

# **Green Mountain Conservation District**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 21<sup>st</sup> 2017**

#### **Supervisors Present**

Kent Wilby  
Terry Hightower  
Sean Moran

#### **Employees Present**

Leona Gollen

#### **Advisors Present**

Ryan Kreiner  
Katherine Maudrone  
Ben Montgomery  
Samantha Tappenbeck

#### **Visitors Present**

Darryl Gingerich  
Chad Pardee  
Patty English  
Gary Engebretson  
Mr. Esler  
Dave Bennett

#### **Associate Supervisors Present**

Jean Dunn  
Jackie Nichols  
Jim Carabin  
Mindy Ferrell

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

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

#### **Introductions**

#### **Minutes from April, 2017**

- A motion to approve May 2017 meeting minutes as submitted was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

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

- Mill Levy Duplication
  - Leona informed the Board that due to a mill levy duplication on the part of the County, we received more mill levy funds last FY than we should have. The county sent a letter stating that the portion that we need to pay back is \$9,485.00. The County will deduct this amount from further mill levy funds owed until it is payed back in full.
- County Budget
  - Leona reviewed the county budget with the Board.
  - A motion to pass the county budget and submit as proposed was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- 310 permit completion form
  - Leona reviewed the permit completion form that was created by Flathead County. It was requested that GMCD start using a similar form and send it with every permit that is issued.
  - A motion to start using a permit completion form for all 310 permits issued was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.
- Annual Convention November 14-16 2017
  - Leona reminded the Board of the Annual convention this year and asked if anyone is going to attend.
  - Mindy will be going.
  - Leona will make hotel reservation
- Electricity in Shop
  - It was brought out that since we have done all the work on the shop that it would be nice if we had some kind of power and lights installed.
  - Kent will get some bids for cost and bring them to next month's meeting.

**GMCD Website: ([greenmountaincd.org](http://greenmountaincd.org).)**

- The new website is up and running

**Coordinator “Watershed Report”:**

**Bull River and Dry Creek Sediment Reduction and Re-vegetation Project:**

- Watershed Consulting has completed about half of the spring planting and will complete the rest in a second trip when the water is lower and they can access all of the sites. Jason Blakney will be able to visit the properties and approve the invoice as Brita is away. Josh Boyd is working with Susan Drumheller to shoot video about re-vegetation efforts in the Bull River, which will be incorporated into an outreach video that will describe the project and importance of streamside vegetation. The Environmental Assessment for Dry Creek has not been completed soon enough to allow time to implement the Dry Creek project this year, but the USFS hopes to complete it this winter. If this is the case, the funds we have from DEQ can still be used for the implementation of this project in 2018. Additional plantings will be implemented in the fall on at least one property (Wood Duck), and possibly others if landowner agreements are signed.

**Miners Gulch**

- The USFS has been working on the re-vegetation effort at Miners Gulch. Josh Boyd and Susan Drumheller have been conducting interviews to incorporate into a video about this restoration project.

**Watershed Restoration Planning**

- Sarah Bowman continues to make progress on the Watershed Restoration Plan for the Thompson River over the summer, and will also begin working on the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Restoration Plan as well. Samantha Tappenbeck (from the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana) has also been supported this effort, primarily by helping organized landowner and other stakeholder input as well as by serving as a technical resource.

**MT FWP Report**

- Re-opening the fish ladder
- Beginning Thompson River Sampling

**NRCS Report:**

- NRCS was finally able to hire Travis Lemke to replace Don in Plains. Travis worked a lot in Forestry, and Cropping etc. He will be starting July 9<sup>th</sup> this year.
- Ben would like to see a few changes in Sanders County. He has decided to have Troy in GMCD's area more often.
- When Travis come on Ben will come to the meeting with him next month and he will work with Travis to review our needs.
- Wetland reserve easements with Forest components have been worked on by Ben & Troy.
- NRCS has had a lot of changes recently.

**Soil & Water Conservation District of Montana (SWCDM)**

**Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP**

- June 2, 2017: Brita and Sarah sent out draft 2 of the WRP which incorporated edits/review/comments from the stakeholder group
- Landowner outreach letter was mailed to residents/private landowners in the Thompson River basin
- Information about WRP and link to more info and online survey
- There have been 5 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent
- June 10, 2017: Samantha attended the spring meeting of the Thompson River Drainage Association and gave a presentation about the WRP; several members signed up for more information; Dave Hattis (USFS District Ranger, Lolo) gave a presentation on the current condition of the Copper King burn area and salvage sale, more mushroom permits and harvest.

**Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):**

- \$65K available for projects
- Pilot from last year spent \$40K on 5 smaller projects
- Funding is from EPA, CWA section 319:
- Can only be spent in areas with an accepted WRP (Lower Clark Fork accepted, Thompson River in progress)
- Monitoring component - with permission from landowner, will conduct monitoring over time
- 50% cost share - infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.

