



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** April 15, 2019
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order: 7:01**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Jon Siddoway, Mel McKittrick, Abigail Dennis, Nick Dyk, Kaye Suzuki, Paul Jurenas, George Boyd
3. **Staff Present:** Ethan Kunard, Emily Osborn, Brieana Shook
4. **Others Present:** Kaleena Miller-MSU Ag Extension, Murray Strong-Pioneer Technical Services, Richard Gockle-MRF, Jim Kramer-MRF, Sunni Heikes-Knapton-Northern plains regional representative-NACD
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:05:** Jon moves to accept the March minutes as amended. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 7:06:** Emily presented the financial report as presented, Kaye moves, Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
7. **Public Comment:**
8. **Business-310-Mel McKittrick: 7:55**
 - a. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** Applicants will need to submit an extension request.
 - b. **#18-29E Keith Dunn, North Willow Creek (Beaver Dam):** Ron Spoon, FWP was not available for a site visit. Permit is tabled.
 - c. **#19-03 Ron Lake, Unnamed Stream-Cameron (structure in stream for stock water use):** This permit is for the replacement of an existing structure in Tolman Creek to catch water and fill a stock water tank. Structure will be treated wood-no concrete will be used. Kaye moves to approve permit #19-03 as proposed. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries. 15-day waiting period has been waived. Permit expires May 1, 2020.
 - d. **#19-04 Jim Wellington, O'Dell Creek (restoration):** This permit is phase 16 of the O'Dell creek restoration project. Site inspection will take place Friday, April 19th. George moves to approved 19-04 pending site inspection. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
 - e. **#19-05 Mel McKittrick, Eight Mile Creek (Cleaning channel):** Ethan and Dave Moser, FWP inspected this project. This project will clean and define a channel for this section of Eight Mile Creek that is currently overgrown. Livestock will be fenced out until the vegetation becomes established. Approved with modifications to move the channel to the north. Kaye moves approve permit #19-05 approved with modifications. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries. Mel abstains.
 - f. **#19-06 Joe Lopez, Ennis Lake (Dock installation):** This permit is for a boat dock installation on the west side of Ennis Lake. Dave recommended Approved with modifications-no treated lumber to be used on the project. Dave Moser contacted canyon ferry with their recommendations. They do not allow treated lumber to be used with dock constructions. Treated lumber is commonly used on head gates. Treated timbers can be used if they are approved for aquatic use and provide documentation for the next board meeting. Mel moves to approve #19-06 if he uses treated lumber for aqua. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - g. **#19-07 Levi Dutton, Sheep Creek (Culvert installation):** This project was for a culvert installation, it is not located on Sheep Creek. Snow was too deep for a site inspection. Site visit will take place next month. Tabled.

- h. **Work Completion Reports:** None
- i. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel has spent 12 hours on 310's this month.

9. **Old Business and Reports: 7:16**

- a. **MCD Nonprofit:** Ethan presented on the formation of a 501 (c) 3 organization of the Madison Conservation District. The conservation district is limited as a government entity to access support that would be available to a 501 (c) 3. The organization would help with developing a sustainable funding stream and make conservation work in this valley sustainable. The board discussed the options for the structure of the 501 (c) 3 regarding partners and funding structures. The supervisor's will contact Ethan for possible board member suggestions and Ethan will bring a summary of his conversation with the possible board members to share with the CD board.
- b. **#19-01 Acela Truck Company violation: 9:08pm:** Emily contacted Justin Ekwall the Deputy County Attorney. He requested all the documentation regarding the violation for review. Waiting for more information.
- c. **Banquet Planning:** Volunteer Day for banquet set up will be - April 25th from 1-4pm, Kaye and Ethan will present along with RVCD volunteers, Banquet tickets are sold out and Emily has an active waiting list. Emily will meet with RVCD on Thursday to finalize plans.
- d. **CD Office/Building:** Emily reached out to DNRC to see what other districts own and manage their own building. The MCD's conservation partners are very interested in working with the CD on shared office space. This discussion will be on the budget meeting agenda for further discussion. At our Interagency meeting the commissioners gave insight on how other sub entities of the county have purchased buildings with the help of Madison County.
- e. **MHP/MWCC Fall Watershed Tour – Planning Meeting April 19th:** Planning meeting on Friday.
- f. **2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule**

