



Madison Conservation District  
*Local Common Sense Conservation*

222 E. Main Street Suite 2B | PO Box 606 | Ennis, MT 59729  
406.682.3181

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

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

1. **Call meeting to order: 7:09**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Jon Siddoway, Nicholas Dyk, Colten Clark, George Boyd
3. **Staff Present:** Ethan Kunard, Emily Osborn
4. **Others Present:** John Wagoner, NRCS
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 8:07**
  - a. **May:** Nick moves to approve May minutes as presented. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
  - b. **Budget Meeting:** Jon moves to approve Budget Meeting minutes as presented. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
  - c. **June:** Jon moves to approve June minutes as amended. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
  - d. **310 Meeting:** Nick moves to approve 310 meeting minutes as modified. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 8:14**
  - a. **June:** Nick moves to approve the June financial report as presented. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
  - b. **July:** Nick moves to approve the July financial report as presented. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries. Nick moves to transfer \$10,000.00 from savings into checking. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
7. **Public Comment: None**
8. **NRCS Report:** EQIP application has been preapproved. Should be signed by this week. CSP program, only on person interested this year. Ruby Habitat, wetland easement close by next month. Saurbier ALE closed next month. The chief toured Madison and Beaverhead county to showcase Montana ranching. Conifer encroachment project should begin next year. 5-year goal of landowners has been met. Most applicants are located in the Ruby Valley. There may be more room to bring on more landowners later.
9. **Business-310-Ethan Kunard: 8:55pm**
  - a. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** Tabled
  - b. **#19-18 Moonlight Basin, Lees Pool & South Side Road:** This project is for improving logging road to provide access to a subdivision with culvert replacements. Site 8-near the golf course near the south side road. Existing road, they are lengthening the culvert, and widening the road. The stream is about 18 inches wide. Nick recommends splitting this site of the permit into a separate application.  
Site 13- Existing road, putting in a new lengthened culvert to widen the road. This will be a paved road.  
Site 11- Two different crossings. One intermittent stream the other perennial. Two culvert installations. One site is boggy area. Second, improving an existing culvert to widen the road.  
Site 10-New road construction connecting to the Jack Creek road. No existing road currently. Installing a culvert and construction of a road.  
Site 9-Existing culvert with live water. Replacing culvert with a longer one to widen the road.  
Site 5-They would like to modify the application. They would like to put an open bottom culvert in. Inquire with Dave Moser what the detriments are to an open bottom culvert.  
Site 1- They would like to modify their application to install a bridge rather than a culvert. Dave Moser will inspect the site later this week.

Nick moves to approve with modifications application #19-18 for the Lees pool portion of the project conditional pending Dave Moser's recommendation and review and the recommendations made in the team member report. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries.

Nick moves to require a separate 310 application for the south side road portion of the project on Moonlight Basin with a new application number. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.

- c. **#19-20 Yellowstone Club, Rich Chandler, Muddy Creek (Clear span bridge):** This application is for the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Muddy Creek. Nick moves to approve application #19-20 for the Muddy Creek clear span walking bridge as proposed. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
- d. **#19-22 Granger Ranch, Mill Creek (Head Gate Maintenance):** Requesting a 5-year maintenance permit to remove rock and maintain their head gate on Mill Creek. George moves to approve the application #19-22 for a 5-year maintenance permit. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
- e. **#19-23E Granger Ranches, Mill Creek (Head gate maintenance):** Work was not completed.
- f. **#19-25 Michael Thompson, Ennis Lake (Boat Dock):** This application is for installing a temporary removable boat dock on Ennis Lake. The dock will be approximately 40 feet long. Nick moves to approve with modification, application #19-25 with the modification that no concrete is poured below the shore line and applicant consults with proper parties to ensure property boundary. George seconds. All in favor and motion carries. Permit expires November 30, 2020.
- g. **Work Completion Reports: #19-06 Joe Lopez**
- h. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Ethan spent 13 hours on 310's this month.

