



## FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting \*\*7 PM\*\* April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Madison Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 6:56 pm by Mel McKittrick
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Janet Endecott, Nick Dyk, Bob Sitz, Colten Clark, Jessie Wiese via phone
3. **Staff Present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Cori Koenig, Madeline Pruszenski
4. **Others Present:** Kerri Strasheim, Dave Moser, Dan Durham, Joe Urbani, Mike Atkinson, Dylan Urbani
5. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** There were several clarifications regarding wording. Janet moves to approve the minutes as amended. Nick seconds. All in favor and the motion passes.
6. **Financial:** Janet presented the financial report and reviewed recent bills. Nick moves to accept the financial report as read. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Public Comment:** none
8. **Business: 310 Permits**
  - a. **#17-02 Channels (previously tabled):** Joe Urbani was here to present, he will be building a pseudo-stream. Supervisors visited the site prior to the meeting with Kerri Strasheim, Joe Urbani and Dylan Urbani. Dave spoke about fish habitat and using best management practices are used to minimize sediment. Janet moves to consider this as is a project because of the spring water running into the ditch. Bob seconds. Three in favor, one against. Motion passes. Nick votes nay. Janet moves to accept permit #17-02 as proposed. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires December 31st, 2018.
  - b. **#17-05 Wellington:** Mel visited on Friday, Dave has been to the site several times. Janet moves to approve #17-05 as proposed. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes. They will need a 318 permit for this project. Permit will expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
  - c. **#17-06 Bausch Ranches:** Mel and Dave visited. The project is on Hot Springs Creek. The creek is a low volume stream that gorges every winter. They are proposing approximately eleven spots to take a shovel and remove vegetation and willows. Pinpoint removal of sod mats and light trimming and limbing in spots, Dave has no issue. They would like to try it this year and if the result is positive, Mr. Bausch will do more next year. The following modifications were recommended: work at low volume in July or August and use a small excavator to pull willows selectively and pull grasses and vegetation to allow winter flow. Minimize depth excavated and place willows on high spots. Janet moves to approve 17-06 with modifications. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Permit expires December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
  - d. **#17-07 3 Rivers Communications:** Janet moves that the 3 Rivers Communications applications are not a project. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
  - e. **#17-08 Claude Mulholland:** The project is on Leonard Creek. Installation of a trapezoidal weir to measure flow by a ditch rider. There will be short term disturbance for a permanent structure. Nick moves to approve #17-08 as proposed. Bob seconds. Janet abstains. All others in favor and motion passes.
  - f. **#17-09 Jason Shrauger:** Mel and Dave visited the site. They want to install a temporary dock on Meadow Lake, there will be minimal disturbance on the terrain. It will be installed in spring and come out in the fall. The project is on a navigable waterway. Janet moves to approve #17-09 as proposed. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
  - g. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimated 20 hours this month and eight hours last month.

9. **Equipment Rental Invoices/Income:** Colten reported. Grangers are using the new pivot track filler. Sunni constructed a rental agreement with instructions for use for renters to sign.
- Pivot Track Filler Depreciation: Values- Year 2: \$6,600, Year 3: \$3,960, Year 4: \$2,376, Year 5: \$1,425. Goal: \$2,300 per year**
  - Website content:** We viewed the equipment page on the website and discussed how else to promote rentals. Sunni has purchased a Facebook ad and we will put it in the local weed circular.

**10. Old Business and Reports:**

- Banquet:** Sunni reported. Sponsorships exceeded 2016 amounts. We will set up on Friday. Ticket sales are strong and everything is on track for a successful event.
- Stewardship Award:** the story made the front page of the Madisonian, everything is on track for presenting the award.
- Board tours: June- Big Sky,** tentative date of Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Stop at Big Sky emergency 310, Pond spill, and Yellowstone Club. Mel will try to get a bus from the school to drive over Jack Creek.
- Bear Creek Days May 16, 17, 18 (MCD Day).** We are not getting the grant support we got last year. Sunni requested the Forest Service to pay for half of the cost of food and we will split the other half with Madison Valley Ranchlands, and Madison River Foundation. Janet moves MCD will pay \$330 for our food day. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.

