



Meeting Minutes December 11th, 2019

Supervisors Present

Kent Wilby
Sean Moran
Mindy Ferrell
Bill Naegeli
Terry Hightower

Employees Present

Leona Gollen

Advisors Present

Brita Olson

Associate Supervisors Present

Visitors Present

Tricia Cottrell
Mason Cottrell

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

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

Minutes 2019

- A motion to approve October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Mindy 2nd by Bill, motion carried.

Financial Report

- The financial report was sent to all Supervisor prior to the meeting
- Leona reviewed the financial report with the board for the last period.
- A motion to approve the financial report for last period was made by Bill, 2nd by Sean, motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- LCFWG Conflict of Interest Document
 - A motion to sign the LCFG conflict of interest document was made by Bill, 2nd by Mindy, motion carried.
 - 1 Abstained
- HB 383 Change
 - This was reviewed by the whole Board.
- Nation Association of CD dues payment
 - A motion to pay \$425.00 for NACD dues for the 2019-2020 FY was made by Sean, 2nd by Bill, motion carried.
- Reminder that we will be voting on Chairman & Vice Chairman at next months meeting.

GMCD Website: (greenmountaincd.org)

- The website was down for a period of time due to the domain expiring.
- Regular Maintenance has been done on the web page.

LCFWG COORDINATOR "WATERSHED REPORT"

- See attached

MT FWP Report

- No report

NRCS Report:

- No Report

(SWCDM) Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana

- No Report

Public Education

- Envirothon
 - Mindy talked to Shonny and she will get Mindy the brochure by the end of the month.
 - Mindy will meet with the teachers after she receives the brochures.
- Winter Tracks
 - Jan 27th same format as years past, Mindy will be barrowing the canopies and possibly table and chairs. Avista will set up and take down.

Supervisor Education:

- Convention
 - A normal convention in the past had around 150 in attendance and there were 259 this year.
 - MACD worked on a new schedule for resolution so that everyone understood the process and were all on the same page.
 - MACD wants the directors to get out to the CD's in there area, So Bill will start attending CD's meeting in our area V.
 - MACD Dues will have a maximum and minimum amount base on mill levy.
 - All resolution passed.
 - A discussion on feral pigs was very interesting.
 - It was brought up at the convention that we need to have a procurement policy.

Old Business:

- Nothing to Report

Building Repair Project:

- Nothing to Report

No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:

- Nothing to Report

New Business:

- Operations Review
 - We will review our operations policy along with the annual plan of operations at our meeting next month.

Subdivision Review:

- Nothing to Report

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

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310 Activities

SW-01-19 Hause

- After the engineer was lined up to go and review Mr. Hause's property he was contacted and Mr. Hause was upset and stated that he did not want anyone on his property and that he was withdrawing his application.
- GMCD was going to try and access a position to look at the property but could not find an alternate route.
- A motion to close Mr. Hause application per his request with no further action was made by Bill, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

SW-24C-19 Conklin

- Bill did a site visit and the Conklin's filled the ditch and will re-seed when weather permits. He feels that they acted in good faith and took care of the issue. Bill recommend that this complaint be closed.
- A motion to close the complaint as completed was made by Bill, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.

SW-27-19 Day

- FWP discovered a large man-made dam across upper Prospect Creek on property that is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Day. It is clearly a 310 violation. In 2016 FWP removed a large dam at this same address. GMCD did send a violation letter to the owners in 2016.
- This would be the type of site visit that may require a police escort.
- A motion to table this issue until next month when Ryan is at the meeting and we can get more information was made by Sean 2nd by Bill, motion carried

SW-28-19 McGann

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2nd by Bill, Motion carried
- Leona will contact the land owner and Gene Joplin and have them contact Mindy to schedule before Friday of next week.

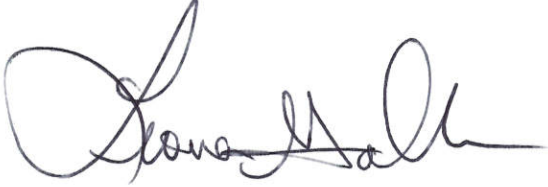
SW-29-19 Cottrell After the Fact Road Work

- Craig Neesvig from the FS did a site visit with the Cottrell's. He could not make the meeting tonight but he called with his input on this project.
 - The application looks fine to him and he stated that the work to mitigate this complaint was going to be minimal.
 - Craig stated that after looking at the site, he came to the conclusion that Mr. Cottrell could not have done this work with his small tractor and that he believes someone else did it with a skidder perhaps for logging purposes. Mr. Cottrell admitted to doing a little work but according to Craig it had minimal impact on the area.
 - Per an agreement with Craig and the Cottrell's, Mr. Cottrell will schedule a mid to large (not a mini) size excavator to do the mitigation work and Mr. Cottrell will contact Craig at least 2 weeks in advance so that he can work it into his schedule to be present on site to oversee the work being done.
 - Craig said that the work should only take a couple of hours and that he wants to see it done and completed between the window of now (December 11th) and the end of January.
- A motion to accept this as a completed "After the fact" application and approve the project as submitted, with Craig Neesvig's recommendations and Supervision and also include during and after the fact photos was made by Sean, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

- FWP waives site visit.

