



Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

****1 PM** January 16th, 2017**

Madison Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **Call meeting to order:** Mel called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
2. **Supervisors present:** Mel McKittrick, Janet Endecott, Neil Kent, Kaye Suzuki, Bob Sitz, Colten Clark, Jessie Wiese.
3. **Staff present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Madeline Pruzenski, Cori Koenig
4. **Supervisor Oaths of Office: Neil, Nick, Colten, Kaye:** (tabled until February)
5. **Welcome Madeline:** the board welcomed Madeline to her new position as Big Sky Watershed Corps member for MCD.
6. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** Janet moves to approve as corrected. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Financial:** Janet read financial report & reviewed recent bills. Neil questioned whether we should transfer some funds from the County accounts to an interest bearing account. Neil moves to transfer \$40,000 from the County account to the district savings account. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
8. **Public Comment:** none
9. **Business: 1:30**
 - a. **16-31 Alton Ranch (update):** This is a renewal. The project wasn't completed by the time the permit expired. Janet moves to extend 16-31 to 12.31.17. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - b. **Channels Ranch:** There is no application yet. They submitted a letter wondering if they needed a permit or not. Mel requested that they submit an application for the whole project and MCD could break down where permits are needed. They will submit a permit application for next month.
 - c. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel reported three hours spent this month.
10. **Equipment Rental Invoices/Income:** Colten and Bob reported that Bill Jackson or Bart Story in Harrison has offered to purchase and repair the track filler. Colten reported that we should purchase a new one. Bob has made some calls regarding a new track filler. Bob reported that Clay contacted him, a new filler would be between \$16,000-\$18,000.
11. **Old Business and Reports:**
 - a. **Recommended Conservation Practices: Madison CD Supported Management Practices:**
 - Ethan brought a worksheet to break down the discussion. The group started discussing Range Health and Condition and decided to create a database referencing people to NRCS and MSU-Extension information to help further educate on issues. The group decided to put a page on the website for this.
 - b. **Future Fisheries, NWE Grant Apps:** Sunni reported on the grant hearings. See staff report.
 - c. **Watershed Planning meeting January:** Ethan reported on his draft agenda and stakeholder interview summaries.
 - d. **Inter-District Memo RE: Bylaw Changes:** tabled.
 - e. **Adjudication Meeting:** Sunni reported that Madison Valley Ranchlands brought in Russ McElyea on December 21st to present. There were a handful of people in attendance. He reminded people what they should bear in mind with the upcoming adjudication and the timeline. Russ reminded people to apply for stock water rights. He fielded quite a few questions. They are looking at 2020 for the adjudication to be done.

NRCS Report: Dan was not present today. Sunni reported that the Moores Creek Lyons project is moving forward.

Supervisors Report: none
Staff/Project Report

12. New Business:

- a. **Officer Election:** Kaye moves to nominate Mel McKittrick and Janet Endecott as Co-Chairs for 2017. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- b. **Science Fair**
 - **Monday, January 23rd**
 - **Awards/Amounts:** The supervisors decided to do up to 4 \$75 awards to projects with conservation as a topic.
 - **Judges? 2-4 pm, Awards 7 pm:** Colten and Neil will judge. They will report winners to Janet, she'll write checks. She'll hand them off to Kaye and Kaye will give to Janet Dochnahl to present.
- c. **Office Re-model Contract:** Supervisors discussed the invoice from John Dochnahl that was over the contracted amount. Most supervisors felt that he signed the contract and did not communicate a change order. The decision to pay the amount of the contract stood.
- d. **MWCC Partnership Program:** MWCC is asking groups to pay memberships annually. It would be \$100/year for MCD to be a member. Members receive discounts on trainings and symposiums. Tabled until next month, Ethan will bring information to the next meeting.
- e. Bob brought up the possibility of doing a project into the Harrison area. The Bausch's and Steve Jackson may be a possibility? It is located on Hot/Warm Springs Creek. Mel will contact them to see if they may be interested.

13. Correspondence:

- a. Thank you from Department of Ag for sponsoring a couple for Young Ag couple.
- b. Thank you note from Cori.

