



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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WWW.MADISONCD.ORG

Final Minutes

Regular Monthly Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** August 18, 2020
Ennis Rodeo Grounds & Conference Call

1. Call meeting to order: 7:06
2. Supervisors Present: Nick Dyk, Abigail Dennis, Paul Jurenas, Jon Siddoway, George Boyd, Kaye Suzuki (Phone), Kate Roberts
3. Staff Present: David Laufenberg, Bayley Gibson
4. Others Present: Mike Duncan (MTFWP) Emily Osborn (INA Accounting)
5. Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:06
 - July Minutes
 1. Kaye Suzuki motions to approve the July minutes as proposed.
 2. Seconds: Jon Siddoway
 3. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
6. Financial-Emily Osborn (Phone): 7:08
 - a. July Financials
 - After checks clear, there will be about \$6500 left in the checking. A little money came into the county account. Private grants include MWCC for Missouri Headwaters Partnership and the Fasules contribution.
 - MCD has been a part of the Missouri Headwaters Partnership for the past 2 to 4 years. It has been pretty quiet, but when there was money left over, the remaining partners decided to divvy up the leftover funds to pay for partners to attend workshops to help facilitate planning. Abigail Dennis suggests we move that money and use it for the purpose requested and earmark the funds under training expense/board and staff. Nick Dyk wants to use the money in the next year. Kaye Suzuki wants the trail and paperwork to show what it was spent on. Emily Osborn will make a separate line for these funds.
 1. **Nick Dyk motions we move \$20,000 from savings to checking to cover operating costs**
 - a. Seconds: Kaye Suzuki
 - b. All in favor and the motion carries
 - c. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
 - **Nick Dyk motions to accept the July financials.**
 - Seconds: Jon Siddoway
 - All in favor and the motion carries
 - **Approved**/Tabled/Modified
7. Public Comment 7:27: None
8. NRCS Report (John Wagoner) 7:27:

Office is in "Phase 3" for now. Each county must have less than 4 active cases, and maintain for several weeks before we can fully open, or go back to normal. Building is still closed to public, but visitors are allowed by appointment and must wear face mask.

Completed WRE (easement) monitoring in late June, 4 easements needed onsite visits.

5 EQIP contracts obligated, for 1750 acres of juniper clearing in the S. T-Roots. Work has been completed on 1 of the contracts with approximately 630 acres being treated. I have been working w/ Sean Claffey (SMSP), and he has had

contractors out to bid all of the contracts from 2020, and expected to them all completed by this fall if things go as planned. The Sage Grouse Initiative, Conifer encroachment fund pool, is expected to be increased in the next 5 years. It is likely, we will have funds to treat more acres than originally projected when drafting the TIP.

If we are able to use SGI dollars for accomplishing the TIP goals in the South T-Roots, I would like to start drafting another TIP to pull funds from the Missoula area's general EQIP fund. I would like to have TIP in the Madison. May be worth exploring some ideas this fall. (S & N Willow Cr, invasive weeds, riparian grazing/ infrastructure?)

I'll be working with Audra and Dominique in the Ruby, to try some "Beaver Dam Analogues" and other induced meandering structures. They are wanting to set up a few volunteer days to harvest willows and implement BDA's this fall. Two locations have been identified that would be feasible, and landowners have given permission.

9. Business-310-Paul Jurenas: 7:32

a. 20-14E

- Applicant: William Legg
- Stream: Tributary to Bear Creek
- Type of Project: Emergency 310 – removed blown down trees in the creek
- Status:
- Date: Action taken 7/02/2020
- Notes:
- Discussion:
 1. Colten Clark helped remove some trees that were headed towards a headgate. Nick Dyk says that for irrigators you can do removal of debris if it impedes on the delivery of water and does not obstruct channel structure. There was no site visit. Mike Duncan has no concerns with this work. Colten Clark is not present to describe the work that was done. David Laufenberg states that the blown down trees were put in the dump. **Nicks Dyk motions to accept the permit as presented to the board with no additional caveats.**
 2. Seconds: Kate Roberts
 3. All in favor and the motion carries
 4. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

b. 20-15

- Applicant: Granger Ranches
- Stream: O'Dell Creek
- Type of Project: Improve a stream crossing that is used for ranch operations, including: excavating banks and slope back; harden with rock excavated from creek immediately below crossing
- Status: Site visit on 8/12/20
- Date: Proposed start date: 9/1/2020
- Discussion:
 1. David Laufenberg and Paul Jurenas made the site visit. They took photos, but no drone footage because of the wind. The ranch has other stream crossings, but not used as much anymore. David Laufenberg and Paul Jurenas also visited another crossing that MCD permitted a couple of years ago. George Boyd asks what the bottom was like before the crossing. The cobble used is right from the streambed and nothing was hauled in. Nick Dyk wants to know about the road coming into the crossing. David Laufenberg says the road is only used in the spring a handful of times. This time of year the road is almost non-existent. Kaye Suzuki asks about the fine sediment – if it is filled in naturally or placed. David Laufenberg says they move a bunch of stone around, then it settles where it is and there is no maintenance. There is no fence at this site and cattle may water here. Mike Duncan says the streambed will not mobilize, and anything bigger than gravel will probably stay put. Sediment will not move, just fines. Nick Dyk suggests extending the cobbles to bank height. Kaye Suzuki says that you can see hummocking where cows have come in to drink, and that the crossing may be too wide. The proposed crossing site is