**11. New Business:**

- NACD Letter regarding budget cuts to Conservation Technical Assistance:** Bob moves to send a letter to our representatives in Washington D.C. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- MSU Extension Agent Departure:** Bill Whitehurst is leaving the Extension Agent position.
- Big Sky Small Acres Subscription;** Janet reported on our subscription. The cost per subscription is \$12, we get five. Board agreed to continue our subscription.
- MACD Dues:** Nick moves to postpone paying MACD dues and to re-evaluate in four months. Janet seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- Permissive Mill Levy:** Sunni passes out a worksheet outlining the effect of and cost of a mill. Cori will check into the new legislation to see if the new timeline effects conservation districts. Mel will pursue increasing mills through the Commissioners.
- FY Budget Planning:** Sunni reported that it's time to start plugging numbers into the budget so we have something to work on in June. Staff will start to work on it and then we'll meet as executive committee. The air conditioning bid came back, Shiloh will fix the AC if we commit to three years of renting the office for a \$175/month increase.
- Board Leadership:** Janet announced that she will be stepping down from the CD at the beginning of June. Her term expires the end of 2018. We will need to appoint someone to the board for the interim.
- Bridger Plant Materials Center:** SWCDM invoiced us for our part in supporting the Plant Materials Center for \$25.00. Bob moves to pay the invoice. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- Respec Contract:** The ranking committee chose Respec as the top bidder for the lower Jack Creek Project. The landowners are okay with moving forward as long as CD keeps tabs on cost estimates moving forward. Respec is willing to be flexible with the project depending on the funding we can secure. Janet moves we approve the contract with Respec for engineering. Colten seconds. All in favor and motion passes. Mel signed the contract.
- 223 Grant Application Lower Jack Creek:** Sunni would like to apply now for the 223 for the last of this cycle with hopes to be rolled over for the next cycle. Nick moves to pursue a 223 grant for the Lower Jack Creek Project for \$20,000. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.

**12. Correspondence:** none

**13. NRCS Report**

**14. Supervisors Report**

**15. Staff/Project Report**

## Upcoming dates:

**CD Banquet: April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Madison Watershed Planning Meeting: April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Conservation Film Fest: June 8<sup>th</sup>**

The board went into closed session at 9:43 pm.

## Staff Report April 18, 2017: Ethan Kunard

**Madison Stream Team** – We’ve put together a draft monitoring plan and budget for 2017. We anticipate scaling back on many of the “full monitoring” events like we’ve done previously, and instead focus on more targeted stream monitoring that helps us reach the following objectives:

- Create a comprehensive turbidity dataset for streams with sediment impairments
- Better understand groundwater/surface water connectivity and how that relationship effects the quality and availability of water
- Identify sources of nutrients and E. coli on Moore Creek
- Engage volunteers and community members through education and outreach opportunities that demonstrate the importance of healthy watersheds
- Collect additional streamflow data (using TruTracks) and precipitation data (CoCoRaHS)

We will continue refining our monitoring plan to identify the specific streams and monitoring sites for 2017, and will announce the volunteer training date soon.

**\*Indian Creek Ditch Flow Monitoring** – We’ve been approached by Jeff Laszlo and Trout Unlimited to take more of a leadership role in the Indian Creek flow monitoring that began in 2015. The goal of the monitoring was to identify natural losses (groundwater seepage) on Indian Creek, as well as the Indian Creek ditch, to determine if there are opportunities to implement water conservation measures that would provide more consistent year-round flows in the stream. Initially, Trout Unlimited was the lead on this project, and had asked the CD to assist in the data collection. We need to decide whether or not we are interested in working more closely with the water users, and if we want to assume this leadership role.

**Watershed Planning Guidance Document** – The document has been accepted, and we’ve received final payment for my time. The document is currently being printed, and will be used as aide at the April 17-18 Watershed Restoration Planning training in Missoula. Madeline and I will be attending this training, and have our travel/registration expenses paid through our Watershed Management Grant.

**Madison Watershed Planning** – We had our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The goal of this meeting was to provide information about past, present, and future climate conditions in the Madison Watershed, and to then discuss how changes in these conditions affect water resources throughout the community. Greg Pederson presented some historic climate information that provided a context for what we expect to see in the future. The big takeaways that relate closely to our watershed planning, and have potential implications for water-related resources are: warmer overall temperatures (increased evaporation), change in forms of precipitation (less snow, but more rain), and earlier runoff. Through our watershed planning, we can identify management practices and strategies that potentially can help mitigate some of these variable conditions.

