



## Meeting Minutes November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<b>Supervisors Present</b>	<b>Employees Present</b>
Bill Naegeli	Leona Gollen
Terry Hightower	<b>Advisors Present</b>
Mindy Ferrell (Zoom)	Jason Blakney FWP (Zoom)
Kent Wilby (Zoom)	Author Potts Avista (Zoom)
Sean Moran (Zoom)	Dillon Martini NRCS (Zoom)
<b>Associate Supervisors Present</b>	
	<b>Visitors Present</b>
	Andrew Welch (North Western Energy) (Zoom)
	Mark Vander Mere Watershed Consulting (Zoom)
	Gene Jopling Contractor (Zoom)
	Jacques LeCoure Landowner (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 October meeting. All other interested parties will use the Zoom Meeting Room.

### Meeting Agenda items not always taken in order that they appear

#### Introductions

- Bill informed the attendees that this meeting will be recorded.

#### Minutes 2020

- A motion to approve October 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 meeting minutes as submitted was made Mindy by, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Mindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent motion carried.
- A motion to approve all invoices for November 2020 was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.

### **Administrator's Report:**

MACD Convention November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19 held via Zoom

- Bill attended today Leona and Mindy, will attend on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 150 people logged on today and then more at the site. All resolutions passed except Bill was not sure about the stock water resolution. Bylaws were all approved. Being held virtually was better attendance than if it is live. The voting on resolution was done by a pole and you knew what the count was. Kay Web was running it in the background and she did an awesome job.

December meeting day Change

- Leave it on the 16th

Letters & Flyers

- 310 letters and Flyers have been sent out to all Sanders County Relators.
  - This was brought out at one of the site visits that they were not told about the 310 law from their relator.

Kent Wilby Retiring/Associate:

- After 20 years of service as a Supervisor, Kent Wilby will be retiring as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. He has requested that the board consider him becoming an Associate Supervisor and maintaining the No-Till Drill for GMCD.
- We will vote on the changes in December.

### **LCFWG Report**

- See attached report

### **FWP Update**

- FWP will be interviewing candidates for two position for the Thompson Falls office in December, wildlife biologist and Avista-Fisheries mitigation biologist.

### **NRCS Update**

- See Attached

### **Public Education**

- Nothing to report

### **Supervisor Education**

- Nothing to report

### **New Business**

- Andrew Welch from Northwestern Energy attended our meeting.

### **Building Repair**

- Still getting estimates on fencing

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

- 

### **310 Activities**

#### **SW-08-20 Yellowstone Pipeline**

- Tabled until re-submitted

#### **SW-23-20 Stimson Lumber Project Completion**

- Request Pictures and review next month



#### **SW-10-13 Bull River Fish Trap Maintenance Scour**

- This is on the North Channel. This time of year the fish are moving. When the rain comes things tend to happen.
- There is a maintenance permit for this project.
- This is covered under the 10 year maintenance agreement.
- See attached report on scouring

#### **SW-29-20 Rahn**

- A site visit was preformed Friday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 10:00 am.
- After the site inspection the recommendation was to deny the request for the ATV trail and Approve the alternative outlined in Mr. Rahns application.
- Mark VanderMere. said the modification sounds doable. It may be a little bit steeper.
- A motion to accept the project with the following modifications. *Use of existing trail at top of property, with a property wide run. The walking trail will be no more than 36" (inches) wide. (Reference alternative plan in application #14 List Alternatives) with fewer switchbacks and/or runs and there must be minimal vegetation disturbance. Construction project will not use heavy equipment only hand tools. The 50" (inch) ATV trail is not approved.* was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- FWP Waive 318

#### **SW-31C-20 Graves Creek**

- A site visit was schedule for Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.
- Looked at site and basically what was in existence was 3-4 large cobbles that were oved by hand to cut off the flow to the pond. Viewing the pond was after the cold snap and it was froze over. The landowners showed us how the property goes through the eastern side of pond and the inflow was not flowing anymore. The side channel is not on their property. The area will be reassessed in the spring.
- Jason will get Leona the pictures he took and we have their contact information to look again in the spring.
- A motion that this is not a violation and to close this file was made by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, Motion carried.

#### **SW-32-20 LeCoure**

- This project is a dock request located on Blue Slide Rd. The dock is made out of high-density polyethylene resin. There is an existing trail already. No fill or bank disturbance. Minimal vegetation disturbance.
- This project is still being reviewed by Avista and Arthur from Avista believes that they will approve an 8' foot ramp but not the 90" they're requesting
- No equipment except a handheld hammer to drive in the posts.
- The long dock hooks together like individual cubes.
- A motion to Accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent, motion carried.
- A motion to approve the project with the following modifications *That the length is only 80 feet and not 90 feet and that no heave equipment will be used and dock will be dismantled in sections and removed for storage in winter. Pre pictures will also be taken* was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy, motion carried.
- FWP Waive the site visit
- FWP Waive the 318

#### **SW-33-20 Beckman**

- This is an application for a dock located in Thompson Falls. Mr. Beckman requests stairs down the bank to access his dock. 8 linear feet of bank would be impacted and 30 linear feet of dock in the water. He requested a dead tree stump be removed. Wildlife rail exists which would be enhanced but not sure how. What does enhancement of trail entail #6. There will be some vegetation disturbed.

