



Madison Conservation District  
*Local Common Sense Conservation*

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[WWW.MADISONCD.ORG](http://WWW.MADISONCD.ORG)

### Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting \*\*12:00 PM\*\* February 18, 2020  
Madison Valley Public Library

1. Call meeting to order: 12:04
  - a. Supervisors Present: Nick Dyk, Abigail Dennis, Bob Sitz, Kate Roberts, Kaye Suzuki, George Boyd
  - b. Public Present: None
2. Review minutes from previous meetings: 12:05
  - Proposed action: Approve the minutes
    1. NRCS files specific to Kaye Suzuki can be added to the prior minutes; should be on the [info@madisoncd.org](mailto:info@madisoncd.org) email
  - **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
    1. Nick D. motions and Bob S. seconds
3. Financial-Emily Osborn: 12:06
  - Proposed action:
    1. Transfer \$25k from the County Account to the First Madison Savings account; This keeps the savings account above \$100k and generates a higher rate of return
      - a. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
        - i. Nick D. motions and Kaye S. seconds
  - Financials as presented should be accepted
    1. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
      - a. Nick D. motions and George B. seconds
4. Public Comment: None
5. NRCS Report: One active CRP in the area. EQUIP is open for applicants on the conifer reduction in the Tobacco Roots project. Already have 7 applicants. Appx. 1,300 acres will be treated (\$200/acre; includes cutting, pile/burn/chip) this year; fire is not a treatment option from NRCS' perspective; reason for the work is rangeland health; David L. will try to get into the field with NRCS in order to see some of the work being done; Field education opportunity associated local high school students collecting monitoring data
6. Business-310-Paul Jurenas: 12:15
  - a. 20-02 Mile Creek/Lucicero; Need to return to the site when snow melts
  - b. Jack Creek Ranch; 310 work permit valid through August 2020; they will follow with a completion report
  - c. Work Completion Reports: None
  - d. Monthly time spent on 310's; 10 hours in January
7. Old Business and Reports: 12:30
  - a. Board Leadership
    - Vice Chair
    - Proposed action:
    - 
    - **Approved**/Modified/**Tabled**

**b. Heavy Harrow Teeth and Maintenance**

- Proposed action: Colten believes we could just replace half of the teeth after rotating the front and back; when new admin is hired, we should set-up a locking and invoice system for CD equipment on Colten's property; Kaye and Kate will follow-up
  1. Let it be noted that Colten is not present at this meeting
- Buy the necessary teeth for the harrow; bid it out at two places (SkillsUSA?); not to exceed \$5k for materials and labor
  1. Bob S. motions and George B. seconds
  2. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

**c. 310 model rule update; April 21, 2020 at 6:30pm; Place notice 28 and 14 days prior**

- Proposed action: Adopt the rules on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Bob S. motions and Kaye seconds
- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

**d. Hiring Committee/MCD Staff Positions**

- **Conservation Resource Coordinator**
- **District Administrator**
- David L. will send along references associated with applicants to Abigail so she can follow-up
- Proposed action: Ability to hire the best applicant in the coming week or two
- George B. motions and Nick D. seconds
- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

**e. Planning Board Position Recommendation**

- Proposed action: Recommend that David Laufenberg services as the CD rep on the Madison Cty Planning Board
- Nick D. motions and Bob S. seconds
- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

**8. New Business: 12:45**

**a. Science Fair Review**

**b. FAA Drone Pilot Certificate (\$150 + \$50 for study materials; D. Laufenberg)**

- Proposed action: Get the materials and take the test
- Kaye S. motions and Kate R. Seconds
- Dave. L. should touch base with Tommy (Madison County) regarding the process
- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

**c. Medical Training (\$675 for one week of training in mid-May in Missoula; D. Laufenberg)**

- Proposed action: David L. check in with Tommy regarding medical training and Ginger at Town Hall
- **Approved/Modified/Tabled**
- David L pick up fire extinguisher/first aid

**d. Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Planning (comments by Feb 28, 2020)**

- Proposed action: Nick and Dave will take the lead on commenting for the CD
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- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

9. Correspondence: 1:00

a. MACD Memo regarding reorganization

- Proposed action:
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- Approved/Modified/**Tabled**

b. MACD annual dues (\$8,141.12; invoice rec'd Feb14, 2020)

- Proposed action:
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- Approved/Modified/**Tabled**

10. Supervisors Report; Cataract Lake/Reservoir funding for monitoring the dam to DNRC

11. Staff/Project Report

12. Upcoming Dates:

- GCD meeting and Area 6 meeting, February 20; 9am – 2pm, Manhattan, MT (RSVP)
- February Ranchers Roundtable, February 27; 7pm-9pm, Alder, MT (RSVP)
- Gravelly Landscape Collaborative, Community Conversation, February 27; 5:30pm – 8pm, Ennis, MT
- Montana Water Summit, March 3-4, 2020 – Helena, MT (RSVP)

Staff Report

Conservation Programs Manager:

*Background/Biography:*

Born in a small town in southwestern Wisconsin. Dairy farming was a part of my seasonal life through high school. Attended Univ. of Wisc. – Madison for Conservation Biology and graduated in 2010. I've lived in Montana for most of the past decade. Most recently, I finished my master of science degree from MSU in Bozeman in July 2019. I am excited to work in the area, and specifically with the MCD to accomplish "local, common sense conservation."

*Past month:*

I've been able to join Paul and MFWP on two 310 site visits (O'Dell Ditch and Mile Creek), and I'm getting to know the process through field visits and DNRC materials.

After a few months without Ethan and a month without Emily in the office, there has been a fair bit of work on hold. I've been reviewing the Madison Watershed Plan (Drought Resiliency Plan), and getting to know some of our common partners (Gallatin River Task Force, Jack Creek Preserve, MSU – Ext., NRCS, NACD, Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, TU, WCS).

Ethan and I have been in contact regarding some of the projects that are still outstanding. Most notably, the Lower Jack Creek Project (spring 2020 planting), the DNRC watershed planning grant, and the DEQ monitoring grant. I submitted the necessary quarterly report to DNRC earlier this month.

It was fortunate that I was able to get to know some of the board during the interview process for our potential coordinator. In the coming months, I'd like to visit with each of the supervisors and get to know their operations in the MCD so I can better understand and serve the local community over the long run.

*Events attended:*

- Soil Health Workshop, Dillon, MT
- Rancher Roundtable, Whitehall, MT
- Soil Health Symposium, Billings, MT
- Greater Yellowstone Ag Forum, Three Forks, MT
- High Divide Workshop, Fairmont, MT

***Coming month:***

I'll continue to study the 310 process and work with Paul and the rest of the board to ensure that we have our bases covered.

The DEQ water quality final report is due at the end of February, and partners need to be contacted and coordinated regarding the final phase of the Lower Jack Creek project.

I'm beginning to explore grant and program opportunities with a number of partners. The Big Sky Resort Tax grant cycle is being updated, but a proposal is not due until the end of April. There is also a \$50k fund to support CDs that have pollinator projects. I'll learn more about it at the Area6 and Gallatin CD meeting on Feb20th.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:15pm**