



**Madison
Conservation
District**

Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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Final Minutes

Regular Board Meeting **7 PM** May 15th, 2017
Madison Valley Public Library Community Room

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:01 pm by Mel McKittrick.
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Janet Endecott, Neil Kent, Nick Dyk, Kaye Suzuki, Jessie Wiese
3. **Staff present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Cori Koenig, Madeline Pruszenski
4. **Others present:** Dan Durham
5. **Review minutes from previous meeting:** There was a numerical change, \$175 instead of \$75 for air conditioning. Mel suggested speaking to Moonlight again regarding rentals. Janet moves to approve minutes as corrected. Nick seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Financial:** Janet read the financial report & reviewed recent bills. Janet started the report and Cori finished from the date which she took the books over. Nick moved to approve the financial report as read. Kaye seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
7. **Public Comment:** none
8. **Business:** no 310's this month.
 - a. **Report on the pond at Spanish Q:** Mel and Dave visited today. Mel showed photos of the pond and head gate. The banks need cleaned up, grasses planted, and weed control needs to be addressed. Mel will visit with them and check back in early fall. There was discussion on the pond's current constructed state including size, materials, placement, on not enough information in the application and the land owner's approach to the permitting. The photograph showing the water in the pond was taken in early to mid-March. The pond is supposed to be dry in the winter. Kaye questioned how much larger the actual pond was than permitted pond. Mel stated that it's not too much larger than the plan due to the berm. They used the rock outcropping visible on Google Earth and the photographs as a reference point. There was discussion on adding another monitoring site on Moore's Creek below the Rice property. The Rice's have not granted us permission to monitor on their property at this time.
 - b. **Nick Bunn property:** follow up on complaint. Mel and Ron Spoon visited the site. A letter from DEQ arrived on April 28th regarding a pipe draining gray water from the trailer down into the creek. Mel and Ron requested that he remove it from the stream and filter it on his lawn. He re-did the stream excavation, but still needs to seed and get re-vegetation going. Ron and Mel signed off on the complaint today.
 - c. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 8 hours spent this month.
9. **Equipment Rental Invoices/Income**
 - a. **Current rentals/invoices:** \$400 deposited from Clarks and Bill Jackson. Janet brought up that Clarks should not be charged full price for the work Colten does and storing the equipment. Kaye suggested Colten starting an account to keep track of his hours. Send a check back for 50% of rental fees. In the future we'll get information from Colten prior to the meeting and add invoices to the financial report.
10. **Old Business and Reports:**
 - a. **Banquet:** See Sunni's report. The supervisors commented on the banquet being wonderful. The venue was comfortable, the acoustics were good. The supervisors feel that the banquet is an important event and are happy to continue providing the service and promotion to the community.

Neil mentioned the networking with the Ruby Valley was effective. There was discussion on improving our sponsorship list for next year. Sunni requested supervisors bring a list of possible sponsors to the next meeting. Janet and Kaye requested the final banquet budget.

- b. FY Budget Planning:** The budget will be submitted the County next month. All supervisors are welcome and encouraged to attend meeting to discuss the big picture. A budget meeting was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th at Lone Elk offices unless you hear otherwise.
- c. Board Leadership, Description:** Mel discussed changing the leadership organization of the CD. Kaye has volunteered for the treasurer position. Nick will assume the role of Vice Chair. Neil moves to nominate Kaye as treasurer and Nick as Vice Chair effective July 1, 2017. Janet seconds. All in favor and motion passes. The board read the roles and summary and brainstormed possible candidates. Kaye moves to adopt the MCD Supervisor responsibilities into our handbook. Janet seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- d. Permissive Mill Levy:** The supervisors discussed a permissive mill levy for the increase in employee health benefits for fiscal year 2017-2018. Kaye moves to pursue the permissive mill levy for a total not to exceed \$2800 for the next fiscal year for full time employees, \$1,400/full time employee. Neil seconds. Three in favor. One opposed. Motion passes.
- e. Film Fest:** The venue is not going to be ready due to water damage. The event will be postponed until September. Rebecca Ramsey and Jon Osborne will move the event forward. Cori will be the contact for the financial side of things.

11. New Business:

- a. Local Work Group Survey Results:** responses were included in the packet. Dan will use this to help gather information toward the Local Work Group.
- b. Watershed Management Grant Contract Extension:** Ethan presented that the Watershed Management Grant expired April 1st. The DEQ is not finished with their work so MCD is not finished either. Supervisors signed an extension through December 31st, 2017.
- c. Staff Evaluations:** Supervisors filled out evaluations and turned them in.
- d. Irrigation Development Grant:** Ethan presented on a funding source to apply toward irrigation monitoring equipment or get equipment to help with his projects.
- e. Aquatic Invasive Outreach:** Ray Shaw presented to the Ruby CD meeting. He's hoping the CD's will help with outreach. Mel suggested talking to Ranchlands and seeing if they would be interested in having a workshop on the topic.
- f. Carcass Composting:** no one from our office was able to attend. Sunni spoke to others who had attended and it sounds like the commissioners are hearing it's worthwhile to move forward. Commissioners have seen some good examples, i.e. Drummond.
- g. Bank Account Debit Cards:** MCD credit cards need to be replaced with Janet's departure. Nick, Mel, Neil, and Kaye need to be able to sign on our account. Sunni will email Kaye the application for the credit card.

12. Correspondence: none.

13. NRCS Report: Dan was here to present SNOTEL report. It's changing quickly. We are hitting records for stream flow now.

