



Madison Conservation District  
*Local Common Sense Conservation*

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**FINAL MINUTES**

Regular Board Meeting \*\*12:00 PM\*\* March 18, 2019

Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order: 12:06**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Kaye Suzuki, Colten Clark, Paul Jurenas, Jon Siddoway, Nick Dyk, Bob Sitz
3. **Staff Present:** Emily Osborn, Ethan Kunard, Briana Shook
4. **Others Present:** John Wagoner-NRCS, Sean Lewis-NRCS
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 12:06:** Kaye moves to accept the February minutes as presented. Jon seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 12:06:** Bob moves accept the March financial report as presented. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion carries. The CD received a bill for a dishonesty bond with CNA Surety. Emily contacted Kim Thomas, our representative with MACO. The district is covered for this through our general liability insurance. Kaye moves to cancel our bond with CNA Surety. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion carries.
7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Business-310-Mel McKittrick: 12:22**
  - a. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** Mel has been in contact with Ron Spoon, FWP. A site inspection will take place when the snow and ice melts. Permit #18-20 is tabled.
  - b. **#18-29E Keith Dunn, North Willow Creek (Beaver Dam):** No site inspection has taken place. Ron Spoon and Mel will need to review. Permit #18-29E is tabled.
  - c. **#19-01C Acela Truck Company, David Ronsen, Warm Springs Fishing Access Site (Complaint):** We have sent two certified letters and left a voicemail to Mr. Ronsen with no response. Nick moves to assess a \$500.00 civil penalty against Acela Truck Company for violation of the 310 law. Payment to be made on or before April 8, 2019. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion carries. The district will cc the (Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the violation and assessed fine. In the event of failure to pay the fine, the MCD will contact Madison County Attorney and Sheriff to serve papers to the company with the corporation of the BLM.
  - d. **#19-02 Greg Doud, South Meadow Creek (Headgate replacement):** Mel and Dave Moser, FWP need to complete a site visit. Review of this permit finds that this is a headgate location change on the ditch not a point of diversion change.
  - e. **Work Completion Reports:** None
  - f. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel has spent 4 hours on 310 this month.
9. **Old Business and Reports: 12:43**
  - a. **Banquet Planning:** MCD: 43 sponsor tickets, RVCD: 134 sponsor tickets. 67 tickets went on sale online February 26th. Tickets are now sold out. Emily will be meeting with the RVCD, March 21<sup>st</sup> to plan final details. Interviews and photos of our stewardship award nominees, The Jack Creek Preserve Foundation, have taken place and will be featured in The Madisonian the first part of April. Posters for the event will be printed this week.
  - b. **MCD Foundation:** Ethan is composing a draft proposal for the foundation. With the interest in the community and the increase in residents this summer, this is a good opportunity to form this foundation and give a platform to community members. Ethan will organize a meeting with the other conservation

groups to gather their input. This is an opportunity to bring in more resources not just for the CD, but for other organizations.

- c. **310 Workshop, Wednesday March 20**
- d. **MWCC Fall Watershed Tour, September 11-13:** The dates have been confirmed. Ethan will organize a meeting in April with the Missouri River Partnership and MWCC to decide how to cover the area.

#### 10. New Business: 12:56

- a. **MACO insurance:** We received a letter from MACO that conservation district's will now be insured individually. Emily spoke with Kim Thomas, our MACO representative, she explained that all conservation district's premiums were pooled together and split evenly between the districts. Some CD's approached MACD on changing this policy to reduce premiums. We will now have premium's that reflect what we have to insure. We have not received a quote yet, Kim said to budget what we paid last year.
- b. **2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule:** The board discussed moving our monthly board meeting to every second Monday to avoid meetings landing on Holiday's. The board discussed at the February meeting to avoid scheduling meetings on federal holidays. Tabled
- c. **Montana Focused Conservation (NRCS):** Ethan and Emily met with the NRCS and other agencies to discuss NRCS Montana Focused Conservation. This plan is for the use of EQIP funds to target natural resource concerns in the area within a strategic long range plan that has a measurable impact on the watershed. Equip funds will only be available for projects that fall within the long range plan. John Wagoner, NRCS has developed a 3-5 year targeted implementation plan for conifer encroachment in the southern Tobacco Roots. John is waiting to hear if this plan will be accepted. The NRCS would like community input on natural resource concerns for the development of the long range plan. Jeff Ryan with Lewis and Clark Conservation contacted the MCD with their district's concerns to share with the board regarding this program.
- d. **Set Date for Budget Planning Meeting – June:** June 10<sup>th</sup>-Monday, 6pm. Executive meeting will be held a half an hour prior to the budget meeting.
- e. **Office Space Discussion – Long-term needs:** The CD's rent for office space is increasing an average of 6% per year. Long-term needs of the district were discussed with the possibility of investing in property and renting additional office spaces to other conservation agencies. The CD would like a space that we could showcase our equipment for rent and develop a pollinator garden to showcase. Ethan will look into how other CD office are set up. There is a building off of Main street for sale. Mel suggested to look into the insurance and taxes for the building.

#### 11. Correspondence: 1:53

- a. **MACD Dues notice:** MCD received our MACD dues request. MACD is requesting \$8,141.12 from MCD based on our 2018 tax year. Kaye moves to table the request until our June budget meeting. Mel seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- b. **Josey Blazer Thank you note:** Shared with the supervisors.

12. **NRCS Report:** see above.