A huge thanks to Dan for presenting information from an agricultural perspective, and thanks to Dave for talking about the perspective of fisheries health. Also, thank you Jessie for attending the meeting. Our next meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at the El Western conference center at 6:00 pm. The focus of this meeting is “Understanding the connectivity of groundwater and surface water in our watershed.” Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology will present information about

groundwater trends in the Madison, and will discuss the importance of understanding the connectivity of groundwater and surface water in our watershed planning process.

**Madison CD Recommended Management Practices** – Look through example on website and provide feedback.

**\*Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) Leadership** – I joined the MWCC board in December to help represent conservation districts, and local conservation groups, throughout the state. I was asked to assume a leadership role in the organization, and wanted to receive feedback from the CD before committing to this role.

### **Sunni Heikes-Knapton: Watershed Coordinator**

**Lower Jack Creek:** We received 2 Statement of qualifications for the engineering firm announcement, one from confluence and one from Respec. The ranking committee evaluated both according to the categories in the rank sheet, and all committee members selected Respec as the entity with the higher qualifications. They were notified on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and they came and toured the project area on April 6<sup>th</sup>. They have provided a cost estimate for engineering work, and contract discussions are taking place.

**Channel Migration Zone:** No Update.

**Moore's Creek Lyons:** We are waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers for the permitting. Dan Durham can provide more information.

**2017 Banquet:** Sponsorship responses continue to come in, please make any last minute calls that might garner additional support. Janet has agreed to be the MC for the Madison during the presentation (Gary Giem will do the RVCD). Tickets are available for purchase at our office.

**2017 Stewardship Award:** Janet Bean-Dochnahl has been notified of her selection and the photographer will arrange for the photo. The plaques have been ordered from Right Angles. The Madisonian will be doing a feature story on her, as well as Steve and Jenny Wood (RVCD Winners).

**GROWW Coordinator:** Nichole is back from maternity leave and gearing up for summer activities. Good Thymes Camp registration is open for the 3 sessions, and we will be seeking additional support to increase her hours.

**Riparian Restoration Planning:** Tom Parker with Geum will be working on a document to help guide riparian planting projects along the river for the Madison River Foundation.

**Conservation Film Fest:** Sponsorships are being sought for the June 8<sup>th</sup> event. See the line up for the list of Movies and plan to attend!

**Leave of Absence:** The staff met on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and went through the task list to delegate who would be taking on the work. Most of the items were taken on, and they will be finalized shortly.

### **Madeline Pruszenski: BSWC**

**BSWC:** I have been helping other BSWC members with cutting willows for their host site projects. Members have been offered to take a GIS course online over the next four weeks. I will be working on completing this class during work hours and outside of work.

**Snowpack Monitoring:** Participated in snowpack monitoring for NRCS at the Four Mile site. Again, the snow measurements appeared to be normal with historical records.

**Madison Stream Team:** I've been working on getting ready for the 2017 field season. We are looking at new possible sites on South Meadow and Hot Springs for turbidity sampling. Also, we are looking to add more sites in town for E. coli sampling.

**Macroinvertebrate Sampling:** Put together a Sampling Analysis Plan for sampling macroinvertebrates at the Jack Creek South Side Road site, below Moonlight Resort. This will be a one-time sampling project, and we should have the results back from the lab by July.

**Watershed Characterization:** Gathered information on past and projected climate data for a handout during the Climate Meeting. This information is now on our website, and will be used as part of our Madison Watershed Plan.

### **Cori Koenig: Administrator:**

I've been working on various administrative tasks.

**Banquet:** We continue to get banquet sponsors back and sell tickets. See Sunni's report.

**Website Profile:** Mel & Colten please finish these before you leave today.

**Photo Contest:** We had 37 submissions, they are currently posted on Facebook. Go "like" your favorites. Contest closes Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The winner will receive two banquet tickets, runners up and third place will receive \$20 and \$15 of Chamber Cash. All will receive tickets to the Conservation Filmfest in June.

**Office tasks:** I've been working with Sunni to learn how to take care of some of the daily, weekly, and monthly tasks in her absence.

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Cori Koenig, Administrator

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Mel McKittrick, Co-Chair