14. Project-wise: Projects are moving forward. Larry Brown, David Lyons slightly delayed, June start time. Conifer projects, 900 acres in July. The Green Horn project the Forest Service has been working on is moving forward. Strike team, work possibly in future on adjacent to Wall Creek or Johnny Gulch. The Ruby has been working on Ruby Strategic Alliance to work on ties between Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Wilderness Society, Wildlife Society working with landowners. Dan toured John Helle's last week, it was neat to see sagebrush management and the plant communities.

15. Supervisors Report: Neil attended the joint meeting and commended Jessie on her talk on conservation easements. Janet attended Science Club presentation on monitoring of Moore's Creek. They did a great job. Neil toured the David Lyons project, it is quite a project.

Upcoming dates:

Snowcrest Ranch Invitation: May 17

Aquatic Invasive Outreach: May 17th

Bear Creek Days: May 18th MCD Day

Lower Jack Creek Landowner Meeting: May 24th

Spring Harvest Event Ennis School Garden: May 24th 3-4:30 PM

Board tour-Big Sky: postponed

Below the Ground Livestock-Crop and Range Soil Health Tour, Conrad: June 13-14th

Montana Range Days, Red Lodge: June 19th-21st

Meeting adjourned at: 10:24 p.m.

Staff Report May 15th, 2017:

Ethan Kunard – Water Programs

Madison Stream Team – We’ve reached out to volunteers to select a date for the training, and to obtain additional feedback to help us finalize the monitoring plan for this summer. The training will be either June 14th or 15th. Additionally, we have installed TruTracks to measure hourly streamflow on Jack Creek, Moore’s Creek, and South Meadow Creek. We are also looking to install long-term monitoring devices on the West Fork and North Meadow Creek to help tie-in the precipitation data from those SNOTEL sites to streamflow data. We will be meeting with the Madison River Foundation later this month to ask for support for this year’s monitoring.

Indian Creek Ditch Flow Monitoring – We still need to reach out to the irrigators to discuss our monitoring plans on the ditch for this year. Once that is done, we will install the monitoring devices on the same four locations from last year.

Watershed Planning Guidance Document – We received a final payment from SWCDM for \$1,450 for my time working on the document.

Madison Watershed Planning – We had our 3rd Watershed Planning meeting on April 26th. The focus of this meeting was on groundwater conditions in the Madison. The turnout was great, and there was a lot of really good discussion at the end of the meeting. See the attached handouts with more information from the meeting.

We’re scheduled to have our next meeting (possibly the last meeting until Fall - *would like feedback from board) on May 31st. The focus of this meeting will be to provide example management practices and strategies that might be implemented to improve “water quality” and “drought resilience.” Thank you to all of the supervisors who attended last month’s meeting.

*In lieu of having large meetings through the summer I would like to consider developing a small stakeholder group to meet more informally this summer to provide more feedback as we move through the watershed planning development process. This group would use information we’ve put together through the watershed characterization report to help identify priority concerns and locations that we can more narrowly focus on.

Planning Board

We had a joint meeting with the County Commissioners (no commissioners attended) and a special presentation from Lance Craighead Renee Callahan. Lance presented on the wildlife vehicle collision study in the Madison, and Renee discussed potential mitigation strategies that could be implemented in some of the “hot spots.” It seems as though there would be a lot of benefit of exploring some mitigation strategies. However, this type of work is not typically a high priority for MDT, and would therefore require outside funding or a change in MDT’s prioritization.

Pre-Application: Pioneer Point. This project would amend the Yellowstone Mountain Club Master Plan to create 1 condominium lot of 6.23 acres with 8 condo units in 4 duplexes, and 1 open space lot of 1.89 acres. Primary access to the site would be via connections to Cabin Road. This is a part of the Yellowstone Club's strategy to "in-fill" the resort and concentrate development in an effort to leave more open-space.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton: Watershed Coordinator

Lower Jack Creek: Respec has completed the initial survey work and is developing the final designs for the landowner meeting at 9 AM on May 24th. I have applied for an additional \$18k for this project, in anticipation of the construction costs. We have gotten the first invoice for the work done in April.

Channel Migration Zone: Public meetings are planned for September/October to present the final products. RVCD continues to lead this project.

Moore's Creek Lyons: A tentative mid-June construction is planned.

2017 Banquet: Total MCD expense for the event: \$4,292, total income: \$4000. This does not include 92 hours for staff (Cori: 19, Sunni: 60, Ethan: 7, Madeline: 6) or \$100 for mileage. We need to discuss approaches for 2018.

GROWW Coordinator: Spring harvest event is May 24th at the school garden. Please consider attending to see the educational resource first hand.

Conservation Film Fest: We are looking at postponing this event due to some damage sustained at the venue. It is likely going to occur in late August or early September. Ruby Valley CD will be leading this project. We will need a supervisor to assist with some planning details.

Aquatic Invasives Outreach: The mussel response team has asked us to work to communicate information about reducing the spread of mussels in our state. We will feature this regularly in our outreach efforts.

Natural Resource News: This continues to be an effort shared by the Madison and Ruby Valley CD. If you have suggestions for topics, or you see valuable natural resource articles, please let us know so we can get this information out.

Madeline Pruszanski: 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've been working on wrapping up banquet details.

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

Photo Contest: Muriel Boyd was our Grand Prize winner, Lori Fink took first runner up and Justin Edge took third runner up. We have some nice photos to use from the contest.

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.

Quickbooks: Janet has been training me on the processes and daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly tasks.

Cori Koenig, Administrator

Mel McKittrick, Co-Chair