



Meeting Minutes January 16th, 2019

Supervisors Present

Sean Moran
Terry Hightower
Bill Naegeli
Mindy Ferrell
Kent Wilby

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Ryan Kreiner
Travis Lemke

Associate Supervisors Present

Visitors Present

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 December 2018 meeting minutes as submitted was made Bill by 2nd by Terry motion carried.

Financial Report

- Leona reviewed the financial report with the board for the last periods.
- A motion to approve the financial report for this period was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- Election of officers
 - A motion to keep the same slate for Chairman and Vice Chairman as 2018 was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.
- We received an additional \$4,590 from DNRC for the completion of our 2017 310 permits
- Farm & Ranch Management Workshop Feb. 12th – 13th Plains MT.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org)

- See attached

LCFWG COORDINATOR "WATERSHED REPORT"

- See attached

MT FWP Report

- FWP are moving their office to the old taxidermy school on HWY 200.
- NorthWestern Energy wants to fix the channel for fish to come up the channel easier in the Thompson River Dam. There are still steel beams laying in the river and they are talking about trying to remove them. They are discussing the possibility of Bob Taylor trying to remove them with some kind of machinery, but FWP is unsure about the logistics of the whole project. They are still in the planning stages and FWP will keep GMCD up to date on whether this proceeds to a project and whether we will be getting a 310 application.

NRCS Report:

- Patsy is Retiring and they have hired her replacement. Elena Marrinan will be taking her place. Last week was her first day.
- NRCS is one of the few government offices that are still open. It may be temporary.
- The main project that everyone will be working on at NRCS this year is changing how they implement conservation in Montana, with an emphasis on "focus areas" in the LCF region. NRCS will have a local resource working group hopefully in February to discuss some projects that are in our area that may be possible. Travis is reviewing possibilities like, free commercial thinning, maybe some riparian planting and fence etc. to get the public interested in the bigger riparian picture.
- NRCS will spend this summer identifying possible projects.

(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana

- See attached

Education

Noxon Class:

- Mindy talked to Jason and the class has increased in size for the coming semester and will be offered again next year. There is nothing in pipeline for an intern this year. Kaniksu Land Trust has sponsored funds for intern if needed.

Winter Tracks

- This will be held January 24th for all 7th graders in Sanders County. There is be 50 students this year. GMCD is loaning 3 canopies to this event and with Mindy as the Liaison, Avista personnel will be putting them up and taking them down.

WF Display Plan

- Mindy has been in contact with First Security Bank and is waiting to hear back from them.

Missoula CD booklet

- Jennifer, The Missoula Administrator, called Mindy and told her that she is still looking for the resource books to send her. They are redoing their office at the moment.

Education Materials

- Mindy has made contact with Earth Link that does the Water Festival in Bonner County. They have tremendous success with their festivals. Gail from Earth Link also coordinates their Coeur d'Alene WF. There is a new project called Wild River Journey that Gail has been looking at and Mindy will meet with her to discuss the details of maybe holding one in Sanders County.

Conservation Days

- Nothing to report

Old Business:

- Nothing to Report

Building Repair Project:

- Nothing to Report

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

- Nothing to Report

New Business:

- Terry will give us an update next month from the AIS meeting.
- Terry asked FWP how they handled the sea plane issue. Ryan said that he was not aware of anything.
- Leona will send Jim Elliott a thank you letter for the contribution of the wheels for No till drill.

Subdivision Review:

- Ainsworth Park Subdivision
 - No Comment

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

310 Activities

- NWE Collaboration Meeting (keep on agenda until Spring)
 - Mark from NWE sent an e-mail suggesting we schedule a meeting for March.
 - NWE will create a site map of their property. And GMCD likely to provide input on bank erosion
 - March 27th at 1:00 pm Location to be determined. Ask Mark who will be there from NWE.
 - Agenda items for meeting

SW-01-19 Hause

- A motion that this is a completed application was made by Mindy, no one 2nd, motion denied.
- Leona will dictate a letter to Mr. Hause to explain to him the reason his application was denied. Below are the reasons:
 - There is not enough information in your application;
 - Measurements provided (estimated length in feet) of project are deficient
 - There are no heights or depths listed to get an idea of volume of material
 - No cross-section for angle of treatment
 - No dimensions of fill material given.
 - The proposed source of un-specified fill is not on Mr. Hause's property.
 - The proposal appears to involve a large amount of excavation within an active channel that likely requires additional permitting.
 - Because of the size and scope of project and the instability of lower Prospect Creek, GMCD suggests that an engineer is consulted.
 - We appreciate and understand the Landowners desire to protect private property; however, GMCD does not believe that this proposal effectively solves the problem.
 - The pictures provided show adjacent landowner and infrastructure concerns that were not addressed.
 - Other permits may be required. Please see Section D on your application.

