



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** June 17, 2019
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order: 7:10**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Jon Siddoway, Abigail Dennis, Kaye Suzuki, Nick Dyk, Bob Sitz (call in)
3. **Staff Present:** Ethan Kunard, Emily Osborn
4. **Others Present:** John Wagoner-NRCS,
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:05:** Tabled for next meeting.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 7:06:** Tabled for next meeting.

7. **Public Comment:**
8. **NRCS Report:** CSP deadline for the stewardship. One Equip project was funded in the Ruby. Creprian roll problems in the Madison Valley, John is working with FSA on how to proceed. NRCS interviewed a Sweet water basin landowner and John for a YouTube video called Sage Grouse 2.0 for NRCS. The NRCS chief will be visiting SW MT to tour the area.

9. **Business-310-Ethan Kunard: 9:02pmt**
 - a. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** Tabled, possible new application needed.
 - b. **#18-29 Keith Dunn, North Willow Creek (Beaver Dam):** Nick, Bob, and Ron Spoon (FWP) inspected this project that was completed in December 2018 for the removal of a debris dam had rerouted the creek. This application is being processed a regular 310 not an emergency 310. Kaye moves to approve application #18-29 as presented and close this permit. Any additional work will need a new 310 applications. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
 - c. **#19-18 Moonlight Basin, Lees Pool & South Side Road:** Tabled until July
 - d. **#19-19 Brandon Gross, Ennis Lake (Dock installation):** This project is for the installation of a removable aluminum dock with a boat lift and a gazebo. The proposed gazebo is only planned to be set back about 5 feet from the shore. Kaye moves to approve with modifications, application #19-19 with the recommendation by Dave Moser (FWP) on the appropriate setback from the shore. MCD also requests the applicant consult with the proper authority to confirm property boundaries. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
 - e. **#19-20 Yellowstone Club, Rich Chandler, Muddy Creek (Clear span bridge):** Tabled until July
 - f. **#19-21 David Maichel, South Willow Creek (Rip rap):** This project is for the installation of rip rap due to creek erosion to stabilize the creek bank. Willow planting is recommended and removal of deadfall willow that is moving the stream channel but to leave the root ball in place. (see Ron Spoons comment) Require a site visit 1 year later and a completion form as soon as work is completed. Kaye moves to approve with team member report modifications and requiring a site visit within one year of completion. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
 - g. **#19-22 Granger Ranch, Mill Creek (Head Gate Maintenance):** Tabled until July
 - h. **#19-23E Granger Ranches, Mill Creek (Head gate maintenance):** work was not completed.
 - i. **#19-24 Brad Owens, UT Moran Creek (Culvert installation):** This application is for development at Axolotl ranches subdivision. They are building an access road to their projected house construction site. They are proposing two crossings with squash culverts. The lower crossing is suitable for a culvert. The upper crossing would require significant fill and would create a 15-foot elevation drop on the creek. Dave

recommends to consult with Army Corps for potential 404 permit. Kaye moves to table application #19-24 pending bridge design and a 404 determination from Army Corps. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion carries.

- j. **Work Completion Reports: #18-01 Tim Hokansen**
- k. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Ethan 10 hours 52 minutes. Nick spent 3 ½ hours

10. Old Business and Reports: 7:22

- a. **MCD Nonprofit:** No update
- b. **#19-01 Acela Truck Company violation:** No update.
- c. **MHP/MWCC Fall Watershed Tour:** We had a meeting last week with MWCC. The tour will enter the Madison Valley on Thursday, September 12th. Potential tour site will be at Endecott's. Proposing dinner at Willie's Distillery with The Gravel Bar catering the bar with their license. The MHP will meet in July to discuss the tour. Registration will be available for the entire tour or just a single day.
- d. **2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule – 3rd Tuesday:** Tabled

11. New Business: 7:30

- a. **BSWC:** No update from MCC on our payment reimbursement. Brian Wilson has been out of the office.
- b. **MCD Position Descriptions:** Emily and Ethan job position descriptions have changed from first hire. They will update the descriptions to reflect their current work to provide to the board. The board request them to note the duties that can transition into a new position with the MCD or to the nonprofit.
- c. **Montana Outdoor Heritage Project:** Ethan spoke with Cole Mannix with the Western Landowners Alliance who is spearheading this project. There are a number of diverse stakeholders involved in natural resources who created this project to discover the priority resource concerns regarding conservation and natural resource health and how to sustainably fund these concerns. They will be distributing surveys and hope to receive a minimum of 10,000 returned. First step is collecting this data by September for a ballot initiative. They would like to host a small group discussion possibly after a CD board meeting with other Natural resource groups. They would like to use the CD to possibly bring in a working lands perspective. Nick-put on Enews, and social media to get the word out.
- d. **MCD/Chamber Film Festival:** Ethan and Emily met with Halley Perry (Ennis Chamber of Commerce) to discuss the Conservation film Celebration. Halley booked the theatre on August 29th (Thursday) night. The CD will need to select the films. The CD would like to feature one short film from each category; working lands, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and soil. The chamber is will do the printing for the posters and the MCD will help promote the film fest.
- e. **2018/2019 Net income:** The MCD is estimating a net income for FY18/19 of approximately \$64,000.00 due to Sunni's departure as well as projects that will be completed in the next fiscal year. There was discussion on how the board would like to allocate the anticipated net income. The board would like to set up sub account in QuickBooks to earmark these funds for strategic plan implementations, vehicle reserve account, and equipment reserve account. Nick suggested we use our surplus to fund our own project or projects that effect the whole community, not just landowners. Kaye moves to allocate a sub account for our savings for strategic plan implementation of the amount of \$25,000.00. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- f. **Update and Approve 2019/2020 Budget:** Bob moves to approve the 2019/2020 budget. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
 - **Office Space long-term goals**
 - **MACD dues:** Tabled
 - **310 site inspection long-term strategy**
 - **MCD Website:** Tabled
 - **Staffing needs**