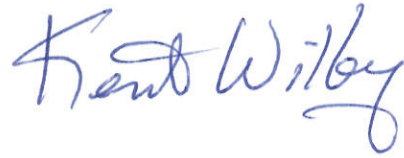
A motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm was made by Mindy, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leona Gollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

Approved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kent Wilby". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kent Wilby
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District
December 11, 2019
Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

Website

- Approved September Minutes were posted
- Draft October Meeting Minutes were posted
- Website users over the last 30 days: 25

Project Updates

Empowering private land stewardship and restoration on private lands

- We received a 223 grant to fund this project in 2020.
- The objective of this project is to engage more private landowners in the Lower Clark Fork and Thompson River watersheds in conservation projects on their properties. Targeted tributary-specific outreach will highlight issues and opportunities in their watershed(s) and interested landowners will be provided with access to planning, implementation, and coordination support.
- Draft contract for implementing this project was sent to the GMCD Board for review.

Sims Meander Project

- Conversation continues regarding the design of this project, and we hope to meet with key project partners early in the new year to review alternatives.
- Draft contracts for LCFWG coordination and Josh Boyd developing a film for the project were developed and sent to the GMCD Board for review.
- 2019 Annual Report was prepared and submitted, December 11.

NorthWestern Bank Stabilization Outreach opportunity

- NorthWestern asked for assistance in developing outreach related to the bank stabilization project that they just implemented on the Thompson Falls reservoir. I am currently working back and forth with NorthWestern to determine the scope of this effort, but it is something to look forward to in 2020.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group T-Shirts and Hats

- We have hats! (\$25)
- We have t-shirts! (\$20)

NRCS Local Meeting October 22, 2019

Summary submitted by Mindy. Since Sean and Terry weren't able to attend, I thought that some sort of sharing of knowledge would help. To Leona, Kent, and Bill, please feel free to comment on any misreporting or misconceptions. Thanks!

Purpose: To create a local working group to discuss NRCS's new approach to identifying, prioritizing, and funding projects.

Background:

- Tom Watson came on as the new director and had had successful experiences in Oregon with revamping the way NRCS does business.
- Funding for local programs comes to regions with the most successful activity.
- This new program approach will hopefully garner more of the financial resources brought in from the national EQIP (Environmental Quality Improvement Program) programming in particular which provides NRCS with the bulk of their funding, along with other funding sources.
- In the past, each county got funding that was then allocated by ranking eligible projects
- MT hasn't fared well with funding allocations
- Oregon has a 'quick in & out' model and funds are not limited to one project at a time

NRCS's new model is called TIPs (Targeted Implementation Plan). Details of its concept includes:

- Projects will be considered only as a part of a larger picture of targeted funding (a TIP)
- Randomly accepted application will continue to be accepted, but they will no longer be ranked
- The TIP targeted funding will identify both an objective (i.e. forestry, stock lands, irrigation, etc) and a general geographic area (i.e Bull River Valley, Hot Springs ranchlands etc)
- A general 'circle' will be drawn on a map with a targeted objective and funding then directed.
- A timeline will be set up with a 'bell-curve' to indicate preparatory work, action work, and evaluation.
- A RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) will be available so that a partner can submit the plan but that the partner needs to contribute to the planning and financial support.
- Overlapping projects can occur (e.g. there could be preparatory work being done for one TIP while the action plan is going on for another)
- The deadline for submitting a targeted plan for 2020 is Dec, 2019 w/ approval in January
- The targeted plan for 2021 will have a June 30 deadline.

The rest of the meeting was spent in a somewhat active discussion about what should be submitted as the desired targeted plan and how to outreach to educate the public about such a plan so that they could join in with the geographical area of the objective proposed.

Three projects were discussed by various entities there:

1. Everett talked about the Forest Health issue in the Bull River area including grand fir, beetle control, and fire thinning. Troy Hidy could use his experience and expertise to work with land owners. He anticipates retiring in a couple of years so this would utilize his current forte now.

2. Glen Magera and others talked about the critical irrigation needs in the Hot Spring area. Currently there is a 60% loss of water in ditches (expected to increase soon). Repairs are needed to protect ranching and farming in Hot Springs. Advance work would be needed to get an engineer on staff with NRCS and to coordinate with the tribe. Notes: a) if the Compact passes, any water saved would then get owned by the tribe; b) money that was put in to the tribal bank for this purpose many years ago – Glen believes that to be about \$3 million – is simply gone and perhaps transferred to Denver; c) ‘CME’ formed and the red tape has been increased because NRCS engineers at loggerheads with CME engineers (I don’t really understand this one myself)
3. Weed control, particularly about ventenata, was discussed as a potential TIPs project as well. To spray w/ espanana (sp?) is about \$45/acre and will take that land out of production for 3 years. NRCS does not yet support this program or product. Other weeds to consider are: cheat grass, blue week, white top, dalmation toadlax, smooth brome, knapweed, leafy spurge, meadow hawkweek and more.