#### 10. Old Business and Reports: 7:30

- a. **2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday:** Tabled
- b. **#19-01 Acela Truck Company violation:** The Deputy County Attorney, Justin Ekwall does not intend to file charges at this time. He feels that the alleged violation is too ambiguous to charge them.
- c. **MCD Website:** We are still researching companies to work with us to build our website. We could reach out to the Ennis school to see if the computer program would be interested in building a site for the MCD.
- d. **MACD dues:** MACD removed their executive director at their spring board meeting. The two organizations have divided and SWCDM put out a job description for their own executive director. MACD also put out a job announcement for an executive director. There are 2 or 3 board members on SWCDM from MACD, that is the only remaining connection. MACD will be putting all conservation district's in "good standing" for 3 years regardless of dues paid and they urge all CD's to pay their dues to help with this transition period. MACD is considering changing their status from 501 c 4 to a 501 c 3. This would change the amount of time they could spend on lobbying but would also change the way they bring in funds rather than relying solely on dues. The MCD would like to invite Gary Giem, MACD Area 6 representative to our August meeting to fill the board in on what is going on with MACD. Tabled
- e. **Drought Resilience Planning – reallocate funding for equipment:** We have a contract with the DNRC for \$20,000.00 to work on drought plans. We will not need the full amount of money to spend on Ethan's time and the contract will expire August 30th. There is flexibility with how we spend that money. The MCD could invest in a new stream flow meter. We have been borrowing one from MSU for 10 years. We could get a new flow meter that only takes one person to run as opposed to two and staff gauges. Deadline to use the money is August 30<sup>th</sup>. Ethan will get a quote from the company and see if they would take a check for payment. Tabled until August meeting.
- f. **MWCC/MHP Fall Watershed Tour:** The tour agenda is finalized. September 12th will go through the Ruby and then into Ennis. We will tour Janet Endecott's project. Social time will be at the back lawn of Willie's Distillery, Sheri Show from the Pic a Nic basket will bring her pizza oven truck and the Gravel Bar will provide the drinks. There is the option for participates to only attend one day of the tour.

#### 11. New Business: 7:52

- a. **Urban Supervisor Appointment-Jon and Kaye:** Tabled
- b. **Adopt a highway renewal:** The MCD has an adopted highway from McAllister to the top of Norris Hill. It has since expired in 2018. In the past we have donated money to the local scouts to clean the highway.
- c. **Conservation Film Celebration:** We are helping the Ennis Chamber of Commerce with this for their Fly Fishing and Outdoor Festival. The Film Celebration will take place at the Madison Theatre on Thursday,

August 29 at 6pm. We have selected films for the categories; fish, wildlife, forest/wildfire, water, ranching/working lands, and land conservation.

**12. Correspondence: 8:00**

- a. Department of Livestock – Proposed rule amendment:
- b. Madison County Planning Board: Lower Ulery's 4 Subdivison and PUD

**13. Supervisors Report**

**14. Staff/Project Report**

**15. Upcoming Dates:**

- a. Wildlife Speaker Series: Wolverines, July 17 – Lima, MT
- b. Wildlife Speaker Series: Mountain Lions, July 30 – Sheridan, MT
- c. Wildlife Speaker Series: Otters, August 6 - Divide, MT
- d. Conservation Film Celebration, August 28 – Ennis, MT
- e. Montana Range Tour, September 4-5 - Harlowton, MT
- f. MACD Convention, November 19-21 - Kalispell, MT

**Staff Report**

**Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager**

**River Conditions Web Tool** – Over the last year, we have been working with a group from DNRC, MSU, and USFWS to develop an online river conditions mapping tool. The web tool contains live gaging data and other information from across the Missouri Headwaters, and can also show river closures due to temperature or flow targets. Additionally, the developer built in the option to upload monitoring data collected by local groups (e.g., Madison Stream Team), and I'll be working to incorporate our monitoring sites with links to the data through the MSU Extension Water Quality Data Hub. The web tool is currently housed on a new website for the Missouri Headwaters (<https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org>). We will also be able to embed the Madison watershed page into our own website (once our website is updated). You can view the whole web tool here: [https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org/UMHW\\_RiverConditions/](https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org/UMHW_RiverConditions/) and the Madison watershed page here: [https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org/UMHW\\_RiverConditions/index.html?H2O\\_ID=Madison](https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org/UMHW_RiverConditions/index.html?H2O_ID=Madison)

