



DRAFT MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting **12:00 PM** March 19, 2018
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order:** Nick Dyk called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
2. **Supervisors Present:** Nick Dyk, Neil Kent, Colten Clark, George Boyd, Kaye Suzuki, Bob Sitz, Jon Siddoway
 - a. **Staff Present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard
 - b. **Others Present:** Dave Moser, FWP, George Henshaw, NRCS, Clayton Marxer, NRCS
3. **Review minutes from previous meeting:**
 - a. Motion to accept as presented made by George. Kaye seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.
4. **Financial:**
 - a. Kaye presented the financial report. MPERA has rejected our initial request to waive the late penalty fees. Motion to move \$10,000 from savings to checking made by Neil, and seconded by George. All in favor, and the motion passes. Kaye suggested an increase in the debit card balance from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Kaye moves to maintain \$5,000 balance in the debit account. Bob seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes. George moves to accept the financial report. Colten seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.
 - b. MPERA responded to the CD's request to waive the penalties for late payments that occurred in Summer 2017. Cori has reached out to Don McIntyre for feedback to determine next actions.
5. **Public Comment:** none
6. **Business: 12:25**
 - a. **#18-03 Granger Ranches**
 - This application is to renew an expired permit for work that was not completed for a headgate on Bear Creek. Questions were brought up about some potential differences between this application and the previously approved permit. Since so much time has passed since the approval of the original application, and there was uncertainty regarding changes in this application, the board decided to table #18-03 until more information can be obtained. George moves to table. Bob seconds. The motion passed, and the application was tabled.
 - b. **#18-04 Porter Bennett**
 - This is a continuation of a previously expired permit. There are no changes from the previously expired permit. Kaye made a motion to approve the application. Colten seconded. All in favor, and the motion passes.
 - c. **#18-05 Sitz Angus Ranches**
 - The recommendation from Ron Spoon is to approve the application as proposed. Nick suggested we may consider waiting to approve until we've received a plan drawing from R.E. Miller. Kaye made a motion to table until we've received drawing. George seconds. Bob abstained, and the motion passes.
 - d. **#18-06 Peter McLoughlin**
 - The board discussed tabling the application until the April meeting. Kaye made a motion to table. Colten seconded. All in favor, and the motion passes.
 - e. **#18-07 William Legg**

- Dave discussed the FWP's hesitancy to approve projects that involve dredging of spring creeks. There are about 10 pools that are proposed for dredging as a part of this project. Additionally, the applicant proposes narrowing some over-widened sections of the stream at a later date. Kaye suggested we research some of the previous projects of a similar nature on this system to understand more comprehensively what has taken place in recent years. Kaye made a motion to modify the application to allow for installation of the log structures, but not for the pool dredging at this time. Bob seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.

f. #17-26 Matt Moen

- Kaye makes a motion to table until April. George seconded. All in favor, and the motion passes.

g. #17-30 Cody Williams

- When this was reviewed in January, the board responded to the applicant that they need to develop a more detailed design. The applicant provided a coarse drawing trying to detail the project but was lacking adequate detail to help the board understand specific elements of the project, so some questions remained as to how the project would be carried-out. Nick suggested we require the applicant to submit the work completion form with a follow-up site visit immediately following completion of the project. Nick made a motion to approve the project, with the condition mentioned in the previous sentence. George seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.

h. #18-02 Jim Wellington

i. Work Completion Reports

j. Monthly time spent on 310's

- Kaye brought up the fact that we need to determine a way to pay for 310 inspections and administration in lieu of DNRC funding. Bob made a motion to write a letter to Jon Tubbs and our representatives about the importance of reinstating 310 funding. Kaye seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.

7. Old Business and Reports: 1:15

a. *Montana Women: From the Ground Up, Passionate Voices in Agriculture and Land Conservation* book

- DNRC is offering an opportunity for CDs to buy books for half price and sell for fundraising. Kaye suggested purchasing a small number of books that we could give away for gifts in the future. Kaye made a motion to purchase 6 books for half price. Bob seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.
- Donation to Denise Thompson – Rather than purchasing books as a donation, Kaye suggested we provide a direct donation to Denise. Nick expressed concern for donating our general funds toward a cause outside of our district. Instead we'll have a card people can personally donate to Denise if they would like.

b. Administrative Position

- The job description has been released, and applications are due April 1st. The CD needs to create a hiring committee and select dates for determining qualified candidates. Nick suggested giving the hiring committee the power to conduct interviews and extend the offer to the prospective candidate. George makes a motion to approve a hiring committee of Sunni, Mel, Kaye, and Jon – with no fewer than 3 committee members present to make a decision. Bob seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.

c. Banquet Update

- Pam Kimmey provided an update on the banquet planning.

