



Meeting Minutes August 19th, 2020

Supervisors Present	Employees Present
Bill Naegeli	Leona Gollen
Terry Hightower	
Mindy Ferrell (Zoom)	Advisors Present
Kent Wilby (Zoom)	Brita Olson (LCFWG) (Zoom)
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Julie Thurston (Zoom)
	Mark Lincoln (Zoom)
Associate Supervisors Present	
	Visitors Present
	Gene Jopling (Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.

- Due to the high level of safety concerns for large gatherings, GMCD has limited the number of attendants at our GMCD office for the August meeting. All other interested parties will use the Zoom Meeting Room.

Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

Introductions

Minutes 2020

- A motion to approve July 15th 2020 meeting minutes as submitted was made Mindy by, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.

Financial Report

- The financial report was sent to all Supervisor prior to the meeting
- A motion to approve the financial report for last period was made by Sean, 2nd by Kent motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for August 2020 was made by Sean, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.
-

Administrator's Report:

Area V meeting is Scheduled for October 8th in Deer Lodge

- This meeting will be via Zoom and there will be an agenda sent shortly.

Energy Partners Winter Pre-Fill Payment

- A motion to pay the winter pre-fill payment in the amount of \$760.75 was made by Sean, 2nd by Mindy, motion carried.

Julie Thurston and Mark Lincoln– ventenada Grass & Weed Discussion

- Mark & Juli will contact MSU and get information for GMCD.
- Leona will let landowners know to contact Julie on how to combat ventenata grass.
- GMCD will look for opportunities to get the word out on this grass and request landowners to contact us if they have ventenada on their land.

LCFWG Report

- See attached report

FWP Update

- See attached report

NRCS Update

- See attached report

Avista Update

- No Update

Public Education

Pollinator

- People are still picking up the seed that we currently have.
- Brita Continues coordinating ideas with GMCD & ESCD for a DNRC grant proposal to fund the Sanders County Pollinator Initiative and demonstration gardens in 2021.
- Confirmed sites for 3 demonstration pollinator plots that will test different treatment/prep methods in different locations (Heron, Trout Creek and Camas Prairie), including on one private landowner's property. Effort will include multiple replicate trials of approximately 8 treatment, site preparation, and planting methods... and allow conservation districts to provide better informed and site-specific recommendations for developing a pollinator garden.

Water Festival

- After a lot of thought and discussion concerning the Covid 19 state restriction, the school district schedules and restrictions, and our own GMCD office restrictions, it is with great sadness that the decision was made by the Board that it would not be safe to have the Water Festival this year.
- A motion to cancel the Water Festival this year was made by Bill, 2nd by Mindy, motion carried.

Envirothon

- Mindy will be in contact with local schools to discuss interest in the Envirothon with the expectation that it will still be held.

New Business

TRTAC & WRTAC Update

- Leave on agenda for next month and Terry will attend TRTAC.

Building Repair

- The front porch is sinking again. Kent is in contact with the contractor to have it raise up again.

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

- Prospect Creek Camp ground

- A site visit was conducted just so that all entities were aware of what was happening and was able to give input if warranted.
- Bill with check with Katherine to see if the Lolo National Forest office was contacted for their input.

310 Activities

SW-27-19 Day

- See FWP attached comments. There is a new violation on this property and FWP has asked that a site visit be scheduled
- A site visit was scheduled for September 4th Time to be determined and Jason, Sean Bill, & Mindy will be in attendance. (Bill will be representing the County)
- GMCD will write a letter and also call Mr. Day's probation officer to inform her of this additional violation and that GMCD may impose a penalty and fine for this new violation. The approximate time for the site visit will be after 12:00 pm

SW-08-20 Yellowstone Pipeline

- Tabled until re-submitted

SW-11C-20 Cherry Creek

- See FWP attached comments
- A motion to close this complaint was made by Mindy, 2nd by Kent, motion carried

SW-21-19 Daughtery (NWE) Project Completion Form

- We will schedule a site visit for this project.
- GMC will request Brita to attend since she has been involved with NWE.

SW-21-20 Gallo

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Mindy, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried
- Site visit will be Wed. September 4th at 10 am, Bill, Gene, Mindy will attend.

SW-22E-20

- A motion that the emergency work completed was necessary to eradicate loss of property and the project was approved with no further action required was made by Kent, 2nd by Terry, motion carried.

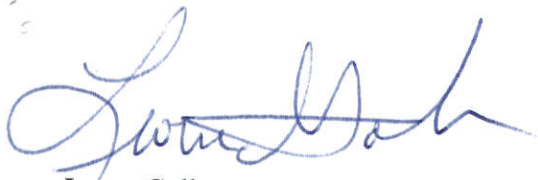
SW-23-19 Baxter Extension

- A motion to grant a 1-year extension to August 19th, 2021 for this project was made by Mindy, 2nd by Kent, motion carried.
- Remind Mr. Baxter that the Bull Trout window of July 15th – August 31st will still apply to his project.

A motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm was made by Mindy, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leona Gollen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Leona Gollen
Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William D Naegeli', with a cursive script.

Bill Naegeli
Chairman



Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District

August 19, 2020

Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group (LCFWG) Coordinator

Website

- Final June Meeting Minutes were posted.
- Draft July Meeting Minutes were posted.
- August agenda was posted.
- Story "Streamside revegetation efforts in the Bull River continue" was posted.
- Story "Grow habitat for pollinators in your own backyard" was posted.
- Website users over July: 122

Visitors



Project Updates

Bull River Revegetation

- Continued efforts maintaining exclosures and monitoring revegetation success in the Bull River.
- Assisted Troy Hidy in expanding browse protection around cedar trees on the Ross property for another day this past month.
- Took photo points on the Rowe property. One example photo point is included below.
- Plan to complete additional work in late August through the fall as time, resources, and volunteers are available.