- Landowner agreements
- Grazing assistance from certified grazing assistance plan developer Complementary to NRCS programs:
- Support single practice projects don't rank that well in the EQIP process
- Tentative deadline of **August 31st** and there will be a review of applications by a committee, then open enrollment after that if \$ are not all allocated
- Contact is Jess Makus at SWCDM Conservation Menu (SWCDM) **www.mtconservationmenu.org**
- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- Six program categories: Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds, Pollinators, Rangeland Consolidates diverse and numerous programs available into one user-friendly format Program and organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search. Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact me (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)

#### **Old Business:**

- No-Till Drill

#### **Building Repair Project:**

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#### **No-Till Drill/Gopher-Getter:**

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#### **New Business:**

- Aquatic invasive Species
  - Landowners would like to rake around dock to remove milfoil.
  - Avista seemed to think it might be time for the Landowners to be able to rake around their docks
  - Invasive Species Group would like to know if GMCD will allow landowners to rake the mill foil around their docks. And will they need a 310 permit.
  - **Leona will contact DNRC and Don McIntire for advice on whether a 310 would be required to do this.**
  - 3 ft wide rake. You throw it out and drag it back.
  - Approx. 30 feet on all side of dock.

#### **Subdivision Review:**

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

- It was brought out that Avista cut and limbed up some trees on Island Park Sub- Division.
- GMCD believes the work may need to have an emergency 310 form completed.
- **Leona will contact Avista to get more information on what was completed**

#### **310 Activities**

##### **SW-16E-17 Refuse Emergency**

- A site visit was conducted
- A motion that the emergency work completed was necessary to safeguard life, property, or crops and the project was approved with no further action required was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

##### **SW-17E-17 Philips 66 Emergency**

- A site visit was conducted.
- A motion that the emergency work completed was necessary to safeguard life, property, or crops and the project was approved including the additional 150 Ft. of rip rap outlined in their letter dated May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, with no further action required was made by Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.
- **We will add to the notification letter that at this time we have elected to not make them remove the additional 150 ft. of rip rap that was put in or issue a fine due to the fact that it states in the inspection sheet that they signed, they were informed that in order to do anymore work they were to submit an additional 310 application.**

**SW-18-17 Ramos Dock**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made last month.
- Site was conducted.
- A motion to approve the permit as submitted with the modification that the dock will not extend more than 60' into the water was made by Kent, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

**SW-19-17 Kluczewich Dock**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made last month
- A site visit was conducted
- A motion to approve the permit as submitted with the modification that the landowner stay clear of placing the dock in or near the reed grass in the area was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried

**SW-22-17 Baxter Bank Repair**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made last month
- A site visit was conducted.
- A motion to approve the permit as submitted with the modification that all instream work is to be conducted between July 15<sup>th</sup> & August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 was made by Sean, 2nd by Terry, Motion carried

**SW-23-17 Nason Dock**

- A site visit was conducted
- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, Motion Carried

**SW-24-17 Lyons**

- A motion to accept as a complete application and approve project as submitted was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, Motion Carried
- FWP waived site visit

**SW-25-17 Finch**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Terry, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried
- A site visit was scheduled and July 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am and Ryan, Kent & Terry will attend
- Leona will call the landowner to schedule site visit

**SW-26-17 Lot 4A of Lot 4 Mountain Springs Bank Work**

- These sites are located on Old Barn Rd. off Cherry Creek. Rd.
- Kent will call Mr. Bennett and schedule a site visit

**SW-27-17 Brown**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Kent, 2nd by Sean, Motion carried
- A site visit was scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:00 pm, and Ryan and Kent will attend.
- Kent will notify the landowner of site visit.

**SW-28-17 Cox**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2nd by Kent, Motion carried
- A site visit was scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm, and Kent and Sean will attend.
- Kent will notify the landowner of site visit.
- FWP Waived site visit

**SW-29-17 Leufkens**

- Send a letter to City Council Stating that this is not in our jurisdiction. If you would like us to work with you to please let us know but as of right now it is in your jurisdiction. Motion made by \_\_\_\_, 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_, motion carried. You will need to inform FWP and include them in any decision because by law they need to agree with your decision.
- Leona will contact Dennis and inform him of the decision.

**SW-30E-17 Sanders County White Pine**

- A site visit was conducted
- A motion that the emergency work completed was necessary to safeguard life, property, or crops, and the project was approved with no further action required was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

**SW-31-17 English-Refuse**

- A motion to accept as a completed application was made by Sean, 2nd by Terry, Motion carried
- A site visit was scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am, and Kent, Ryan, Terry will attend.

**SW-32C-17 McCully Bank Disturbance Complaint**

- It was brought out that this appears to be a 2nd flagrant violation by Mr. McCully and was determined that GMCD will research any and all legal recourse.
- A site visit is needed ASAP to document the extent of the damage
- A comment was made that A lot of funds are being spent in the Bull River right now to mediate old habitat degradation and it is not acceptable to have this person in the creek with a front loader
- A motion to send violation letter with pictures by certified mail was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried
- Last complaint was SW-23V-14.

**SW-12-16 Gingerich Extension**

A motion to extend permit # SW-12-16 to June 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

**SW-13-16 Avista Extension**

A motion to extend permit # SW-13-16 to June 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 was made by Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm was made by Terry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sean, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.

Approved.

Leona Gollen  
Administrator

Kent Wilby  
Chairman