a film about the Miners Gulch Project.

Watershed Restoration Planning

- Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan was accepted by DEQ on February 22, 2018 and finalized on March 8, 2018. LCFWG is printing a small number of copies and will share one with the GMCD.
- Planning is underway for the Lower Clark Fork Tributary Watershed Restoration Plan, and after wrapping up efforts related to the Thompson River plan in March, LCFWG staff will be focused on developing this document.

Future projects

- Have been working on funding plans for future projects, including the next Vermilion River project. Will likely be pursuing a 319 grant to cover these costs and requesting that GMCD sponsor this proposal, so this is something to keep on the radar.

Report: 3/21/2018
Samantha Tappenbeck
Area Resource Specialist - Water



Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP:

- Completed and accepted by DEQ on 3/8/18

Workshop on Stream Gaging in the Flathead Basin

- Hosted by Flathead River Commission and SWCDM
- 1/31- 2/1/2018 in Kalispell
- 32 participants representing 20 organizations
- Presentations from: USGS, DNRC, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, US Army Corps of Engineers, Whitefish Lake Institute
- TMC article and blog post available on SWCDM website

Attended the Montana Water Summit (Helena, 3/6-7/2018)

- Presenters, panel discussions, discussion/Q&A on various topics:
 - Water in the west
 - Water and climate
 - Montana water policy
 - Bridging divide between water quality and quantity
 - Does water efficiency = conservation?
- Workshop on adaptation strategies
- Hosted a table at the "Great Water Conversations" lunch about my program and recent projects

SWCDM Water Quality Mini-Grants:

- \$3,000 grants available from SWCDM
- Fund projects that address nonpoint source water quality issues
- Projects no longer need to have a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan, though priority may be given to projects in areas with approved WRPs
- Due 3/16/18

Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council annual meeting:

- April 16-17 in Missoula
- CFKRBC was formed in 2016 to develop vision, coordinate common strategy, and support the network of water user interests at the basin scale
- Interested in engaging stakeholders across the Clark Fork and Kootenai basins and are available to attend your meetings to share about their work

Summary of Progress on Natural Resource Class at Noxon School
GMCD District Report March, 2018
Report by Mindy Ferrell

I'm excited to report that a class entitled "**Wildlife and Natural Resource Management**" is being offered at Noxon High School as a year-long, upper-level elective science class starting fall of 2018. **Jason Colyer** is the teacher. It will be his 2nd year of teaching and he is very excited to be teaching this. Various texts and resources have been found and Mr. Colyer is currently reviewing them.

This class represents a concerted effort to engage area youth with the outdoors, foster an appreciation of the natural world, and convey the importance of sound stewardship. In addition, it will expose them to careers and mentorship opportunities in natural resource fields.

A community resource collaborative has been formed to support this class between **Kootenai Land Trust, US Forest Service, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, and Green Mountain Conservation District**. It is hoped that **Avista and MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks** will join and be integrally involved as presenters and consider sponsoring a competitive summer internship position for a 16 – 18 year old student.

The course plans to include weekly guest lectures presented by members of the collaborative exploring various resource fields including, but not limited to, hydrology, fisheries, silvaculture, forestry, game and non-game wildlife, restoration, recreation, wilderness, range and livestock, and permaculture. It also hopes to include monthly field trips to explore and engage with active projects and issues in the region. The class will potentially be geared for high school spring competition in either the Environthon in Lewistown, Montana or the Idaho State Forestry Contest in Careywood, Idaho. Finally, it is the intention that students be provided with competitive summer internship programs of 10 weeks in length (24 hours / week) to encourage professional skills in a variety of natural resource-based careers.

Current participant engagement includes the following:

Kootenai Land Trust has taken the initiative to create a project entitled "Sander County Youth Education Initiative" and has dedicated \$3000 for this program. They are applying for a matching \$3000. With acquired funds, they commit to offering transportation and materials support, KLT staff time, and professional development for school staff. Their matching grant would pay for a summer internship position (\$2400) and the administrative costs to sponsor this program for summer of 2019.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group is currently exploring grant opportunities to sponsor a position focusing on restoration management.

US Forest Service already provides a summer YCC position but is currently exploring grant opportunities to dedicate one day each week for a student from this class to provide a deeper level of knowledge in resource management rotations in addition to an extra 2 weeks of employment.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks is currently exploring grant opportunities for a summer internship position focusing on wilderness activities.

Green Mtn Conservation District is a hopeful partner in summer employment as described below.

I am asking permission from **Green Mountain Conservation District** to find and apply for funding using their name for a student intern position for the summer of 2019 that would be administered by GMCD. I envision this position to include rotational opportunities such as range management, livestock management, management of cultivated crops such as blueberries, Christmas trees, landscape plants, and garden nurseries in the area, as well as a commercial organic garden outside of Clark Fork. I would be the point person to find these entities and set up a rotational schedule for this student, but I am asking for the administration costs would be borne by GMCD. I envision this grant being for \$2400 which would employ a student for 10 weeks of 24 hours / week at \$10 / hours. If this grant would need to include the required tax and workman's comp fees, I would need to know an estimate of those figures before applying.

I am asking permission from GMCD Board to use \$88 to purchase a book entitled "Managing Our Natural Resources". This book will not only give guidance to the class, but provide a reference for collaborative agencies and employers to focus on relative topics during presentations, field trips, and internships.

I am meeting with Mr. Colyer next week to further strategize on scope and sequence of the course. In addition, we will be discussing ways to inform and excite the student body, the parents, the administration, and the Board about the collaborative nature and community coordination potentials for this class.

I am hoping to set up a meeting with Mr. Colyer and **Avista** to promote an internship possibility with them starting the summer of 2019 with rotations in hydrology, fisheries, and recreation.

Lastly, I am hoping to have several people from the collaborative join with Mr. Colyer to present at the April Noxon School Board meeting to explain the program, demonstrate the community support, and launch the excitement of such an opportunity. I also plan to create a flyer to be put up within the school and to post that flyer on the school

Facebook page in order to excite the community and parents for the opportunity for this course and the potential opportunities for extended knowledge and summer employment.