13. **Supervisors Report:** none

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

#### 15. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **310 Workshop, March 20, 10am-3pm-Madison Valley Public Library**
- b. **MCD Board Meeting, April 15, 7:00pm-Madison Valley Public Library**
- c. **Livestock Genetic Management and Grazing, May 29-30-Hobson, MT**
- d. **2019 State Wide Administer Training, June 3-6-Highwood, MT**
- e. **Montana Range Days, June 17-19-Dillon, MT**
- f. **Montana Youth Range Camp, June 25-28-Bozeman, MT**
- g. **33<sup>rd</sup> Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp, July 14-19-Missoula, MT**

## Staff Report

### **Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager**

**Jack Creek/Moonlight Basin Watershed Planning** – Following the last two years of stakeholder meetings in Big Sky to develop the “Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan,” several sub-groups were developed to focus on specific issues identified in the planning effort. Given the fact that most of the priority issues and discussions were focused on problems facing the Big Sky Meadow Village area, there was less discussion of the issues facing the Jack Creek drainage surrounded by Moonlight. Therefore, one of the groups that formed as a result of those meetings is focused specifically on the Jack Creek and Moonlight Basin area. Karen Filipovich is contracted by the Gallatin River Task Force to organize meetings with the various groups, and she has helped to coordinate the first of the Jack Creek meetings in Ennis on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Topics to be discussed include: past/present monitoring efforts and future monitoring needs (water quality, streamflow, groundwater, biological, etc.), water supply, and future development and growth. If there is an interest and/or desire for the CD to be more involved in these discussions, or if we have an interest in addressing some of the identified needs through projects/programs, this could be included in a request to the Big Sky Resort Tax (applications due April 30).

**Madison Stream Team** – Briana and I have begun identifying monitoring objectives and goals for 2019, in addition to identifying potential funding sources.

**Lower Jack Creek** – We received confirmation for \$5,000 in support from the Montana Trout Foundation. We had been discussing an opportunity for Moonlight Basin to support the project, but they instead have found another agreement that suits their needs. I will be submitting a final proposal to Madison/Gallatin TU for the remaining funds needed. We have scheduled a Montana Conservation Corps crew to work with us the week of October 14<sup>th</sup> to help with conifer bough harvesting and willow harvesting, and will then plan to have a 3-day volunteer event to assist with further harvesting efforts from October 17-19.

**MWCC Fall Watershed Tour** – Tour dates are set for September 11-13, and tour locations are still to be determined. I’m hoping to organize a meeting in early April with the groups in the Missouri Headwaters Partnership to organize these details.

**CD Foundation** – Given the sudden interest and momentum in providing opportunities for the community to get more involved in natural resource decision-making and conservation work, I am continuing to put effort into developing a proposal for developing a conservation foundation. Once a draft proposal is completed (April Meeting), we can discuss next steps, as well as prospective interested members who can begin carrying out the development of the organization.

**Planning Board** – We are currently reviewing the updated Spanish Peaks ODP, and will discuss further in April. There will be no meeting in March. Also, there are several vacancies on the board in the Ruby, and we are seeking an “at large” position to fulfill our need of a Big Sky/Moonlight representative. Charity’s last day is March 15<sup>th</sup>, and there is no one lined up to take over the planning director position at this moment.

**Emily Osborn: Administrator**

*I will be traveling to New Zealand from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019*

**Administration Tasks-** I have been busy with various administrative tasks.

**310 Workshop:** Bob Flesher, DNRC will lead the 310 workshop training. The workshop will be held at Madison Valley Bank, downstairs in the Madison Room, on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm.

**2019 Banquet Planning-** We have received 18 sponsors for the banquet. Posters are finished and getting printed. Dinner tickets are sold out but we are offering \$10.00 dancing tickets at 8:00pm. We will be setting up orders for table cloths, flowers. Stewardship photos have been taken by Culberson Landgaard, The Madisonian has interviewed the Jack Creek Preserve and the story should run around the first of April.

**GROWW:** We continue to meet bi-weekly.

### **Brieana Shook: Big Sky Watershed Corps Member**

**Madison Stream Team** – Ethan and I have begun 2019 planning, including our objectives and goals for this year. I also purchased a drone that will be utilized for monitoring efforts.

**MCD Annual Report** – The 2018 Annual Report is ready for review. I have also secured a quote for printing costs.

**Ennis School Pollinator Garden** – I am working on finalizing a list of proposed species to be reviewed by the GROWW committee. Once all this snow melts, I will be taking measurements of the garden and looking into the soil properties. From there, I plan on meeting with local nurseries to gain insight on what may work best in that area.

**Social Media** – I am playing an active role for MCD social media pages and generating new posts in hopes to gain a more engaging presence to our community and followers. I would like our social media to be a great resource in addition to, and compliment, our E-Newsletter and website.

**Snowpack Monitoring Training** – At the end of February, I assisted with snowpack monitoring with Montana NRCS at their site along North Meadow Creek.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Training** – On March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended AIS training put on by Montana FWP and DNRC. This training will allow me to better assist with future AIS efforts at MCD.

**AmeriCorps Service Symposium March 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** – I attended the state-wide service symposium with roughly 300 of my other fellow AmeriCorps members serving the state of Montana. We conducted a city-wide food drive in Helena, benefiting low-income children. Together, we collected thousands of pounds of food to be given to the kids in their schools.

**Meeting adjourned: Nick-2:15pm**