



Final Minutes

Regular Board Meeting **7 PM** September 18th, 2017
Madison Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **Call meeting to order:** Mel McKittrick called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. **Supervisors present:** Mel McKittrick, Bob Sitz, Neil Kent, Nick Dyk, Kaye Suzuki
3. **Staff present:** Ethan Kunard, Madeline Pruszenski, Cori Koenig, Dan Durham
4. **Others present:** George Boyd
5. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** Bob moves to accept the corrected minutes. Neil seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Financial:** Cori read the financial report & reviewed recent bills. Neil moves to change the debit card account balance from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Kaye moves to accept the financial report the month of August as read. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Public Comment:** none
8. **Business:**
 - a. **#17-20 Granger Ranches:** Mel and Dave visited the site on Mill Creek where they plan to repair and improve a head gate and irrigation diversion and put a new weir in the ditch downstream of head gate. This is an early run off stream, it carries a big rock load. They will clean some rock out, raise the floor 3", and put some break down jacks in with channel iron to put the boards into. Mel recommends doing the work in the dry. Waived 15 days. Nick moves to approve permit #17-20 as proposed. Neil seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires 9/19/2018.
 - b. **#17-21 Todd Stoddard-Beaverhead Electric:** Mel and Dave visited the site today. RE Miller is doing the work. They are burying a powerline for Beaverhead Electric for a new homesite on the Norris hill. They will use a low impact D-6 Cat. Dave recommends to trim willows to prevent trampling near the streams. Nick moves to approve permit #17-21 as proposed. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires December 31, 2017.
 - c. **Work Completion Reports:** the first work completion reports went out with packets this month from Pat Goggins. The board agreed they are informative and a good addition to the 310 process.
 - d. Nick suggested putting active permits and expiration date on the agenda.
 - e. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 8 hours spent on 310's this month.
9. **Old Business and Reports:**
 - a. **MACD Convention:**
 - **Resolutions:** only one resolution has been brought forward. The resolution from the Lower Musselshell CD would require State and Federal vehicles to use BMP's when transporting vehicles. Wash vehicles and boats to stop invasives.
 - **Voting Rights:** Ethan reported that MACD has recently voted to allow all CD's to vote regardless of dues status.
 - b. **MACD Area VI Meeting:** Ethan will attend.
 - c. **Jack Creek Sanford film:** We showed the before, during, and after film of the Jack Creek Sanford project from Pat Graham.
 - d. **Respec plans-Lower Jack Creek:** Jeff Dunn will come to October 16 meeting with cost estimates and alternatives. Ethan is working on coordinating a meeting that same day with landowners and potential funders.

- e. **Debit Card account balance:** see above
- f. **Mill Levy:** tabled. Cori will pursue a meeting with the County Commissioners.
- g. **Film Festival:** Ethan reported. See staff report. Looking for a venue for the spring.
- h. **Supervisor Position:** George Boyd attended the meeting and is interested in filling the balance of Janet Endecott's term in the fall of 2018. Neil moves to appoint George Boyd to fulfill Janet's term. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.

10. New Business:

- a. **Project Tour-Moores Creek:** we toured the project with Dan and the Madison River Foundation tonight.
- b. **Natural Resources News – Seeking submissions:** Ethan will reach out to other local organizations to see if they want the opportunity to share information in the column.
- c. **Madison & Ruby Valley Banquet – 2018:** Rebecca secured the Round Barn as a donation again this year. The date reserved is April 21st. We will meet with the Ruby prior to planning time to go over logistics.
- d. **Discuss Tax Status of 501(c)(3) Watershed Council – Long-term funding strategies:** Ethan reported on the possibility of creating a 501 (c)(3) to help fund. A hand out was shared for the board's consideration. Dan commented on the importance of having a clear and goal oriented purpose.
- e. **Grant Writing Workshop (September 28):** Bozeman, MSU. \$300. The board voted for Ethan, Cori, and Madeline to attend.
- f. **Evaluation & Monitoring Workshop (November 2-3):** Ethan will attend.
- g. **Sustaining the West – Conservation Strategies & Opportunities (November 29):** Ethan will attend.
- h. **Payroll Bookkeeping:** Bob moves to change book keepers if it is not resolved. George seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.

