



**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** August 21st, 2017
Madison Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00pm by Mel McKittrick.
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Neil Kent, Bob Sitz, Colten Clark, Nick Dyk
3. **Staff Present:** Cori Koenig, Madeline Pruzzenski, Dan Durham, and Ethan Kunard by phone.
4. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** There were several wording changes and additions. Nick moves to approve as corrected. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
5. **Financial:** Cori read the financial report and reviewed recent bills. Nick moves to accept the financial report as read. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes. Nick moves to transfer \$500 from the checking account to the debit account. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Public Comment:** none
7. **Business:**
 - a. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 12 hours spent this month.
 - b. **Rice pond update:** Mel, Buddy Drake, and Dave Moser visited. They addressed the emergency 310 permit with the landowner. Greg has sprayed the weeds on top of the berm. Mel will suggest to him that he apply for a regular maintenance permit.
 - c. **#17-16 Goggins:** Mel visited the site. Pat would like to replace a bridge that is sinking into the bank of Moores Creek with a culvert. Bob moves to approve permit #17-16 as proposed. Neil seconds. All in favor and the motion passes. The fifteen-day period was waived. The permit expires January 1, 2018.
 - d. **#17-17 Goggins:** Mel visited the site. Pat would like to remove the silt from the head of a culvert on Moores Creek to prevent flooding. Nick moves to approve permit #17-17 with the following modifications: Remove vegetation grown in blocking the head of the culvert, rock around the head of the culvert and remove sod on the lower end of the culvert. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes. The fifteen-day period was waived. The permit expires January 1, 2018.
 - e. **#17-19 Bar K Ranch:** Mel visited the site. They would like to install a headgate in Curly Bill Creek to get water down old Lyle ditch. Neil moves to approve permit #17-19 as proposed. Bob seconds. All in favor and the motion passes. The permit expires September 1, 2018.
8. **Old Business and Reports:**

- a. **Board Leadership:** Kaye visited with Rita Owens and Ethan sent her the board member description. Mel visited with George Boyd, he's pretty interested. Mel thinks we should get this position filled by next board meeting.
- b. **MACD Dues and letter:** We received the second request from MACD for \$7,308.21 for dues. Mel suggests paying them \$500 and sending a letter requesting what are they doing for us. MACD has set a deadline of September 1st, Ethan will draft a letter. Neil moves we pay them \$500 and write a letter requesting an explanation of what they do for us. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- c. **MACD Convention:** Gallatin Valley is hosting this year.
 - **Resolutions:** none have been presented yet, they are due September 1st.
- d. **Supervisor/Staff of the Year Nomination:** Mel explained the process. Applications are in supervisor packets if they are interested in pursuing.
- e. **MACD Area VI Meeting:** Mile High CD is hosting. Supervisors and staff will decide if they're going by September 18th. The CD will pay for the registration and Toyota is available for transportation.
- f. **Film Festival-postponed:** Ethan reported on this. Ruby Valley is not interested in participating any longer. We have received \$1,500 in sponsorships up to this point. The board decided to postpone until next spring. Ethan will contact donors and let them know we're postponing. He'll give them the option to refund now or utilize their donation toward planning next spring.

9. New Business:

- a. **Jack Creek Sanford watering:** Mel reported on this. Ross has been watering throughout the summer. The board discussed an thank you gift for Ross Lingle for his time and effort. Cori will purchase a gift card for him.
- b. **WAWG Tour:** Water Activities Working Group Tour, hosted in the Musselshell this year. The convention is \$40/person, Madeline and Ethan will attend. Bob moves to send Ethan and Madeline to the WAWG Tour. Colten seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.

10. Correspondence: none

11. NRCS Report : Dan went through the MOU with the board.

- a. Dan gave a presentation on the Moores Creek Lyons project with photos.
- b. Tree cutting is done on conifer encroachment projects. They cut 900 acres in 5 days, it came out great.

12. Supervisors Report: Neil questions the pipe going over Wigwam Creek. Mel explained. Colten and Neil would like to visit.