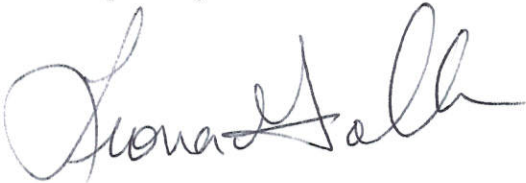
- Gene Jopling (Contractor) will talk to Mr. Bekcman about his application and have him redo it.
- A motion that the application is not complete was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

**SW-34-20 Nason**

- Bank Stabilization located in Thompson Falls MT. Proposal requests removal of Stumps. They want to dig out the stumps toward the river. Use river rock and spread on bank. Place large boulders along bank to reduce erosion but leaving the vegetation. Bank is currently concaved from years of erosion. Boulders will touch rivers edge There is very little vegetation present. An excavator is proposed to be used to spread rock.
- The Board has concerns with stump removal, and rip rap.
- Northwestern Energy is also concerned with the project and has property involved.
- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mindy, motion carried.
- A site visit was scheduled for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00 pm and Mindy, Bill, Jason, Andrew (from NWE) will attend.

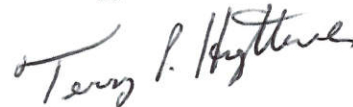
A motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Leona Gollen  
Administrator

Approved.



Terry Hightower  
Vice Chairman



United States Department of Agriculture

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Plains Field Office

7487 MT Hwy 200, Plains, MT. 59859

406.826.3701.

Green Mountain Conservation District Meeting

NRCS Report

November 18, 2020

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.

The application deadline for EQIP was yesterday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for our 2021 program year. We are currently working on multiple applications for white pine restoration in the Green Mtn CD service area through our Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP).

We are also working on developing a new TIP for stream restoration work in the Green Mtn CD service area in conjunction with the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group.

Dillon Martini

District Conservationist

Plains Field Office





## Report to the Green Mountain Conservation District

November 18, 2020

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

### Website

- Final September Meeting Minutes were posted.
- Draft October Meeting Minutes were posted.
- November agenda was posted.
- Website users over October: 72

#### Visitors



#### SESSIONS

83

↓ 12%

#### USERS

72

#### PAGEVIEWS

563

↑ 62%

#### PAGE/SESSIONS

6.78

↑ 83%

#### AVG. SESSIONS

00:02:23 ↑ 8%

#### BOUNCE RATES

61.45% ↑ 16%

### Project Updates

#### Bull River Revegetation

- Completed fall maintenance and mortality replacement plantings.
- Have about 100 addition cottonwood trees from the Kootenai National Forest that I'll be storing over the winter, and will be available next spring.
- In the coming year, I plan to develop some management / long-term strategies for all of our revegetation properties. I will also be planning for additional revegetation efforts – expanding current efforts and hopefully capitalizing on target outreach over the winter and spring through the private land stewardship program (below).
- Funding proposals were completed this fall to continue revegetation efforts along the East Fork Bull River, on two private properties and potentially also on Kootenai National Forest lands.
- I've left the LCFWG canoe and revegetation related tools and equipment in the storage shed over the winter.

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

- Plan to work with Troy Hidy on a possible Targeted Implementation Plan for riparian revegetation in 2021.
- Fall busy season is now wrapped up and I'll be at my desk for the rest of the year. First priority is to finalize a draft website and some new content for all of your review. Then I'll be drafting content for direct mailings that we'll send out this spring.

Pollinator Program

- Pollinator grant was approved for demonstration plots that we plan to build in 2021. The contract for this should be finalized soon.
- Will work over the winter to develop a landowner agreement and plan for implementing project in the early spring as soon as the soil is workable at the three sites (Heron, Trout Creek, and Camas Prairie).

Sims Meander Project:

- Proposal for CFSA Appendix B funds to support this project was developed and submitted to Avista. As we receive additional details from the Kootenai National Forest, this will continue to be revised. We can expect a decision from the Management Committee in March 2021.
- Our annual report to Montana Department of Environmental Quality will be due in December, so I will be working on that soon with Leona.

Thompson Falls Bank Stabilization and related outreach

- Completed brochure about NorthWestern's pilot project on the reservoir, and will now work to informally distribute as there is opportunity.

### **SW-10-13 Bull River Fish Trap Maintenance Scour**

This is a follow up regarding the scour that occurred in association with the East Fork Bull River weir traps on the night of November 5/6. The good news is that the scour all occurred within gravels and fines in the bed of the annually active channel as opposed to getting into the banks or larger substrates.

These photos are in the “north/west channel” of the East Fork Bull River. As I mentioned, there was no noteworthy scour associated with the south channel traps. The worst spot was associated with what we refer to as the “upstream capture weir” (i.e., the one that captures upstream-moving fish). At this location, debris and flows buckled the panels pulling the one that ran highest onto the bank back into the active channel and then flows started eroding around the panels (Figures 1 and 2). There was a little bit of scour associated with the “downstream capture weir”. However, this was more that gravel and fines aggraded in front of the panels with a bit of scour at/behind the panels (Figure 3). As I mentioned, we removed about 75% of the weir components on Friday which halted any additional erosion or aggradation. Flows and debris loads are subsiding and we will likely get the weirs reinstalled around mid-week unless there are any objections (and depending on the weather/flows). Please also let me know if there is any corrective action we need to take with regard to the 310 permit or Special Use Authorization. We will certainly be a bit more aggressive with removing pickets in anticipation of these events as we move forward. It is a difficult balance to strike because (1) a very high proportion of juvenile Bull Trout migrate during these events, and (2) the magnitude of flow and debris are challenging to predict. In summary, we are trying to aggressively fish but avoid any damage to the bed or bank. Please let me know if I need to tip that balance further one way or the other.



**Figure 1. Upstream capture weir in the north channel of the East Fork Bull River upon arrival on November 6.**





**Figure 2. View looking downstream at the scour around the upstream capture weir before and after the panels were removed.**





**Figure 3. Looking downstream at the downstream capture weir (upstream capture weir in background) upon arrival at the site on November 6. Note the gravel aggradation in front of the panels.**