**Madison Stream Team** – Volunteers have begun collecting turbidity data on South Meadow, North Meadow, Jack Creek, and Moores Creek. We're processing those turbidity samples now, and have also been taking streamflow measurements on the 11 sites with gaging equipment. Full water quality sampling events begin 7/16.

**Lower Jack Creek** – I will be developing contracts for the additional individuals who will be conducting oversight on the project (i.e., RESPEC, Jeff Dunn – Trout Unlimited, and Cindy Haushauer), and also will be resubmitting an updated 124 permit to FWP (permit for phase I expired). We'll begin working with some volunteers in late September or early October to collect conifer boughs that the Forest Service cut near the West Fork that will be used for the conifer fascine. Additionally, I'll be spending some time over the next month looking for suitable willow harvest sites at mid-elevation that are easily accessible (willows will need to be dormant by mid-October).

**MWCC Fall Watershed Tour** – Janet Endecott has agreed to host us for our portion of the tour. I'll be working to coordinate with her and other individuals who have been involved with the project (Northwestern Energy, FWP, etc.) to develop a strategy for that portion of the tour. Board supervisors are encouraged to join any and all portions of the event that are in the area. We will be having lunch on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Virginia City where we'll introduce the Madison CD and our partners before driving to the Endecott Ranch. After the tour at Janet's we will be coming back to Ennis for a social dinner event outside at Willie's Distillery.

**Watershed Restoration/Drought Resilience Planning** – We are not going to be able to use all of the remaining funds in our drought resiliency planning contract solely for my time before the August 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. I talked with the grant manager, and we are instead going to appropriate any unspent funds on equipment related to drought monitoring/planning. The two biggest opportunities I see for equipment are: a new flow meter that can be operated with one person, and staff gages for all of our stream gaging sites.

**CD Nonprofit** – I've had some inquiries from a handful of people about the status, but no new progress has been made.

**Planning Board** – We met in Big Sky in late June to visit projects at the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks, Big Sky, and Moonlight Basin.

**Montana Outdoor Heritage Project (MOHP)** – I talked with Cole Mannix about the prospect of hosting a “conversation” at a Madison Watershed Partnership meeting, and he thought that would be an okay route to go. I'll reach out to the partners to schedule our next meeting (August) and get their feedback on the idea.

**Conservation Film Celebration** – We've been working with the Chamber of Commerce on the logistics for the upcoming film series. The event will be August 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Madison Theater. We've got 6 short films that cover a range of topics (land conservation, working lands, fish, wildlife, wildfire/forests, and stream restoration). The event is free, so invite friends/family to attend.

**Big Sky Watershed Corps** – I'm waiting to hear from Montana Conservation Corps on any potential reimbursement or money owed to MCC after Briana's departure.

#### **Emily Osborn: Administrator**

**Administration Tasks:** I am completing the various bookkeeping task throughout the month. I had a meeting with Kristi Lyons on setting up sub-accounts under our savings account to show the allocated funds for the Strategic Plan Implementation. We have also set up sub account for future vehicle and equipment purchases/maintenance spending with the unspent funds from fiscal year 18/19 budget amounts.

**GROWW:** The Pollinator Garden has been planted. We hosted two volunteer days to complete the project which were both featured in The Madisonian over two publications. We have approximately \$1200.00 left in the budget and I am working with Signs West to design plant identifications signage. The remaining purchases will include the signage, fencing supplies, and educational supplies.

**Madison Farm 2 Fork:** I have been working with Kaye, Jamie, and Janet to design the Campus Greenhouse. We have received various shipments for outfitting out the greenhouse for use and I will continue to make purchases for supplies.

**Meeting is Adjourned: 10:18pm.**