13. Staff/Project Report

14. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **Range Tour: September 6 and 7, Lewistown**
- b. **Area VI Meeting: Mile High Conservation District, September 27th in Butte**

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

_____ Date: _____ Date: _____

Mel McKittrick, Board Chair

Cori Koenig, Administrator

Staff Report August 21st, 2017:

Ethan Kunard – Water Programs

Madison Stream Team – Monitoring is continuing as scheduled. We are working with Jeremy Roberts with Conservation Media to put together a short film highlighting the success of the Stream Team. Filming is complete, and we will have a rough cut of the film in September, with a final product available in October. The goal of the film is to promote the success of the partnerships that have enabled the program to be successful, and to also help with future fundraising to help with the sustainability of the program. The film is being funded through a grant from Patagonia.

Madison Watershed Planning – We have draft TMDLs for Nutrients, Metals, and E. coli (still waiting for sediment and temperature). We're reviewing the draft documents to better understand the water quality impairments in the Madison, and also to provide questions/comments to the DEQ. We have invoiced. We should be receiving a total of \$6,600 within the next few weeks from DNRC to cover time and expenses for the watershed planning from January through June.

Conservation Film Festival – The venue has cancelled the event due to the extensive damage to the building. We will now be looking at a Spring/Summer 2018 date for the festival.

Madison Watershed Partnership Meeting

- Madison Valley Ranchlands Group – They're partnering with the USFS and FWS to begin a carcass pickup program for the Madison Valley. At this time, animals will be taken to the transfer station. However, there might be potential in the future for a composting program similar to what is being done in other parts of the state. MSU is going to begin an experimental carcass composting program at the Red Bluff research station, and there is a possibility that animals picked up in the Madison could be taken to that facility.
- Madison River Foundation – They are currently in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. Additionally, they have 5 new board members that started in June. The foundation made a recent decision to cancel its annual Fly Fishing Festival.
- Madison Farm to Fork – They are continuing to manage the summer farmer's market, and are trying to find ways to improve attendance.

Moore Creek Culvert Replacement – I've talked with John Whittingham of Basic Biological to get a proposal and cost estimate put together for removing the weeds and working on a revegetation plan at the 8 culverts on Moores Creek.

Moores Creek, Lyons – The contractor is wrapping up the stream channel work on the project. It looks great, and I hope you all have had a chance to see the improvement. Dan will continue working with the landowner on the grazing and vegetation management, as well as the irrigation management, portions of the project.

MWCC – Water Activities Work Group (WAWG) Tour – Each year, the Montana Watershed Coordination Council hosts a project/watershed tour in a different location around the state. This year, the tour is in the Musselshell near Harlowton from September 18 – 20. Madeline and I would like to attend the 19th and 20th (our monthly CD meeting is the 18th). There is a small registration cost (\$40/each), and they have an option for free camping at the Barnsion.

Planning Board Report

- Preliminary Plat – Hammond Minor Subdivision. The proposed first minor subdivision would split a 74+acre tract on Jack Creek Road into lots of 20 acres and 54+ acres. Jack Creek Rd adjacent to the site does not meet Madison County Subdivision standards. A variance is required before the subdivision can be approved because Jack Creek Road is a private road behind a gate. The Planning Board recommended the variance be denied. If the Commissioners make other findings on the variance, the Planning Board recommended conditional approval of the subdivision. Jon Fossel expressed his vehement disagreement with the findings and the recommended conditions that the road be brought up to standard and that the subdivision enter into a long-term agreement with Moonlight for road maintenance.
- Pre-application – AT85, Sheridan. The proposal would split a tract at the corner of Hamilton Street and Montana Street into 2 lots of about 9,949+ square feet. Houses formerly on the site have been removed. Water/sewer connections are in place. No infrastructure would be required. The remaining trailer on the lot will be removed. The geotechnical investigation report and environmental assessment requirements were waived.
- Pre-application – North 40 Phase 4 Subdivision, Ennis. The proposed subdivision would split 4 lots into 27 individual lots of 0.1-0.3 acres. The property is part of the North 40 development. The existing zoning would remain in place. The geotechnical investigation report and environmental assessment requirements were waived.

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:

I'm getting acquainted with the monthly and weekly rhythms of office bookkeeping. I've been working with Dottie Knecht to transfer payroll and liability responsibilities.