



FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting ****1:00 PM**** January 8, 2018

Lunch 12:00 PM

First Madison Valley Bank (downstairs conference room)

1. **Call meeting to order:** Nick Dyk called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Kaye Suzuki, George Boyd, Colten Clark, Jessie Wiese
3. **Staff present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Cori Koenig
4. **Others present:** Dave Moser, FWP, Clayton Marxer, NRCS, Janet Endecott
5. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** Kaye moves to accept the minutes as presented. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
6. **Financial:** Cori read and reviewed the financial report. Kaye moves to accept as presented. George seconds. All in favor and the motion passes. Jessie requested budget to actual report for the end of the calendar year for the next meeting.
7. **Public Comment:** Janet Endecott thanked the board for the fifteen years she spent on the board and the progress the CD has made.
8. **Business:**
 - a. **# 17-26 Matt Moen** (tabled until spring).
 - b. **#17-30 Cody Williams:** Dave and Mel visited the site. Dave reported. He commented that the application was light on details. Dave had some concerns about the applicant doing the work with no engineer plan. Mel moves to table permit 17-30 pending further design information. George seconded. All in favor and motion passes. Mel will call, Cori will draft a letter requesting more information on design and illustration.
 - c. **Work Completion Reports:** Brett Owens returned #17-28.
 - d. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 4 hours spent this month.
9. **Old Business and Reports:**
 - a. **Mill Levy:** Ethan suggested spending some time understanding steps to determine the true value of mills and understanding our base value. Kaye suggested putting together a joint letter from several CD's requesting MACD work on this project. Jessie suggested asking MACD while they're at our meeting if they would be interested in pursuing this project before the staff spends more time on this subject. Leave on agenda as Mill Levy Calculation for the February meeting.
 - b. **Long-term funding strategies (e.g., partnerships, 501(c)(3)).** Ethan reported on the pro and con list regarding the 501 (c) (3) opportunity for the next month. Jessie will share some information on by-laws from Ruby Habitat and Montana Land Reliance. Sunni had requested NACD look into clarification of our tax status as a non-profit. It looks as though non-profit status is a dead end through the Conservation District.
 - c. **Lower Jack Creek update:** Sunni reported that everything is ready to go for the joint application. Jeff Dunn and Sunni are meeting tomorrow and she'll know a lot more after this meeting.
 - d. **Young Ag Couples Conference Nomination:** we are still working on Mark and Melissa Homner attending.
 - e. **2018 Workshop Series:** Ethan reported on the eight weeks of workshop for the group.

10. New Business:

- a. **Sunni's Return to Active Employment:** Sunni deeply appreciated the opportunity to take the time for her experience with her family. Mel moves to put Sunni back on the payroll. Kaye seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
- b. **Mesonet Station:** Ethan reported a message from the Montana Climate Office. There is a station on the top of the VC hill that conducts climate data monitoring, soil moisture monitoring, soil water content, soil temperature at different depths, etc. Kevin Boltz suggested contacting the CD regarding funding for additional stations. The cost per station installation is approximately \$6,000. Once they are installed they become part of the University of Montana system and there is no additional cost at that point. The board discussed the opportunities, and determined they need more information.
- c. **Banquet:** Sunni reported.
 - April 21st at the Round Barn
 - Sunni is meeting with David and Shirley from RVCD next Thursday.
 - Banquet sponsors: we'll go through last year's sponsors and email if you still want to contact them and any additional. We will have a firm stance on deadlines for payment of banquet sponsorships soon.
- d. **Payment in Lieu of Group Benefits:** The board discussed continuing Ethan's \$150 health benefits per month and putting Sunni in at \$150 health benefits per month. Kaye seconded. All in favor and the motion passes.
- e. **Chamber of Commerce membership 2018:** Mel took over running the meeting at this time. Sunni reported that it's time to renew Chamber membership at \$100/year. The board discussed the worth of the membership. George moves to pay the \$100/year membership. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
- f. **Business After Hours February Host:** February 1st, 5-7 pm at our office. There will be appetizers and drinks, a chance to present on who we are, what we do, how we're involved in the local economy. Sunni will ask the Wildlife Conservation Society if they want to tag team the event.
- g. **Science Fair:** January 22nd.
 - **Award:** The supervisors decided to grant up to 4 awards, \$300 maximum. Not to exceed \$100/per award. Cori will prepare checks and cards for Kaye to present.
 - **Judging:** Colten will judge. Kaye will fill in for Neil if need be.