Upcoming dates:

Ennis Range School: Monday, January 23rd, 10 am -2 pm, Madison Valley Baptist Church

Science Fair: Monday, January 23rd, 2-4 pm. Awards at 7 pm

Legislative Meet and Greet: Tuesday, January 24th, 5-9 pm, Montana Club, Helena

WRP Stakeholder Meeting: Wednesday, January 25th, 6:00-7:30 pm, Ennis Elementary Cafeteria

Madison Watershed Partnership Meeting: Tuesday, January 31st at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 3:55 pm

Cori Koenig, Administrator

Mel McKittrick, Co-Chair

Staff/Projects Report

Ethan:

Madison Stream Team – 90% of the data analysis is complete, and Madeline will soon begin working on the annual report.

Watershed Planning Guidance Document – The first draft was submitted at the end of November, and I am now incorporating edits into the final draft. Once submitted, we can bill for 100% of my time that went into developing the document.

Watershed Planning (Water Quality Restoration Plan & Drought Resiliency Plan) – The public/stakeholder meeting is set for January 25th at 6:00 pm at the Ennis School cafeteria. We've been interviewing stakeholders over the past couple weeks to obtain feedback on this planning process (see handouts), and are using this input to organize this meeting, as well as future meetings. Over the coming months we will be compiling information in the watershed to develop a profile of the area that can be used to help stakeholders identify priorities. This information may include: geomorphology (connectivity between surface water and groundwater), subdivisions (currently developed and places with potential for development), well and septic inventory, economic influences of water, streams impaired for water quality, inventory of flood vs. pivot irrigation, climate change projections, and population growth projections. What else should be looked into?

Big Sky Watershed Corps – Welcome Madeline! Madeline has already started work on the 2016 Stream Team report, and will then be helping compile the data mentioned above for the watershed plan. We will both be at the BSWC orientation in Bozeman later this week.

MWCC – We discussed at the last meeting that I was asked to join the Montana Watershed Coordination Council board. I happily accepted, and attended their annual strategic planning meeting in December.

Madison CD Supported Management Practices - *See Handout

Sunni: Watershed Coordinator

Lower Jack Creek: Grant applications were approved in the following amounts : NorthWestern Energy: \$48k (\$20K which needs to be spent by June 2017), MTFWP Future Fisheries: \$10K, Landowner Support \$10k, Madison River Foundation \$6k. Total: \$74k. Current total cost estimate is \$110K, but I will be meeting with Scott Gillian Jan 17 to refine this number based on feedback from Kevin Weinner and timeline considerations.

Channel Migration Zone: See final maps and provide any feedback on content or additional information that could be included. We will need to have a final meeting to include updates and present final maps. Thanks to Supervisors Janet, Kaye, Mel and Neil for attending the meeting.

Moore's Creek Lyons: Grant applications were approved in the following amounts: NorthWestern Energy: \$40k, MTFWP Future Fisheries: \$20k, MRF \$6k, DNRC \$40k. The Board needs to review the contract from Sweetgrass CD and vote to approve. Other updates from NRCS. Janet moves for the board to sign the grant agreement from DNRC through Sweetgrass County for \$40,000. Bob seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.

Landowner Workshops: See flyer for Jan 23rd Ennis Range School and help distribute. Registration is due Jan 20th. Cap of 45 for the event.

Also, We are finalizing date for Cheatgrass workshop in February in Harrison, and pollinator/pesticide workshop in March. Stay tuned.

2017 Banquet: Event will be held April 22nd at the Round Barn in Twin. Please sign up for your sponsor contact. Letters will be sent out by February 1st, and responses are due by March 10th.

2017 Stewardship Award: See the nomination form. Any changes?

GROWW Coordinator: We will be paying Nichole for 20 hours per week for 6 weeks for maternity leave. She is due in February. Dates have been set for Good Thymes Camp, and there is discussion on expanding the Yellowstone Adventure Camp to the academic year.

Riparian Restoration Planning: We met with MTFWP and Madison River Foundation on January 6th to discuss the possibility of working on some riparian restoration along the river. They would like to develop an approach that would encourage willow, cottonwood, and birch growth along the river, since we don't see much recruitment. We need to have some better idea of areas that are good potential, and species that would be ideal. An additional meeting is planned for later this spring.

Cori: Administrator:

I've been working on various administrative tasks. We spent some time getting the office re-organized and streamlined after the re-model. I've finished the archiving process! Our files are organized and streamlined.