SW-02-19 Schwehr

- A complaint was received for the Fletcher 310 SW-21-18 activity. Leona explained that Mr. Fletcher received approval for the project he is doing not only from GMCD but from also from DEQ. Mr. Fletcher has also contacted NRCS to get a native plant list to ensure that he plants the appropriate vegetation in the area. Mr. Schwehr state that he would like to come to the office and review the 310 application and permit. Leona informed him, that, it was a great idea for him to do so.
- We will leave this on the agenda until Mr. Schwehr reviews the file.

- Motion to leave this complaint on the agenda until Mr. Schwehr has had a chance to review the file in question was made by Sean 2nd by Bill, motion carried

SW-03-19 Amaya

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.
- A site visit was schedule and Terry, Ryan & Sean will attend.
- Sean will Coordinated the site visit and notify the landowner of schedule.
- Two concerns were mentioned, how will the stairs be attached, and where are the 2 concrete blocks listed going to be place.

SW-04C-19 Golf Couse.

- A motion that this project does not fall under the jurisdiction of the 310 law was made by Terry, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- 1 Supervisor abstained from the vote.

SW-30-18 Parmenter

- We received the final project completion form from Ms. Parmenter. The Board agrees that the project look great but would like to see it in the spring/summer months as well. We will schedule a site visit next May or June.

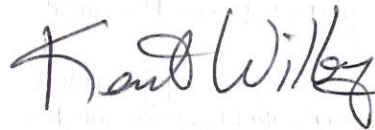
A motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm was made by Terry, 2nd by Mindy, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.



Leona Gollen
Administrator



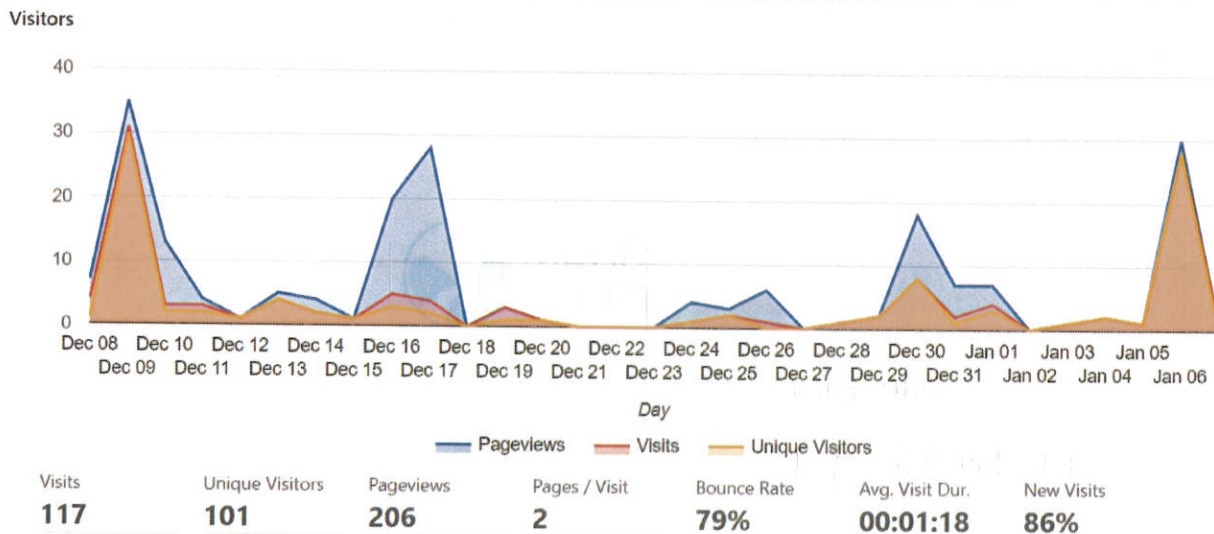
Kent Wilby
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
January 8, 2018
Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

Website

- Meeting agenda for December was posted
- Draft meeting minutes for December was posted
- Brief update on revegetation effort was posted
- Last month:



LCFWG 4th Quarter Meeting

The LCFWG 4th Quarter Meeting was on December 6, 2018. If you'd like to see meeting notes, please contact Brita Olson, brita@lcfwg.org.

Project Updates

LCFWG's "2018 4th Quarter Updates" cover all LCFWG projects, for a completed copy of these updates, please contact Brita Olson, brita@lcfwg.org. Excerpts on projects most pertinent to the GMCD are included below. GMCD has been a fiscal sponsor of Bull River, Vermilion River, and Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) projects as well as numerous projects included in the Lower Clark Fork (LCF) Stream Restoration Summary.

Bull River

- Bull River Re-vegetation – Exclosures on the Avista/Wood Duck property: Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) repaired and maintained fencing along 13 exclosures on this project in October 2018.
- Bull River Re-vegetation – Individual plantings on Crull property: 100+ plantings (mostly cottonwoods) in individual cages are surviving well. Maintenance needs include weeding around individual plantings, and expanding browse cages around a few plants

that are outgrowing their cages but being browsed heavily. Plan to complete this work in spring of 2019.