10. **New Business: 7:30**

- a. **Montana Range Days Scholarships:** The MCD will provide sponsors for anyone interested in attending. Notice will go out that the MCD will sponsor attendees from our district to Montana Range Days. Applicants will submit name and why they want to attend for the supervisors to review and approve the scholarship at our May board meeting.
- b. **Montana Youth Range Camp Scholarships:** same as range days.
- c. **MCD Costco card:** A Costco membership will provide savings for the MCD when purchasing supplies for Bear Creek Days, flowers for the banquet, printing costs, and electronics-return policy. Mel moves to approve the purchase of an MCD Costco card. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- d. **Bear Creek Days volunteer, Thursday May 16th**
- e. **Agenda for Budget Meeting:** Supervisors were provided a working copy of the budget meeting agenda for review.
- f. **Living soil film viewing:** NACD is celebrating stewardship week with the living soil film production. Emily will check with the library about a possible date for a small gathering to watch the film.

11. **Correspondence: 8:00**

- a.

12. **NRCS Report:** None.

13. **Supervisors Report:** Kaye was featured in The Madisonian for the volunteer spotlight.

14. **Staff/Project Report:** See below

15. **Upcoming Dates:**

- a. **Integrated Predator Damage Workshop, April 24-Helena, MT**
- b. **Board of Livestock Meeting, May 14-Helena, MT**
- c. **Livestock Genetic Management and Grazing, May 29-30-Hobson, MT**
- d. **Private applicator training.**
- e. **2019 State Wide Administer Training, June 3-6-Highwood, MT**

- f. Montana Range Days, June 17-19-Dillon, MT
- g. Montana Youth Range Camp, June 25-28-Bozeman, MT
- h. 33rd Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp, July 14-19-Missoula, MT

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager

Jack Creek/Moonlight Basin Watershed Planning – We hosted a meeting for several stakeholders (e.g., Moonlight Basin, FWP, TU, MLR, Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, and Jack Creek water users) to discuss coordination needs in the Jack Creek drainage as development begins to pick up in coming years. The MCD presented on the past 13 years of monitoring data on Jack Creek, and Kevin Germain discussed future water infrastructure needed to complete their buildout of ~1200 more housing units. Additionally, Kerri Strasheim gave an overview of the water rights changes needed for Moonlight to service their future buildout. There was some discussion for additional monitoring opportunities for this summer, and the group will reconvene in the fall to discuss results of this data, as well as have a discussion on future conservation or restoration activities in the area.

Madison Stream Team – We've updated our Sampling Analysis Plan for 2019, and identified the streams/sites that will be visited, as well as our monitoring schedule. To cover the cost of lab sample analysis, we submitted a grant to the Montana DEQ for \$2,100. There was a recommendation to pursue the Moonlight Community Foundation to help cover monitoring costs for Jack Creek. I will seek this option out, as it might be a more suitable alternative to using the Big Sky Resort Tax funds. We have also deployed the TruTracks to begin measuring water depth and temperature, and we've begun working with a handful of volunteers to collect turbidity data to identify potential sediment sources along Jack Creek (primarily along the canyon road) and Moores Creek. We will begin taking discharge measurements soon, and we are scheduled to conduct a macroinvertebrate assessment at the Jack Creek South Side Road site prior to runoff (per our agreement with the Big Sky Resort Tax). One other recommendation was made to incorporate AIS and noxious weed identification into our Stream Team site visits, so we will be integrating that into our upcoming training (date TBD).

Lower Jack Creek – We submitted a final funding request for the project to Madison/Gallatin Trout Unlimited for \$15,900. This would cover the cost of the Montana Conservation Corps crew to provide support for one week, as well as the construction supervision needs for Jeff Dunn and Cindy Hoschouer who both served in the same capacity for Phase 1. We've coordinated with the USFS to find a potential site for the harvesting of conifer bough material for the fascine bundles near the West Fork. This summer we will do some reconnaissance to ID suitable sites for the harvest of ~8,000 willows in October. Volunteer willow harvest days are scheduled for October 17-19. Our grant report to MWCC for \$20,000 is due April 15th.

