



**Madison
Conservation
District**

Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

222 E. Main Street Suite 2B | PO Box 606 | Ennis, MT 59729
406.682.7289

WWW.MADISONCD.ORG

Final Minutes

Regular Board Meeting **7 PM** July 17th, 2017
Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **Call meeting to order:** Mel called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. **Supervisors present:** Mel McKittrick, Kaye Suzuki, Neil Kent, Nick Dyk
3. **Staff present:** Ethan Kunard, Cori Koenig
4. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** There were several wording changes and additions. Neil moves to approve as corrected. Nick seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
5. **Financial:** Cori read the financial report and reviewed recent bills. Neil moves to transfer \$25,000 from the County to our savings account and \$10,000 from savings into checking. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Nick moves to accept the financial report as read. Neil seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
6. **Public Comment:** none
7. **Business:**
 - a. **#17-12 John Sampson:** Mel and Dave visited on Friday. The project is on the Madison River above the Varney Bridge. He wants to restore the bank and change the slope. Modifications include: everything will be done above the high-water mark, no removal of trees and natural sod to be placed after project completion. They will need to apply for a DEQ permit. Nick suggested restricting mowing the grass within fifteen linear feet of the high-water mark. Nick moves to approve permit #17-12 as modified. Kaye seconds. The permit will expire on June 1, 2018.
 - b. **#17-13 John Sampson:** Mel and Dave visited on Friday. They requested a time extension on the permit so they can visit with someone with more experience in this type of project. Nick moves to table permit 17-13 to next month. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - c. **#17-14 Porter Bennett:** The proposed project is to upgrade an existing diversion on South Meadow Creek. Mel and Dave visited on Friday. Suggestions were to make sure the contractor works in the dry and no concrete wash into the dry stream. Neil moves to approve permit 17-14 as proposed. Kaye seconds. Permit expires December 31st, 2017. Fifteen days waived.
 - d. **#15-20 Rice pond update:** tabled
 - e. **Nye violation letter:** Mel reported that the Nyes removed the pigs from the stream, removed the enclosure and responded to our letter.
 - f. **Leonard Creek dam failure:** An emergency 310 was received 7-17-17. Ethan will write a letter for the district stating our largest concern is alleviating the amount of silt going into the creek.

- g. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Nick suggested asking for quarterly updates for larger projects on Work Completion worksheet or language of letter. Ethan spoke about recommending engineer approval on larger project designs. There is a new DEQ worksheet.
- h. Mel estimates 12 hours spent this month.

8. Old Business and Reports: 8:15

- a. **Board Leadership:** The board discussed possible candidates. Names mentioned were: Duncan Hedges, Ennis, Jerry Brush, Norris and Rita Owens, McAllister. Board members will discuss with potential supervisors and report back.
- b. **Madison Watershed Partnership Meeting – July 18th 10:00 am:** Neil and Ethan will attend.

9. New Business:

- a. **Mill Levy:** Cori will contact Vikki Tilstra at the County about another meeting regarding the maximum percentage point for mills and schedule another meeting. Kaye and Cori will follow up. Mel will follow up with Gary Giem requesting if the Ruby would be interested in pursuing a new mill as well.
- b. **District Development Grant:** Board suggested we move ahead with applying for the grant.
- c. **Payroll Services:** Nick moves to utilize Dottie for Payroll Services and have authorization to make direct deposits for payroll. Neil seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- d. **Credit Card Alternatives:** Kaye presented on the FMVB debit account versus the credit card. Monthly versus quarterly transfers were discussed. The board determined a monthly transfer with signatures at the board meeting. Kaye moves to keep monthly deposits for the account balance to equal \$1500 into the debit account for several months. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- e. **Ruby CD Transition:** Ethan reported on Rebecca Ramsey's transition to a new position.
- f. **MACD Process Document:** Cori will determine where Don McIntyre's attorney fee comes from, MACD or DNRC? The board will address a letter in August after visiting with Gallatin, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Ruby and other Area 6 Districts. Will letters mirror same concerns?
- g. **Water Sage Demo:** Water Sage has requested to come to a future meeting on how CD's can benefit from their water rights software. The company is trying to utilize SWCDM to get their water rights tool to CD's. Ethan would think the software would be worthwhile if the cost structure could be figured out. The November meeting was suggested as a possible date.

10. Correspondence: Thank you letter from Janet Endecott.

11. NRCS Report : Dan was not present. He will update the board soon on the Lyons project.

12. Supervisors Report

13. Staff/Project Report

Staff Report July 17th, 2017:

Ethan Kunard – Water Programs

Madison Stream Team – We started the volunteer monitoring in June. I'll be accompanying Madeline and the volunteers for the first round of sampling, and then will turn over most of the day-to-day stream team operations to her.

Madison Watershed Planning – The watershed planning work has been briefly put on pause while we've transitioned into the summer. When time allows, I will direct most of my efforts for the remainder of the summer back the planning work. Meanwhile, we've received payment from DNRC for all of my time with the watershed planning work from April – June. Additionally, I'll be attending a meeting July 11th on the effects of drought on ecosystem services in the Upper Missouri Headwaters. We did receive full funding (\$4,000) from the Big Sky Resort Tax to fund the monitoring this summer on Jack Creek.

Youth Education – Madeline and I organized a youth education day at the Jack Creek Preserve Foundation for a group of kids from Bozeman. Additionally, we'll be helping with Camp Moonlight later this month.

Conservation Film Festival – The tentative date for the film festival is August 31st. We're still waiting to hear about the renovation progress at the theater. If there is concern about this being too rushed, we will hold off until Spring 2018.

***Madison Watershed Partnership Meeting** – Our next quarterly MWP Meeting is July 18th at 10:00 am. As with previous meetings, we hope to have at least one supervisor present.

Moore Creek Culvert Replacement – There was very little (perhaps none) revegetation done at each of the culverts on Moore Creek that were recently replaced. For a variety of reasons, the County has asked us to help with a revegetation plan to help reduce the weeds and encourage native plant growth at the disturbed areas at each project site. Rather than going through litigation with the contractor to complete the work, they have secured additional funds through FEMA to finish out the revegetation portion of the project.

Planning Board

We had our June meeting in Big Sky. The meeting included tours of recent developments in the Yellowstone Club and Moonlight Basin. The remainder of the meeting consisted of mostly updates from various entities in Big Sky that included: Big Sky traffic study, affordable housing, Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky Fire Department, Moonlight Basin, Yellowstone Club, and Mountain Village development.

We will begin reviewing and updating the county growth policy in July.

Cori Koenig: Administrator:

Office tasks: I've been working on various administrative tasks.

I'll be gone the week prior to each of our summer meetings at Good Thymes Camp.

Quickbooks:

Kaye and I met with Vikki Tilstra on June 26th to discuss the possibility of the CD running a mill levy to bolster the deficit between operating costs and the county assessment for us. Vikki outlined the process and sent some useful ballot language if the board determines they would like to move in this direction.

I have been using a significant portion of my time to keep up with the bookkeeping responsibilities. In order for my hours to be of the best use to the District, I am advising we hire Dottie Knecht to handle payroll responsibilities. We'll discuss this further at the meeting.

14. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **Madison River Noxious Weed Co-op Pull, Thursday, July 20th 9 am at Reynolds Pass.** RSVP to Melissa Griffiths for lunch numbers.
- b. **Cover Crops in Montana: Carey Ranch, Boulder Friday, July 28th 9am-2pm**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:44 pm

Cori Koenig, Administrator

Mel McKittrick, Co-Chair