



Final Minutes

Regular Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** April 16, 2018

Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order:** Nick Dyk called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. **Supervisors Present:** Nick Dyk, Mel McKittrick, Kaye Suzuki, George Boyd, Jon Siddoway, Bob Sitz, Jessie Wiese
3. **Staff Present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Cori Koenig
4. **Others:** Dave Moser (FWP), Travis Horton (FWP), Mike Bias, Justin Devers
5. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** Two sets, George moves to approve the minutes as amended. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Kaye moves to approve meeting notes from the March 30 Granger Ranch 310 meeting. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
6. **Financial: 7:10** Cori read the financial report. Kaye moves to accept the financial report as reported. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Kaye moves to transfer \$8000 from County to the Savings Account. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Kaye moves to transfer \$2500 from Savings account into Debit account. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Kaye moves to transfer \$64,000 from savings to checking to cover Lower Jack Creek expenses. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Public Comment: none**
8. **Business: 7:25**
 - a. **#17-26 Matt Moen:** tabled
 - b. **#18-02 Jim Wellington:** Mel and Dave visited the site last Tuesday, April with the engineer. Dave reported. There is a large pond area where temperatures rise. There are good wildlife benefits. This project, like the other projects done on O'Dell Creek recently will probably have significant environmental benefits into the future. Permit will expire December 31st, 2018. Kaye moves to approve #18-02 as proposed. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - c. **#18-05 Sitz Angus Ranches:** tabled
 - d. **#18-06 Peter McLoughlin:** Dave and Mel visited today. Daems Ditch near Varney Bridge. The proposal is to muck out the headgate and build a new headgate. Dave and Mel suggested if there is work done on the peninsula it will require a 310. If they stay within the ditch, no 310 is required. George moves to declare #18-06 not a project. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - e. **#18-07 William Legg:** Dave and Mel visited today. Mike Bias presented. 37 pools, 37 riffles. The idea is to narrow approximately 1/3 of the riffles and increase velocity and clean the pools so that it will maintain itself as a well-functioning spring creek long into the future. The whole system will be narrowed, pools and riffles. Dave reported that the narrowed riffles should clean the head end of the pools. The cows are off the upper region of contingent property owner. Justin Devers reported that landowner practices upstream will change the stream as well. Travis Horton commented that the streams do not have the energy to heal themselves. One of the issues in many counties is that streams are widened artificially so that the stream can be casted into. The pools are too long and the riffles are too short. Many counties are giving landowners one chance to do it correctly. Monitoring will be in place to measure sedimentation. Approval as proposed, see Dave's notes. Kaye suggested contacting Ruby and Beaverhead CD's and checking on their policies regarding riffles so we can be consistent. Mel moves to approve with modifications. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit will expire June 1, 2019. Fifteen days is waived.

- f. **#18-08 John Whittingham:** Dave and Mel visited today. The landowners have been throwing branches, lawn clippings, anything they can to keep the bank from sluffing off. They have contracted with Basic Biological Services, LLC to plant grasses, plants. Mel and Dave suggest this is not jurisdictional. Mel moves to consider this not a project. Kaye seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
- g. **Work Completion Reports:** none
- h. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 20 hours spent on 310 permits this month.

9. Old Business and Reports: 8:15

- a. **Planning and Budget Meeting date in May. Mandatory attendance:** 5:00 pm. Bob may have a mediation conflict. Please provide a 5 year history of financials including what we've brought in, what we've put out. General strategic planning. Must be public noticed. Decisions will be approved at the May meeting.
- b. **Administrative Position:** Kaye reported. There were interviews with two qualified, competent individuals. The committee is prepared to offer a position if references check out. Kaye suggest starting the position at \$12/hour.
- c. **Banquet Update:** See attached report. Sunni reported. She asked for help with selling tickets. Kaye will help with raffle tickets.
- d. **Stewardship Nomination:** Nick contacted Jerry and Jolene. Shanna Mae took their photo. Sunni traveled with Geoff from the Madisonian for the interview. The story will run in the paper next week.
Sunni questioned the nomination process for future years. Nick requested a standardized form for people to fill out. Start process a month ahead of timeline this year.

10. New Business: 9:00

- a. **Travis Horton: Private Ponds:** Travis from FWP presented on Cumulative Effects of Private Ponds. He's working on organizing a coalition to guide, fund, and manage a cumulative effects study to advise MFWP on future of permitting ponds. He's looking for someone to designate directly to be a part of this study.
- b. **310 Joint Application:** If we print them, George, and Mel will review. Jessie suggested a staff member also be updated.
- c. **Bear Creek Days:** Thursday, May 17th for food. Last year we spent \$485. We need volunteers 10:30-1:00 pm. George & Kaye will help.
- d. **Invasives Education Trailer:** Sunni presented. Jefferson County Weed Coordinator. Total cost about \$17,000. Requesting Districts to support at \$500. Will include plant invasives as well as aquatic invasives. Allows for handicap access. Kaye suggested tabling until budget discussion in May.
- e. **Bridger Plant Materials Donation:** \$25 donation previously approved in budget so move ahead.
- f. **Leadership Montana:** Sunni presented on her application to Leadership Montana. She has been encouraged to apply from other conservation leaders across the states. It's a seven month program, it will require some time away from the state. Sunni is a candidate for the High Divide scholarship. Kaye moves to have a contingency that if Sunni does not receive the scholarship that the CD finds a way to fund application and tuition fees. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- g. **Madison County Commission Leadership Training with Madison County: June 7, 1:00-4:00 pm:** Kaye presented. She thought the Dillon presentation was excellent. Speaker Dan Clark made learning about state law and responsibilities enjoyable. Commissioners are paying for him to present at the June 7th training.