- Bull River Re-vegetation – Exclosures on private lands (7 properties, 89 exclosures): Fencing maintenance was completed by MCC crew in October 2018. Maintenance in spring of 2019 should be planned for effective weeding and cleaning up degraded fabric, in addition to annual fencing maintenance. Multiple beaver holes and browse were observed on a property just upstream of the East Fork Bull River. This will be a priority for maintenance in spring of 2019. Additional willow stakes were also installed on a few properties by Watershed Consulting in fall of 2018.
- Bull River Re-vegetation – Exclosures on Kootenai National Forest (KNF) lands (59+ exclosures): Long-term maintenance of this project will be the responsibility of the KNF, though the KNF and LCFWG may work together and share crews working in the Bull River. In October 2018, MCC crew contracted by the LCFWG helped KNF fence additional exclosures.
- Bull River Revegetation – Individual plantings on Sommer property (70 plantings): Landowner has communicated that overall plants are surviving very well this year. Will visit in spring of 2019 for photo points, and to assess any maintenance needs.
- Bull River Revegetation – Avista/Wood Duck property (200 plantings): Will visit in spring of 2019 for photos points, and to assess any maintenance needs.
- Bull River Revegetation – Individual plantings on the Carabin property: These plantings will be monitored by the landowner for any maintenance needs.
- Dry Creek Sediment Reduction: This proposed road removal project continues to be delayed in an ongoing NEPA process. Implementation date is delayed indefinitely.

Vermilion River

- Miners Gulch project: Post-runoff monitoring was completed by the KNF this season and a post-construction monitoring report is expected this winter. Generally, the reach is functioning as designed, and the revegetation efforts have been very successful.
- Sims Meander project: This is the next site for restoration in Vermilion, immediately downstream from the Miners Gulch reach. The focus of this project will be reactivating the floodplain and revegetation efforts, though it may also involve stream design and in-channel habitat enhancement as well. The Kootenai National Forest completed on-the-ground survey work this summer to complement LiDAR data, and is working on the design (expected by February 1). Implementation is tentatively planned for 2020. Funding efforts have begun, which included a recently awarded Section 319 program grant through Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Watershed restoration planning

- Thompson River WRP: In November/December 2018, updates on project development and implementation were solicited from Thompson River WRP stakeholders, which include projects involving the LCFWG as well as multiple additional culvert replacements and practices implemented by Weyerhaeuser. A final update on WRP implementation progress was compiled and circulated to WRP stakeholders in late December.
- LCF Tributary WRP: An formal revision to the LCF Tributary WRP is also underway. Preliminary input has been received for many subsections covering individual LCF Tributaries. These will be combined into a full draft document in January, which will be

sent out for review and input to all participating stakeholders. Areas with missing information that still need to be populated with input, proposed projects, and project rankings will be highlighted. The WRP meeting on February 26 will inform the development of those highlight sections. Stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback at any point prior to the completion of the document.

LCF Restoration Summary and Project Tracking

- LCF Restoration Summary: LCFWG and partners are in the process of updating the LCF Stream Restoration Summary which was originally completed by Chris Horn (FWP) in 2011, covering 1995-2010. The update will cover 2011-2020. The goal is to have a draft done sometime this winter, and be able to identify gaps / need for site visits over the coming year or two to further inform the update. A solid update will be drafted in the next year, but will not be finalized until after 2020 so that it can include all information to round out the decade.
- Project tracking: Per suggestions at the 4th Quarter LCFWG meeting, the LCFWG is working to develop a simple online submission platform to collect, organize, and store informal observations, descriptions, photos, and assessments of past, current, and potential projects in the LCF watershed.

Upcoming events:

- Attending the Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference, January 17-18, Missoula

Update on recent work:

- Provided review of Thompson River WRP Implementation Tracker
- Central Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan
 - Facilitated stakeholder meeting (11/30, Missoula) - 24 participants engaged in discussion about priorities for restoration
 - Hope to engage conservation districts in the area: Granite, Missoula, Mineral County, and Eastern Sanders County
- Ashley Creek Outreach, Landowner meeting (12/4)
 - 24 landowners and 14 agency/program representatives
 - Discussed background information, water quality issues and natural resource concerns, programs available to address issues/concerns
 - Used interactive mapping activity to identify potential projects and arrange follow-up site visits (seven identified, three site visits so far)

Available Programs:

- **Ranching for Rivers:** Cost-share program (50%) available to landowners to voluntarily construct grazing infrastructure and enable them to better manage the streams and riparian resources on their land
 - Financial assistance available for labor and materials to construct fences, hardened crossings, water gaps, offsite watering tanks, pipeline, etc.
 - Assistance available from certified grazing plan developer
 - Projects must be located in an area with a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (assistance is available to help determine if you qualify)
 - OPEN ENROLLMENT