12. Correspondence: 8:00

- a. **Sunni Leadership Montana graduation**
- b. **Forest Service, Bear Creek Days thank you**

13. Supervisors Report: none

14. Staff/Project Report

15. Upcoming Dates:

- a. Montana Board of Livestock Meeting, June 24th-Helena, MT
- b. WCS Summer Speaker Series, Big Horn Sheep, June 25th Jack Creek Preserve, Ennis, MT
- c. Montana Youth Range Camp, June 25-28-Bozeman, MT
- d. 33rd Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp, July 14-19-Missoula, MT
- e. Montana Range Tour, September 4-5-Harlowton, MT
- f. MACD Convention, November 19-21-Kallispele, MT

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager

Big Sky/Jack Creek Stakeholder Group – I attended a headwaters alliance meeting in Big Sky in late May to discuss ways of better coordinating monitoring/conservation efforts on the Gallatin and Madison sides of Big Sky. Additionally, I attended the Big Sky Resort Tax Q&A to request a rollover of \$1,200 to go toward monitoring efforts on Jack Creek for this upcoming summer.

Madison Stream Team – Our annual training was on June 6th. We had 17 attendees, 8 of which were new volunteers. The schedule for monitoring events has been set, and they will begin June 11th. Most of the monitoring objectives are similar to last year, with the addition of a noxious weed mapping component that is in coordination with MVRG Weed Committee and Madison County Weed Board.

Lower Jack Creek – No updates

MWCC Fall Watershed Tour – We have a meeting with MWCC to begin planning the “Madison” portion of the tour on June 12th.

Watershed Restoration/Drought Resilience Planning – We received a payment for \$1,366 from our Watershed Management Grant for work done this past quarter. I also was updated by the MT DEQ that they have the remaining TMDLs (sediment & temperature) for the Madison planning area in draft format. We hope to be receiving both of those documents soon.

CD Nonprofit – No update

Planning Board – The planning board will be meeting on June 24th for our annual Big Sky visit. We will tour projects in Moonlight Basin, Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks, and Big Sky resort that have been approved (or are anticipating upcoming review).

Strategic Plan/Work Plan – (see attachment) I have reorganized and refined some of the ideas that came out of our November 2018 strategic planning meeting to begin tracking what we have done, as well as what is upcoming. The hope is that we can use this as a way to prioritize our efforts and develop goals/timelines for the focus areas we identified in November. Items in “green” are things we’ve accomplished already in 2019, or are on our way to accomplishing. Items in “yellow” are areas where we need to focus a little more attention and keep close on our radar. I’ll continue refining this and updating it regularly as a way to track how and when we’re meeting our objectives as an organization.

Montana Outdoor Heritage Project (MOHP) – We’ve been approached as a potential host for the MOHP conversation series (visit <https://montanaheritageproject.com/> for more information). The website says, “*The Montana Outdoor*

Heritage Project has launched a robust public discussion through September 2019 to hear from as many Montanans as possible. Montana residents are invited to participate by joining community conversations held across the state and by taking the Heritage Survey to help prioritize the challenges facing our lands, water, and wildlife. This public process is an important first step towards protecting our outdoor heritage and way of life for the next generation.” I need to learn more about the effort, and what it would entail to host a “conversation”. I hope to learn more to report back for the June 17th board meeting.

Big Sky Watershed Corps – Briana’s last day was June 7th. Emily and I are working together to pick up the projects and programs we had outlined for her over the next 6 months.

Emily Osborn: Administrator

Administration Tasks- Financial tasks for the month of June are being completed. I will submit our proposed fiscal year 19/20 budget to Madison County after the board approves it at the June meeting.

GROWW: I have taken over the pollinator garden project from Briana. We will be having a site prep day on Wednesday, June 12th with a planting day TBD. All materials for the project have been purchased.

Madison Farm 2 Fork: I have accepted a position with Madison Farm 2 Fork to assist in administrative duties. I will be completing the Greenhouse project in the coming months and will submit those purchases along with the pollinator garden purchases to NRCS in the coming month for reimbursement to the MCD.

Meeting adjourned: 10:15pm