MWCC Fall Watershed Tour – I've schedule a meeting for the Missouri Headwaters Partnership and MWCC for April 19th to set details of the fall watershed tour.

Watershed Management Grant – We were able to utilize this funding for cost-share in acquiring a drone, as well as to support Brieana's time in developing our annual report. Our first grant report is due April 15th.

Watershed Restoration/Drought Resilience Planning – We've been continuing to whittle-away at this watershed plan development, and I'm intending to have it wrapped up by Fall. We submitted a grant report and invoice to DNRC, and have roughly \$10,000 left to support my time in drafting this plan through August 30, 2019.

CD Nonprofit – (*Ethan will give presentation during meeting.) We discussed this idea with our local partners at our recent meeting with the other Madison Watershed organizations. The feedback was seemingly positive that there is a need in the community for an inclusive organization that represents the diversity of our community in conservation decisions.

Furthermore, I believe all the groups recognized how this concept wouldn't compete with existing local organizations, but rather compliment and support the work of the CD and our partners. I plan to give a presentation at their upcoming board meetings about our proposal.

Additionally, I've had numerous conversations over the past month with individuals to listen to their ideas, while providing my perspective for what the focus of this organization will be. There has been enthusiastic support, and there are a lot of people wanting this initiative to be successful. The CD is well-positioned to take the lead on this effort with a strong community backing.

Planning Board – There was no March meeting, and the planning director position is still vacant. There are also 2 vacancies for board members in the Ruby, and one vacancy for a member in Big Sky.

Emily Osborn: Administrator

I will be traveling to New Zealand from May 15th to May 31st, 2019

Administration Tasks- I have been busy with various administrative and bookkeeping tasks

310 Workshop: The workshop was attended by 11 attendees. Bob Flesher led the training

2019 Banquet Planning- Tickets have sold out for the banquet. We have had inquiries from some for a waiting list if any tickets come available. Stewardship photos have been sent to Right Angles Framing for completion. The Madisonian will feature the Stewardship award article in the April 11th edition. The RVCD is scheduling up a volunteer day for setting up the tables and chairs at the Round Barn. Flowers have been ordered for table decorations.

GROWW: We continue to meet bi-weekly. Good Thymes Camp dates have been set for June 17th-24th, July 15th-19th, and August 12th-16th.

Bear Creek Days: Bear Creek Days is scheduled for May 14th, 15th, and 16th. The MCD will be volunteering on Thursday the 16th. RMEF has awarded a grant in the amount of \$3000.00. \$1200.00 of that grant must be used for food supplies for reimbursement.

Briana Shook: Big Sky Watershed Corps Member

Madison Stream Team – A few volunteers have already begun working on early turbidity sampling this month. I have been testing turbidity samples as they come in. I will also be reaching out to previous volunteers to get an idea of when the training should be held, and finalizing a date for that. Further volunteer recruitment outreach will also be taking place.

MCD Annual Report – The 2018 Annual Report has been finalized and printed. I will be distributing official copies at the meeting. I had the Strategic Planning visualization I created printed off as well.

Ennis School Pollinator Garden – Project development was put on hold while I was waiting for local nurseries to open up for the season. I will be visiting a couple different nurseries and gathering an idea of what species they will have available this year and any recommendations they may have. Based on this information, I will be formalizing a species list to add to the pollinator garden planning document I am creating.

Social Media – I am actively making posts on our social media pages to keep the public engaged online.

CoCoRaHS – I have reached out to a variety of landowners and businesses to gauge who may be interested in participating in CoCoRaHS. I have a handful of free gauges to distribute. CoCoRaHS is a community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). The aim is to provide the

highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications and is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals.

By participating in CoCoRaHS, the Madison Conservation District will gain valuable data that can be utilized in future monitoring efforts within the Madison Watershed. Participating in CoCoRaHS ideally means a time commitment of a few moments of time each day. Data can be recorded within two hours of 7 AM (before or after). While this is the ideal time commitment to get the most out of the program, this is not a strict commitment, i.e. vacations, holidays, work, injury, or any other reason why you may not be able to record precipitation that day. The gauges can be fixed onto an existing post, or we can provide a new post if one in a suitable location does not already exist.

Adjourned: 9:30pm