d. Stewardship Nomination

- We received one nomination for Jerry and Jolene Brush. The board discussed expanding the nomination to also recognize the Jackson family as a whole. Kaye made a motion to accept Jerry and Jolene Brush as the stewardship award winner and approach the winners to ask how they prefer to receive the award. Bob seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

8. New Business: 2:00

a. Associate Supervisor

- Bob made a motion to nominate John Siddoway as associate supervisor. Kaye seconded. All in favor, and the motion passes.
- b. Board Leadership Training: March 21st 9-12, Dillon**
- c. Planning and Budget Meeting date in May. Mandatory attendance.**
 - The date for the meeting was set as Saturday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m.
- d. MACD Dues**
 - Table until budget planning meeting in May
- e. 310 Application Review**
 - Table until April meeting
- f. Meeting Schedule**
 - Beginning in April meetings will resume to 7:00 pm.
- g. Contract with RE Miller for lower Jack Creek**
 - Kaye made a motion to accept the R.E. Miller bid and sign the contract for the Lower Jack Creek project. George seconds. All in favor, and the motion passes.

9. Correspondence: 2:30 Review correspondence to date; discuss and respond as necessary.

10. NRCS Report

- a.** George Henshaw is the acting District Conservationist. NRCS is hiring for the Super DC position based out of Dillon. NRCS received Missouri Headwaters drought resiliency funding. Due to funding constraints, it looks unlikely that the Sheridan office will be filling the DC office.

11. Supervisors Report

12. Staff/Project Report

13. Upcoming Dates:

- **Board Leadership Training: March 21st, 9 am-12 noon. Dillon**
- **MCD RVCD Banquet: April 21st**

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager:

Winter Workshop Series – March 14th will be the final workshop.

Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum – Met with the watershed group in Big Sky, along with the contractor who developed the BSSWS Plan to determine “next steps” for the watershed health and protection elements of the plan. We’re coordinating monitoring efforts across the entire resort tax area, and are going to develop a comprehensive monitoring plan for Big Sky (i.e., Big Sky, Moonlight Basin, Yellowstone Club, Jack Creek Preserve)

Watershed/Drought Planning – Continuing work on the draft watershed plan. The watershed characterization is nearly done, and will then begin working with the draft TMDLs to integrate into the plan.

Madison Stream Team – Meeting with MSU Extension Water Quality March 16th to discuss a monitoring strategy for 2018.

Northwestern Energy Meeting – Sunni and I met with the Fisheries TAC to discuss future opportunities to partner with NW Energy to help support our projects/programs. There are some potential opportunities to expand this partnership in the future.

Montana Water Summit – Sunni and I attended the Water Summit in Helena March 6-7. Over 300 people representing agencies, conservation groups, and landowners, gathered to discuss strategies for implementing water management efforts identified in the 2015 State Water Plan.

Watershed Stories – The Madison CD has been selected by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) as a featured watershed that will be highlighted in their “Watershed Stories” campaign. We will be given an opportunity to promote the conservation work (and conservation partnerships) in the Madison Valley, and will then be the recipient of professionally developed outreach pieces that highlight these stories.

Planning Board

Moonlight Basin ODP – The Planning Board recommended to the commissioners to deny the proposed development expansion in the updated ODP. This included limiting development to the existing 1,651 units rather than the requested 1,853 units, and allowing 19 units in the “Moonlight Territory (4300 undeveloped acres) rather than the requested 100 units. The County Commissioners tabled their decision on adopting the Planning Board recommendations.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton:

Lower Jack Creek: RE Miller bid was accepted and the contract for the Phase I and II work is ready for execution. Please see draft. Willow and conifer harvesting has been successful, and construction will begin March 26th. Riparian planting will take place the last week of April. Thanks to George for reviewing the bids that we received.

Moore’s Creek Lyons: We will be making plans for final planting at the end of April and landowner will finish fencing. The project area is looking good.

GROWW: Plans are underway for summer camps and spring activities in the school. There is an application to expand the high school activities with a greenhouse and horticulture lessons.

Banquet: Pam has been doing a great job handling all the details for this. Tickets are available to purchase at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/madison-and-ruby-valley-conservation-district-banquet-tickets-43099010300> People can also pay for sponsorship online. Sponsors continue to come in, but we need final confirmations ASAP.

Stewardship nominations: See nominations submitted. Selection needed.

Photo contest: Open for submissions through March 31st. Facebook voting will take place just prior to the Banquet.

South Meadow: Montana Outdoors Magazine featured the Endecott project and the response has been very positive.

Bear Creek Days: Volunteers needed to help cook and serve on May 16th.

Cori Koenig: Administrator:

Administrative Tasks: I’ve been busy with various administrative tasks and book keeping. I’ve been trying to document my tasks so that a new person can slip into them easily.