11. Correspondence: none

12. NRCS Report: Dan is moving on to a new position with Ranch Resources in the Ruby Valley. His position will eventually be filled in the Ruby. The board presented a gift and thank you for a job well done.

13. Supervisors Report: Bob reported that the water users at Willow Creek are still battling the DNRC. Mel reported that Jessie called and left a message about how to handle her future on the board.

14. Staff/Project Report

15. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **Area VI Meeting: Mile High Conservation District, September 27th in Butte**
- b. **Supervisor Summit: October 31st-November 1st in Great Falls**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Staff Report September 18, 2017:

Ethan Kunard

Madison Stream Team – We will be finishing monitoring with the volunteers at the end of this month. Madeline and I will continue collecting important flow information throughout the fall, and she will begin putting data together for the annual report this fall as well. As a thank you to the volunteers, and our project partners, we hosted a BBQ at Lion's Club Park. We will provide a summary of this year's activities and results at the October meeting.

Madison Watershed Planning – We're continuing to read, and provide comments, on the draft TMDLs for Nutrients, Metals, and E. coli. DEQ is still working on the temperature and sediment TMDLs. We're using the available information

to begin drafting pieces of our watershed plan. We have one contract for this project expiring December 31, so developing a draft watershed plan will be one of my higher priorities through the rest of this calendar year.

Conservation Film Festival – I spoke with all of the sponsors that have donated money to date, and they are happy to support the film celebration being pushed back until spring/summer 2018. Additionally, the Ruby Valley CD discussed their involvement with the film festival in light of Rebecca’s recent departure, and have decided to take a step back from the event.

Madison Watershed Partnership Update

- Madison River Foundation – The new Executive Director has started with the Foundation. Additionally, they have several new board members. To introduce the new board and staff to the CD, I attended their September 1st board meeting to provide a history of the partnership between MRF and the CD. We discussed their interest in continuing to support and partner on District projects and programs.

Moore Creek Culvert Replacement – I am meeting John Whittingham September 26th to look at possible solutions to improving the weed/vegetation concerns on the culverts through town. **Drought Resiliency Planning** – Last spring, we put some great information together to help characterize drought and water supply in the Madison. In light of the dry summer we are facing, we are well-situated to continue engaging with the community to talk about the importance of water planning in the watershed. We will continue developing a characterization for the Madison Watershed, and will use that to discuss priority concerns and actions with stakeholders throughout the fall.

Planning Board Report

Hammond Minor, Update - Last month, the planning board voted to not allow a variance for a gated subdivision behind the Moonlight Basin gate. The commissioners upheld the board’s decision, and the county is now working with the landowner to determine the potential outcomes.

Preliminary Plat – Lower Golf Course (YMC). The proposed subdivision would create 1 condominium lot of 9.86 acres with 21 condominium units in 7 triplexes, 19 single-family lots between 0.66 and 3.63 acres, and 2 open space lots totaling 32.34 acres for recreational purposes on the west side of West Golf Course Road. A conservative estimated value for each unit is \$6 million.

Growth Policy Amendments.

Big Sky Parks and Open Space Plan – Big Sky has been working to develop a parks and open space plan. They asked the Planning Board to adopt this plan into the County’s growth policy.

Big Sky Transportation Study – Big Sky has also been developing a transportation study to determine the critical areas that need to be improved throughout the resort area. This plan also takes into account the future buildout of the resort. The community asked that the Planning Board also adopt this plan into the growth policy.

Growth Policy Review. We are in the process of updating the County’s growth policy. In doing so, the commissioners have asked that we have a discussion on the prohibition of gated communities and the requirement that subdivisions have public access to them. We discussed this at length, and did not come to a resolution. **I would be curious about how the CD Supervisors feel about this policy.**

Cori Koenig: Administrator:

Office tasks: I’ve been working on various administrative tasks. I’ve been getting caught up from a busy summer.

Mel McKittrick, Board Chair

Cori Koenig, Administrator