Actions taken (I think) and Action requested by GMCD:

- NRCS is going to submit plan #1 by December 31.
- Lastly, Don Fiest suggested a multi-pronged approach and proposed that CDs write letters to Tom Watson to say “your TIPs program is good, but there needs to be a way to honor a high priority need that comes up.”

MACD MEETING NOVEMBER 18 – 21

This meeting, more than others I've attended, might be called changes going forward. The big change is that MACD will be merged with SWCD-Mt in their funding and operations. Thanks to Bill as our Area 5 Board Member, and with the vision of the outgoing Executive Board, this will streamline operations and make outreach to local CDs more impactful. Thanks!

We received many partner updates and there have been many personnel changes in each.

- Note: it would be helpful if we could set a goal for January to update our contact information once again and get that out to all Supervisors to put in their files. So many positions have changed!

AGENDA REPORT:

Standing Committee Meetings. There are 4 standing committees that held concurrent meetings – District Operations, Water, Soil and Land Use, and Education. I attended the Water and Education presentations. These meetings discussed the proposed actions to be voted on by the members.

- District Operations? – Leona?
- Water – the only action was whether or not to support the Water Compact. GMCD previously voted on this, Bill represented us in this directive, and the MACD ommittee voted to do so.
- Soil? – Who attended
- Education – Bill is a member of this MACD committee (thanks!) and there was not anything to vote on

Tours:

- I went on the Kalispell Kreamery and West Valley Wetlands Conservation Project tour. Takeaways: Wonderful to see the operations of a vertically integrated company. Well done!
- Conservation easements with many partners and successful public outreach was fascinated and successful. GMCD has similar projects and partnerships with KLT, Avista, and LCFWG. Thank you one and all!

Education Breakfast Presentations:

We got to listen to presenters that covered:

- **Pollinator Demonstration Garden** – Hailey Graf, Falthed CD. If is worth a look if you're ever in Kalispell to check out the lot next door to the CD which has been turned into a hardscaped and landscaped area to promote programs that include pollinator plants and has an educational outreach area for the public and area schools.
- **Junior Conservationist Program** – Lauren Odom, Lake CD. Going into a pilot program in the 4th grades at Ronan schools, this team promotes conservation topics 4 times/each year. I couldn't help but think about a 5th grade follow-up to GMCD's Watershed Festival to ask presenters to go into the schools one more time each during the school year. It could have a big impact for conservation awareness!
- **High School Engagement** – Chris Evans, Lewis and Clark CD. (My apologies. I listened but never took notes. Hopefully Leona or Bill can help me out here.

Keynote Speaker. Social Marketing Strategies - Aneka Sweeney, Watcom CD in NW Washington.

Wow, Wow, Wow! What a dynamo. Using marketing strategies, this CD has increased its public engagement and outreach by an astounding factor! I will try to explain this a bit at our meeting in December. Relevance to us? Boy, I'm not sure. Which comes first? Funding for programs and personnel or outreach to establish success which attracts funding?

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

1. **CD and Supervisor Financial Responsibilities and Protocol** (Leona and I both this one)
 - a. **Laurie Zeller and personnel from Judith Basin CD and Lake CD.**

This panel of administrators and supervisors presented their challenges in communication and reporting of public funds. From that presentation, I have **attached an OPERATIONS REVIEW** as well as a **FINANCIAL CHECK LIST**. I would like to propose that we set aside a time in January to review our operations from 2019. I'm pleased to say that in most cases we look like we're doing just fine as administrators and supervisors, but there are areas that we could look at for improvement. Laurie Zeller had a guiding quote for me during this session: *"Trust doesn't replace supervision"*. And that discussion and respect for each other's jobs and positions need to be open and honest. Thanks!

2. **Emergency Management and Response: Where do CD's Fit In?** (Bill attended this one and I hope will report.)
 - o **Paul Rosenburg, Bitterroot CD, Lincoln Chute, Flathead County DES, Audrey Walleser, MT DES, and Rob Molaceck, NRCS MAD**

3. **310 Permit Updates and Emergency Application Discussion**
 - a. **Jen McBride, Missoula CD and Jason Garber, DNRC**

This was a good presentation of the updated provisions and procedures. I will bring in a clean copy of this so that we can all put it in our Supervisor's Notebooks.

MACD Appreciation Banquet and Awards Ceremony

This was such a nice gathering. In particular, Laurie Zeller was honored for her nearly 40 years of service. It was very wonderful to see all these people who are out there doing their best for conservation in Montana! Oh and, in case you haven't heard. I won the Treager grill! After I figure out how to use it, you can be sure that I'll be smoking or grilling up a feed for the GMCD Board and others! Thanks.