



FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting **7:00 PM** July 16, 2018
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order:** Nick called the meeting to order. 7:00pm
2. **Supervisors present:** Nick Dyk, Mel McKittrick, Jon Siddoway, Bob Sitz, George Boyd
3. **Staff Present:** Ethan Kunard, Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Emily Osborn
4. **Others Present:** None
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings:** Mel moves to accept the minutes as amended. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn:** Emily read the financial report. Bobs moves to accept the financial report as presented. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Mel moves to transfer \$20,000.00 from the county account into the savings account. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Business-Mel McKittrick: 7:19**
 - a. **#18-05 Sitz Angus Ranches- Preacher Creek (stream restoration):** Ron Spoon reviewed the recently submitted survey data and concept design drawings for the stream channel restoration to improve trout spawning habitat. Ron approves based on the new info. Nick moves to approve permit #18-05 as proposed. George seconds, Bob abstains. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires July 15, 2019.
 - b. **#18-09 Tim Cashman, Beaver Dam Ranch-Leonard Creek (dam reconstruction):** We have not received any new information. Mel recommends the board visit the site to see the progress. Mel will contact Tom Coleman. Permit is tabled.
 - c. **#18-12 Kevin Germain, Moonlight Basin-unnamed tributary to Jack Creek (fill placement for gravity sewer main):** This permit is for the installation of a permanent 36-inch squash culvert embed 4-6 inches at grade installed on Site 3 there will be a road across it. Site 5 is a temporary crossing. The board requests an additional 310 submitted for the work on Site 5. George moves to approve #18-12 as modified. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires July 1, 2019.
 - d. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** This project is for the installation of a wooden head gate at Potosi. This head gate was designed by the NRCS. A site inspection was not performed by the meeting deadline. Mel recommends the Forest Service and NRCS be present at the site inspection. Permit is tabled until a site visit can be completed.
 - e. **#18-21E John Crumley, North Meadow Creek (High water wash out horseshoe bend in river):** High water on North Meadow Creek washed out a horseshoe bend in the stream cutting off the supply of water to an irrigation pump. They created a cut to divert the water back to the pump. The board recommends adding root mass and willows to stabilize the bank and build up to prevent a future washout. The board requests a 310 submitted on the bank stabilization repair. Nick moves to approve 18-21E as a project as modified. Landowner is to submit a 310 permit for work to mitigate the damages from the emergency actions in 90 days. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
 - f. **#18-22 RE Miller Bear Creek (Bridge construction over Bear Creek):** This permit is for the installation of a 30' bridge over Bear Creek to gain access to property. The board requests the project maintain as much of the stream banks as possible, no narrowing of the channel and

reseeding of disturbed areas. Bob moves to approve #18-22 as proposed. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires July 1, 2019.

- g. **Work Completion Reports:** 2 completion reports from Granger ranches.
- h. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimate 15 hours spent on 310's this month.

9. Old Business and Reports: 8:33

- a. **Strategic Planning/CD Foundation report:** Sunni received an email from Dan Clark and he is willing to help us with the strategic planning.

10. New Business: 8:38

- a. **Bookkeeping Services, Kristi Lyons:** The MCD would like a secure Kristi Lyons bookkeeping services. The MCD would like to enter into a contract with Kristi outlining the responsibilities and expectations between the MCD and her. Nick suggested having Kristi go through one pay cycle with Ward, Stender and Associates to assist with the process and help with PERS. The motion is contingent on Kristie signing a contract with the MCD. Mel moves to hire Kristi for our bookkeeping services. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- b. **MACD:** The MACD just hired Dan McGowen as the new executive director. The MCD are not current with our dues. Sunni was contacted by the MACD and stated that we did not have those funds available in our budget. The board would like to see in the coming months the direction the MACD takes with Dan McGowen as the new executive director. In the next month the MCD will be getting support from the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) in web design and tech support from Kate Arpin, some of these funds come from the DNRC. The MCD is benefitting from the existence of SWCDM staff.
- c. **MACD Employee and Supervisor of the Year Nominations open:** The board will not be submitting applications.
- d. **Big Sky Watershed Corps Application:** Ethan reported that applications are due, August 16, 2018 to bring on a Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) member. The BSWC member would come January 2019, through November 2019. The first half of the host fees would be in this fiscal year. The Watershed management grant for \$5000.00 towards a BSWC member is available. There are sources to fund us as a host site. George moves to submit an BSWC member application. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- e. **MACO insurance rate increase:** Our MACO insurance premium increased from \$1755.00 To \$1785.00. Bob moves to approve to pay the invoice. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- f. **Madison County Commissioners approved \$5000.00 to each district for 310 administration:** Sunni and Ethan met with the county commissioners on June 26th along with the Ruby Valley Conservation District (RVCD) to present the MCD's workplans for the coming year and the lost funding for administering the 310's. The commissioner's approved \$5,000.00 to each district for 310 administration.
- g. **NRCS Grant for Community Gardens:** The GROWW program is still trying to get funding for building a greenhouse on campus. The NRCS just released a grant for community gardens specifically. If we put an application in for the equipment for the greenhouse it would be accepted. Deadline for application is August 10th. Mel moves to pursue the grant funding from the NRCS. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- h. **Associate Supervisor:** Abby Dennis would be interested in serving on the board as an associate supervisory, non-voting capacity and providing insight and expertise for the formation of the Conservation District Foundation. Nick requested Abby attend a few meetings before a final vote on the appointment.