Photo 1. Rowe property revegetation effort (Photo point #1#1), August 2016.



Photo 2. Rowe property revegetation effort (Photo point #1#1), August 2020.

Empowering watershed stewardship and restoration on private lands (223 grant):

- Visited Edwards property with Regan Plumb (Kaniksu Land Trust), as following our engagement with Don Edwards, he intends to donated a conservation easement for the property.
- Continued developing plans for further revegetation efforts in the East Fork Bull River and mainstem Bull River with existing landowner contacts, including Don Edwards and others.
- Continued coordinating ideas for a DNRC grant proposal to fund the Sanders County Pollinator Initiative and demonstration gardens in 2021. Confirmed sites for 3 demonstration pollinator plots that will test different treatment/prep methods in different locations (Heron, Trout Creek and Camas Prairie), including on one private landowner's property. Effort will include multiple replicate trials of approximately 8 treatment, site preparation, and planting methods... and allow conservation districts to provide better informed and site-specific recommendations for developing a pollinator garden.
- Confirmed funding to continued private landowner work through April 2021 with support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's "Watershed Capacity Fund".
- As field work and project implementation winds down, plan to pursue further work on the draft website. May need to enlist some outside support in making this "live", as Kate Arpin is no longer with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, and has been our primary website support person for years. We do not know if they have filled this role again yet.

Sims Meander Project: No new activity this month. We have preliminary consensus on a design alternative, and will continue developing this project for implementation in 2021 over the fall and winter. The USFS will complete permitting and NEPA consultation. I will work with Susan Drumheller to develop funding proposals for the remaining funding needed to implement the project.

MT Fish Wildlife & Parks Update for 8/19/2020

Jason Blakley

Day Complaint (SW-27C-19)- On July 8 myself (Jason Blakney) and our acting game warden (Morgan Post) went on a site visit to review the complaint of a channel-spanning rock dam across Prospect Creek. We accessed the property via the stream from a downstream USFS parcel as I got a last-minute call from Mr. Day's lady friend that he got called to work in the woods with no cell service for a week. The rock dam had indeed been compromised by spring runoff and is no longer a barrier to fish movement. However, we did find what I believe to be a pretty serious violation.

New Day violation- In picture 1 you can see where they dug through roots systems of the stream bank to irrigate a small off-channel pond along the stream bank and in the floodplain. From each of the pictures you can tell the pond was dug, either by hand or a small piece of equipment. The stream flows into and out of this pond, at least at higher flows. This pond could easily entrain fish. I also found a large painted turtle near the pond and suspect it was introduced as the only place around here I've seen turtles in the mainstem reservoirs. This is an egregious 310 violation as the landowners purposely dug through a stream bank to fill a small pond that was dug into the floodplain/stream bank, on Prospect Creek just above the confluence of Evans Gulch.



Picture 1. Area where stream bank was dug into to allow water to fill a pond that has been dug in the floodplain.



Pictures 2-3. Pond dug in floodplain/stream bank.

Cherry Creek Tree Limbing (SW-11C-20)- On July 8 myself and our acting game warden knocked on the door of the house downstream of where the large ponderosa was limbed/cut from the rootwad. No one answered the door. We noticed the large ponderosa that was limbed/cut upstream was carried downstream and was deposited on their property/in the floodplain. The tree was not secured to their property, which could have been the case if the tree was intentionally cut so it could be used to help stabilize banks on their property. Our game warden was able to acquire a phone number for the owner of the property (Jess Zollars from Washington) and he also left his card in their door. I called the number and left a message explaining the situation. Neither of us have received a call from the landowners. At this time, I think we can remove this complaint from the agenda as we don't know who cut the tree and because contact has been made with the two closest landowners.

MFWP monthly update

- In early August we released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for public scoping for the transfer of genetically pure Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT) into portions of three streams that are naturally fishless in the Thompson River drainage. This five-year project would take genetically pure WCT from up to four Thompson River tributaries where they are known to occur and translocate them into three other Thompson tributaries; Bear Creek, Shroder Creek and Murr Creek. Prior to moving fish AIS surveys, pathogen testing, genetic testing and public scoping will or have been conducted. We have seen hybridization progress up some Thompson River tributaries and since most of the stream habitats occupied by WCT are connected to the mainstem, we assume introgression will continue spread and threaten the native WCT throughout the drainage. This project represents the opportunity to conserve unique native and locally adapted genes that have evolved in the Thompson River drainage over eons in at least 12 miles of perennial habitat. Below is the link to the EA. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and provide comments to us if you'd like!

Draft Environmental Assessment Transfer of Westslope Cutthroat Trout Within the Thompson River Watershed

- A few fisheries/stream habitat enhancement projects have been completed this summer including a large woody addition projects in upper Prospect Creek and upper Fishtrap Creek, a road decommissioning project in Beartrap Creek and the removal of 600 feet of forest road within the riparian area along Fishtrap Creek at the West Fork confluence

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting
NRCS Report
August 19, 2020

Dillon Martini has been selected as the new DC for Sanders County. He will come on board at the end of September.

The Plains Service Center is still in "Phase III" which means visitors are allowed with pre-scheduled appointments and social distancing and masks are required.

Thank you,
Ben

Ben Montgomery
Supervisory District Conservationist
Ronan Field Office