downstream of the other restoration project so the stream will naturally narrow and will change with the restoration work. The photo shown of the proposed crossing is a bit misleading, so we pull up the site on Google Earth. Nick Dyk thinks there may be more silt than the other crossing. Mike Duncan recommends doing the work before October. **Nick Dyk motions to accept the application with the following modifications: Work should be completed prior to brown trout spawning; prior to October 1, 2020. Rip rap material should be extended from water level to bank full/high water mark.**

2. Seconds: George Boyd
3. Approved/**Modified**/Tabled

c. 20-16

- Applicant: Barry Rohweder
- Stream: South Meadow Creek
- Type of Project: Gold mining; suction dredging on gold claim
- Status: Site visit on 8/12/20
- Discussion:
 1. This application is for small scale, hobby mining. There is no existing structure at the proposed work site. The applicant has filed a plan of operations with the forest service, but it has not been signed or approved. MCD is only concerned with the natural resources aspect of the project. It is not our duty to make sure he has all his other required permits in order. Some similar permits require miners to stay within streambanks, and to not dredge out of the stream. They also request you not move material like rocks and boulders that you can't move with the suction or your hands. Mike Duncan says that he will not sign 318 forms on any mining project, as per usual. In other similar permits, we have requested that the sluice be set into a pool for the sediment to settle before the water returns to the stream, like a settling pond. Kaye Suzuki wants to require this. Nick Dyk suggests mounding up rocks to make coffer dams to be used as settling ponds. These would need to be a few feet off the edge of the bank. This work would be below the high water mark and would involve making the coffer dam in the gravel bar, outside of the main flow of the channel. Nick Dyk says we can approve the application for five years but only for a month a year. The board wants to ask for a few photos a year. Nick Dyk wants to ask for photos of the mining process during the first year. David Laufenberg thinks that a few hundred feet of streambank are in the proposed work area and Kaye Suzuki guesses there are about 4 acres of the mining claim. The board wants to expand the date window. Kaye Suzuki suggests following the dates in the plan of operations. Nick Dyk says that may be too much leeway that could affect spawning and high water events. Abigail Dennis wants to give him concrete dates. Kaye Suzuki says that the forest service takes all of these factors into account when approving plans of operations. Mike Duncan reminds Bayley Gibson to let the applicant know to file the 318 form with the DEQ. **Kaye Suzuki motions to accept application #20-16 with the following modifications: discharge sediment/tailings into settling pool/coffer dam above flowing water level but within the "high water" mark of the creek channel. Provide annual photos of site impacted. Work can be completed between August 1 and September 15 annually.**
 2. Seconds: Nick Dyk
 3. All in favor and the motion carries
 4. Approved/**Modified**/Tabled
- ****Project is outside of MCD jurisdiction and therefore invalid – Sept. 15,2020****

d. 20-17

- Applicant: Drew Scott
- Stream: Daisy Creek (S. Meadow Creek Trib.)
- Type of Project: Removing silt from a pond
- Status: Site visit on 8/12/20
- Notes: Applied for a permit in 2012 that was approved with modifications.

Tim Hoe was the contractor

- Discussion:
 1. David Laufenberg plays drone footage from the site visit. Mike Duncan asks if the applicant diverts the whole creek into the pond. David Laufenberg says he couldn't tell, but that day the applicant was not. Mike Duncan points out that if the applicant can turn the water off to the pond, this project may not fall within MCD jurisdiction. If the applicant has altered the channel, it would be jurisdictional; but if he installed a headgate, then the project would not be jurisdictional. We do not know the history of the stream and whether it was altered or not. Kaye Suzuki remembers it being swampy, and then it was dredged into a pond. Nick Dyk wants to look at the previous 310 from 2012. David Laufenberg pulls up google earth to see the historical changes to the area. Mike Duncan wants to know what the applicant will do with the dredged materials. David Laufenberg says he will put them just north and west of the outlet, in a small field on the opposite side of the creek, slightly upstream and below the road. Nick Dyk thinks we can call it a project. The applicant will use an excavator for the work. Nick Dyk wants to make sure they have a weed management plan. **Nick Dyk motions to accept application #20-17 with the following modifications: Flow to pond is to be closed to reduce turbidity in creek channel. Dredge material is to be kept a minimum of 20 feet from creek channel and applicant is to manage weeds/vegetation.**
 2. Seconds: Kaye Suzuki
 3. All in favor and the motion carries.
 4. Approved/**Modified**/Tabled