11. Correspondence: 9:16

- a. **Dottie's Bookkeeping:** Emily received correspondence from Dottie requesting further information as well as stating that she is willing to pay half of the MPERA fine. Emily will continue gathering the paperwork together to respond to Dottie's demands. The board feels that the MCD is not responsible for paying any of the fine as Dottie was responsible for ensuring that all MPERA payments were made promptly.

- 12. NRCS Report:** Sean Lewis was not present at tonight's meeting but sent a report updating the board on the NRCS current projects.
- 13. Supervisors Report:** Jon has been doing range inventory around the state and has seen an increase in cheat grass throughout the state and shared his concerns. Bob reported on a new product called Espinol, that can help eliminate the cheat grass by attacking the root.
- 14. Staff/Project Report:** *See Staff Report
- 15. Upcoming Dates:**
 - a. **Supervisor Summit, August 29 & 30-Helena, MT**
 - b. **Conservation Film Fest, August 31-Ennis, MT**
 - c. **Area 6 meeting, September 26-Clyde Park, MT**

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager:

Watershed/Drought Planning – We have closed out our contracts with DNRC and DEQ for portions of the draft WRP, and were able to invoice \$6,500 of my time from April through June. We are now waiting for more information from the DEQ to proceed further with the water quality restoration planning piece of this effort. I'll continue working on this project throughout the summer, and have a significant portion (~360 hours) to finish to fulfill the requirements through the Bureau of Reclamation for the Drought Resilience component, which has a deadline of August 30th. This will require my full-time effort on this project (in addition to the Stream Team) to bill these remaining hours before the contract expires.

Madison Stream Team – We held the training, and set the sampling calendar for the year. We are conducting full water quality sampling on Moores Creek, South Meadow Creek, Jack Creek, and Hot Springs Creek. Additionally, we are collecting streamflow on North Meadow and the West Fork. We received \$3,500 from the Big Sky Resort Tax to support the monitoring efforts on Jack Creek, and are still seeking additional support for the remaining costs of the Stream Team.

Watershed Stories – We photographed the individuals for the watershed stories, and the communications specialist is now conducting interviews with the three people/groups we've highlighted (Madison Stream Team, GROWW Program, and Owens Family Ranch). The final products should be completed by late summer.

Planning Board – We held our annual June meeting in Big Sky where we toured developments at the Yellowstone Club, Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks, and Big Sky Resort. Following the tour, we held our meeting at the Moonlight Lodge where we once again reviewed the Moonlight Basin ODP. There were a large number of public comments made that expressed concerns over the development plan, and the developer requested the Planning Board table a decision on the proposal until they can work more closely with opponents to create a plan with more widespread support.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton – Watershed Coordinator:

Riparian Grazing Workshop:

Linda Owens and I attended the riparian grazing workshop in Helena on June 27, and learned quite a bit about the evaluation and monitoring of projects, as well as the techniques and equipment that can be used to better manage grazing along waterways. We got a scholarship to attend the course, and our mileage should be reimbursed.

Leadership Montana:

Planning is underway for the first meeting in Big Sky, September 5-7. The class list is attached. I am really looking forward to this experience and sharing what I learn with MCD.

Lower Jack Creek: The June 29 tour went well, attended by funders The Nature Conservancy, Montana Trout Foundation, and Northwestern Energy. The Prairie Populist writer Amanda Garant did a nice story on the collaborative effort of the project which is on the website and shared on facebook. We will do a walk through with MTFWP on July 13th, after which time the grant request for this project should be approved. The 223 grant application for \$20,000 will be submitted by the July 26th deadline.

Moore's Creek Lyons: MTFWP will be doing a walk through on July 13th, after which time we should receive the balance of the grant (\$1,818). We met with the Engineer and wetland person and discussed the monitoring requirements, and we plan to engage the Madison Stream Team on some of these tasks.

GROWW: The second Good Thymes Camp session is July 9-13. Funding requests for the program have been declined by 2 entities, so we will need to have a strategic discussion about sustaining the program.

Conservation Film Festival: We met with the Ennis Chamber of Commerce who is taking over the Ennis Flyfishing and Outdoor Festival August 31 and September 1. The Madison Theater has offered use of their location for the 3:30 Friday August 31 viewing, and we will be showing 5 short films that highlight conservation work in our area. The ticket price is likely to be \$5 and we hope to fill all the seats.

Emily Osborn: Administrator: I have been busy filling my time with various administration tasks and bookkeeping.

Meeting adjourned: 9:42pm-Nick