11. Correspondence: 9:30

- a. **MCC Thank You Letter**
- b. **Dotties Bookkeeping:** Cori shared the letter Dottie has responded to our demand letter with.

12. **NRCS Report :** Dillon position was hired, we cannot release the name. Have not back filled Dan's position.

13. Supervisors Report: Jessie requested stepping down from Associate Supervisor position. Her schedule does not allow her to be here as often as she's like. She'd like to be involved with the CD still, maybe in the Foundation process. Mel suggested still sending her a packet each month for the meetings. Mel visited the Channels project last week. It looks good out there.

14. Staff/Project Report

15. Upcoming Dates:

- **MCD RVCD Banquet: April 21st**
- **Madison Watershed Partnership Meeting: April 24th**
- **Montana Range Forum: May 9-10th, Billings**
- **MCD Planning and Budgeting Meeting: Saturday, May 19th 5:00 pm**
- **Sportsmanship Clinic: Low Stress Livestock Handling and Grass Growth Response to Grazing: June 4, 5, 6**
- **Ranching for Rivers Project Tours: June 27th in Helena, and June 28th in Deer Lodge**
- **Montana Range Tour, September 5-6th, Sidney**

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager:

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. We're scheduled to have a draft plan for the water quality section by May 31st. This, however, will not include information from the final TMDLs, which are still being developed by DEQ. It will have several placeholders for this information to be added when those documents are completed.

Madison Stream Team – I met with Adam Sigler from MSU Extension and discussed monitoring objectives for 2018. Over the coming weeks we will finalize the details of the sampling plan, and will also begin reaching out to funders.

Northwestern Energy Meeting – NW Energy is hosting a public meeting in Ennis on April 25th. We'll be presenting on information and data from the Madison Stream Team.

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. We now need to reach out to prospective people to involve in the stories, and will set up a time for a photo shoot and interview in early May. The three stories we want to highlight are: education programs (GROWW), volunteer programs (Madison Stream Team), and landowner projects (South Meadow, Jack Creek, Moores Creek).

Indian Creek Data Collection – I had talked Jeff Laszlo recently about his interest in collecting data on Indian Creek ditch this summer. He then forwarded a letter sent out to the water users on the ditch describing the potential role of the CD in this data collection, and that we would follow up with the water users individually. When we discussed this topic one year ago, the CD Board expressed interest in collecting data to better understand conditions throughout the ditch. I want to make sure this is still the standpoint of the board before moving forward with this effort this summer. The board suggested composing a letter stating that there might be interest, here are the services we can offer, what are your goals, request a fee. Until we have a consensus from the Indian Creek Board, we are not comfortable moving forward. Ethan estimated approximately 60 hours of work for the summer.

Planning Board

The planning board approved two preliminary plat applications for the Yellowstone Club. Also, Lone Mountain Land Company attended the meeting to discuss their request to the commissioners to table the decision on adopting the planning board's decision in February. They would like another extension on their existing Overall Development Plan to allow them time to revise their application, once gain.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton:

Lower Jack Creek: The project started construction on March 26 and should be wrapping up on April 12. Sites 1 and 2 proceeded extremely smoothly and there were some adjustments made on site 3 to account for material disposal issues. We proposed adjusting a bit with the phase II work, allowing for excess material to be removed during February 2019, with bank construction slated for March 2019. RE Miller is doing a good job with construction, and Respec has been very attentive with oversight. Riparian planting will be taking place the last week in April, and we have a high school group coming out for a service project on April 25th. We will continue to raise funds for phase II, bolstered by the work completed this year. Thanks to Jon Siddoway for visiting the site and for helping to harvest willows.

Moores Creek Lyons: We will be helping David with the final planting of the riparian corridor on the stream project. The bare root stock will be coming from the DNRC nursery, with some additional cottonwoods coming from Westcape nursery. David will be finishing the fencing as soon as the planting is complete.

GROWW: The application for the greenhouse has been submitted and Julia has started working on garden activities. The Good Thymes Camp is open for registration and 17 kids are signed up for the sessions. Nichole is also working with the new Cattlewomen's group on Ag Days in fall.

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.

Pam:

Banquet Planning Update: See attached

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm

Nick Dyk, Chair

Emily Osborn, Administrator