e. 20-18

- Applicant: Philip Nye
- Stream: North Willow Creek
- Type of Project: Bridge construction
- Status: Completed project – follow-up application to a complaint
- Discussion:
 1. If we want to add modifications to work done, this is the time. David Laufenberg and Mike Duncan read the team report suggestions. There was not a bridge there before this one was installed. The rock work was done in 2018, we think. The channel is well vegetated and construction appears to be above high water mark. There is a lake above this site that takes the brunt of spring water runoff. **Nick Dyk motions to accept application #20-18 with the following modifications: Applicant is to monitor debris accumulation on root ball/tree in center of creek channel below bridge.**
 2. Seconds: Kate Roberts
 3. All in favor and the motion carries
 4. Approved/**Modified**/Tabled

f. Work Completion Reports: None

g. Monthly time spent on 310's: Paul Jurenas - 22 hours

h. Mike informs the board that he contacted several agencies about the work done on Spanish Q.

10. Old Business and Reports 9:33:

a. Rental System Update

- Sign has been installed at Kate Roberts' property in Ennis

b. Update on Mile Creek #20-02

- Kaye Suzuki visited the site and took pictures. The applicant had a friend with an excavator do the work. The culvert is already starting to wash out. The width of the culvert is a potential problem. A couple people have come close to driving off of it. The culvert is already gullyng. People have seen this creek roar and there are concerns if this culvert can handle heavy runoff. We should do a follow up visit and make sure applicant knows about these concerns. We would recommend a wider culvert. People are still using the stream crossing and not using the road/culvert.

- From this application, MCD has learned to state minimum width and require better fill material. Mike Duncan says the NRCS has a good guide that helps to size a culvert. We should also learn that when we receive an application as slim as this one was, we should only accept the application when we receive adequate plans and details.
- The board suggests we do a follow up site inspection and keep it documented. Nick Dyk would feel better if there were wings or riprap so it wouldn't wash out. In the future we should require a design and well- engineered plan for projects like this. Mike Duncan recommends 25 year event proof plans. Nick Dyk thinks we should post a link to the stream permitting guide on the website and have a solid policy that we can refer applicants to if their application is slim. George Boyd thinks a six feet extension to the culvert would help.

11. New Business: 10:01

- Varney Bridge USGS Stream Gage; MOU with NEW; \$3,280
 - Last year this funding fell through cracks. Essentially MCD funnels the money for NWE. July 1, 2020 through June 2021 is the funding cycle. We partner with NWE, FWP, and USGS. Abigail Dennis wants to put it on the agenda in the spring so it's not surprising when we need to pay for the next cycle. It will be year to year deal. It isn't the only gage on the river, but the only one we help to fund. The board would like to add it to budget to track it so it doesn't fall through the cracks again
 - **Nick motions to update our MOU with NWE for the Varney Bridge USGS site for the next year.**
 - Seconds: George Boyd
 - All in favor and the motion carries
 - **Approved**/Tabled/Modified

12. Correspondence: 10:13

- Change to the Designated Surveillance Area by the Dept. of Livestock regarding brucellosis monitoring
- Madison Valley Manor Rehab Release of Funds

13. Supervisors Report 10:15:

14. Staff/Project Report 10:15:

- Tributary Monitoring Program
 - Madison Stream Team
 - Discharge is down; continuing to collect data each week
 - Tributary Blitz Day
 - Late August or early September
 - Coordinating with partners and volunteers
- Pollinator Program
 - Pollinator seeds will be sent out this September for distribution to public
- Lower Jack Creek Project
 - Sprayed deer repellent on plants mid-August
 - Working with Nancy Fasules and MVR to ensure adequate watering
 - New person from MVR was trained by David L. to help water.
- Madisonian Newspaper
 - Natural Resource Notes (NRN) column on 310 Process
- Watershed Management Grant
 - End date changed to December 2021 (one-year extension)
 - Host stakeholder meeting this winter
- Gravelly Landscape Collaborative
 - Informational mailings and posters regarding conifer removal efforts in the area
- Planning Board
 - Subcommittee formed to work on county planning regulatory language; DL is on the subcommittee
- Events and Meetings attended
 - MTFWP Fish Passage Webinar; July 24
 - Jon Siddoway & Colten Clark Field Visit; August 17
 - TMDL DEQ Public Meeting and Presentation; August 6

d. NRCS Low-Tech Restoration Conference; August 11 – 14 – guide to be added to stream permitting guide on website.

e. GROWW Meeting at Ennis School; August 5

12. Upcoming Dates:

a. MCD Monthly Meeting, September 15, 7p.m.

b. Trout Unlimited Lower Madison Clean-Up; August 29th, 9a.m.

c. Ennis Fly Fishing Festival; early September; CANCELLED

13. Meeting Adjourned 10:21