11. Correspondence: none.

12. **NRCS Report :** Clayton reported. They are very short-handed at this time. Kyle Tackett is filling Ruby CD's position in the short-term. His term will be up soon. Lindsey Schmidt will be moving to the BLM after maternity leave. They are on maintenance mode at the moment.

13. **Supervisors Report:** Colten reported that the old track filler has four good tires on it. Gary Clark has offered \$100/tire. Colten will haul the rest to the scrap pile after pulling off useable parts. Mel moves to accept the \$400 and Colten will haul the rest to Pacific Hide and Steel to sell for scrap. Kaye seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.

14. Clayton reported that there will be several people using the equipment from last year and people have been hearing about it. Kaye suggested getting a sign on other equipment.

15. Jessie reported on an MLR workshop: see flyer.

16. Staff/Project Report

17. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **Soil Health Workshops: January 16th in Three Forks**
- b. **2018 Winter Grazing Seminar, February 6 & 7, 2018 in Helena Montana at the Radisson Colonial Hotel, hosted by Lewis and Clark CD**

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager

Lower Jack Creek – The Joint Application has been completed by RESPEC, and we are now awaiting signatures from landowners. We now need to put out a call for bids and select a contractor for Phase 1 of the project. Additionally, we will continue fundraising for the remaining costs for Phase 2. While presenting an update of the project at the Northwestern Energy Fisheries TAC meeting last month, they expressed interest in funding an additional portion of the second phase of the project.

Moore's Creek Lyons – We have received payment from Future Fisheries, with the exception of a small amount they will hold until plantings are installed this spring.

Evaluation & Monitoring Workshop – As a follow-up to the November workshop hosted by Future West, they are facilitating a series of webinars to help the participating organizations setup an evaluation and monitoring plan. We'll begin developing this framework over the coming months, and will then reconvene with the consultant this spring.

Winter Workshop Series – The winter workshop series is now planned out as an 8-week series from January through March. We've selected the topics, and have identified nearly all of the 8 speakers as well. The events will be held Wednesday evenings from 6-8 in the Ennis School multi-purpose room. We will be working with the MVRG to provide dinner at each event for a \$5.00 fee. Please help spread the word, and attend as many of the workshops as time allows.

Missouri Headwaters Partnership – Another MHP meeting was held in December to discuss various issues in the headwaters region, and to identify common ground amongst groups that can allow for opportunities to join forces and partner on projects/programs.

Montana Watershed Coordination Council – We will be holding the Annual Meeting at the Kleffner Ranch on January 12th, and I will also be attending a strategic planning session for MWCC the day before.

Madison Watershed StoryMap – Madeline and I worked together to develop an online StoryMap that we're using as an education and outreach piece to help people better understand some of the resource challenges across the landscape. This StoryMap also provides interactive maps with USGS gaging and SNOTEL station data, as well as all of the monitoring sites and data for the Madison Stream Team. We worked with MSU Extension Water Quality to link to a newly developed Data Hub that houses all of the current and historic Stream Team data in an interactive graphing application. Additionally, the StoryMap features the newly released Madison Stream Team film.

Planning Board – No December Meeting

Sunni Heikes-Knapton:

Report on return: Website update, financial planning and work plan meeting prior to fiscal year start. When should we do it?

Clayton Marlow Research Site Request: They are looking for a couple spots to set up some research plots that look at floodplain processes and carbon sequestration and grazing. Any ideas? Bear Creek, Wigwam Creek?

Carcass Composting in the Madison: Update on the progress.

MWCC Meeting January 12th: Does anyone want to come with me to this meeting?

Interagency Meeting: January 18th at the Madison Ranger District at 1 PM. I will be there, supervisors are welcome.

GROWW: Meeting with the program coordinators on January 10th.

Banquet: Slated for April 21st. Meeting with RVCD on January 11th to discuss planning details. Need to discuss with MCD about sponsorship approaches.

Budget: Need to plan for a separate meeting April/May to discuss work plan and budget planning.

Cori Koenig: Administrator:

Administrative Tasks: I've been busy with various administrative tasks and book keeping.

End of year reports were submitted in December. We were granted the District Development Grant to continue partially funding my hours through the next year.

Kaye Suzuki adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.