



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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FINAL MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting **7:00 PM** September 17, 2018
Madison Valley Public Library

1. **Call meeting to order: 7:08**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Mel McKittrick, Jon Siddoway, Kaye Suzuki, Nick Dyk, Bob Sitz, George Boyd
3. **Staff Present:** Sunni Heikes-Knapton, Ethan Kunard, Emily Osborn
4. **Others Present:** None
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:10** Kaye moves to accept the August minutes as modified. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 7:06** Emily read and reviewed the August financial report. Kaye moves to accept the financial report as presented. George seconds. All in favor and motion passes. The board discussed setting money aside for the future replacement of the Toyota Sequoia.
7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Business-310-Mel McKittrick: 7:27**
 - a. **#18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground):** Tabled until October
 - b. **Work Completion Reports:** None
 - c. **Monthly time spent on 310's:** Mel estimates 3 hours spent on 310 this month.
9. **Old Business and Reports: 7:44**
 - a. **Strategic Planning-Sunni**
 - **New date option: November 26, 2018:** The November 26th date would be a one-day meeting to discuss the strategic planning of the CD Foundation. The supervisors will need to complete the survey that Dan Clark provides prior to the meeting. Sunni suggested that along with the supervisor's survey, we get feedback from the community as well. Nick suggested that before our November meeting starts, we open the floor up to the public for a listening session to voice their opinions on the CD Foundation. It was also suggested to provide the questionnaire online for the public to complete prior to the November meeting.
 - **CD Foundation report:** Sunni stated that the discussion of the foundation needs to be a subset of our discussion on the alignment of the CD's mission and goals.
 - **Subcommittee of MVRG:** The board would like a member of the Madison Valley Ranchland Group (MVRG) present at a listening session to explain how other subcommittees of the MVRG work.
 - b. **Moonlight ODP:** Ethan reported on the outcome of the Moonlight ODP proposal at the August 26th Madison County Planning Board meeting. Sixteen 160-acre units will be put into a conservation easement. The consensus was that the conservation groups letters had an impact on the final outcome of the motion.
10. **New Business: 8:00**
 - a. **Area 6 meeting-Emily's attendance:** The Area 6 meeting is taking place in Livingston, September 26th. Emily will attend.
 - b. **MACD Convention:** The convention will be held in Billings this year. Nick would like an agenda included in the October board meeting.

- c. **TMDL Educational Report-Ethan:** Ethan gave a presentation on what the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) process is. The DEQ is required to assess every stream in Montana. This project started in 2012 for water quality data collection with the help of the Madison Stream Team. They are documenting the natural vs human impact of pollutants for each stream. This study will help us in developing our Watershed Restoration Plan. There is no regulation attached to the data collected. Any development or restoration of a stream is voluntary.
- d. **MCD Logo:** Kate Arpin designed a new MCD logo. George moves to approve the new logo. Bob seconds. All in favor and motion passes.
- e. **BSWC MOU-needs signatures:** We have been approved for a Big Sky Watershed Corp member. The board will be looking for someone with strong communication skills, and graphics background. Sunni estimates that by October we will be conducting interviews.
- f. **310 funding 223 grant:** We received notice that the DNRC will partially restore Conservation Districts 310 administration funds. Deadline for request is October 19th. Kaye suggested drafting a letter and providing it to the board at our next board meeting. Madison County did provide us with \$5000.00 for funding the 310 administrative fees. The board would like to draft a letter that we have 310 funding secured for this fiscal year but state that this was a one-time funding to cover the expenses due to the lack of funding provided by the DNRC.
- g. **Banquet planning:** We are having a meeting with the RVCD to start our banquet planning. The banquet will be held on April 27th, 2019. Sunni suggested sponsoring at different levels instead of giving away tickets due to the lack of tickets available to sell after the sponsorships secured theirs. The board discussed changing the sponsorship terms in regards to tickets.

11. Correspondence: 9:15

- a. **MACD exemption option notice:** The MCD is not current on its dues to the MACD. The MACD would the district to provide an exemption letter to the MACD validating the reason district is requesting the exemption. This letter is due to the MACD by October 2, 2018.
- b. **Dottie's Bookkeeping-Emily:** Emily has not received anything from Dottie as of the last packet.
- c. **USDA Strawberry to Cascade allotment management plan input:** The USDA is requesting input on this plan. The board would like to draft a letter in support of the allotment management plan. October 14th is the deadline for submitting a letter. Bob moves to approve sending a letter in support of the allotment management plan.

12. NRCS Report: None

13. Supervisors Report: Sunni reports that the conservation film festival was a success and thanked Jon and Kaye for their help.

14. Staff/Project Report: Ethan noted that the DEQ awarded the MCD \$3,500.00 to support the BSWCM

15. Upcoming Dates:

- a. **Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Meeting, September 20, 5:30pm-Alder, MT**
- b. **Area 6 meeting, September 26-Clyde Park, MT**
- c. **DEQ TMDL Public Meeting, September 26, 5:30pm at Madison Valley Public Library-Ennis, MT**
- d. **2018 Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture, October 2-4, 2018-Billings, MT**
- e. **2018 Watershed Symposium, October 10-12-Whitefish, MT**
- f. **MACD 2018 Annual Convention, November 13-15, 2018-Billings, MT**
- g. **7th National Conference on Grazing Lands, December 2-5, Reno, NV**
- h. **NACD 73rd Annual Meeting, February 2-6, 2019-San Antonio, TX**

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager:

Watershed/Drought Planning – We attended the DEQ stakeholder meeting in August to discuss the draft TMDLs for the Madison Watershed. They incorporated comments from the Madison CD, and are now releasing the TMDLs for public

comment. They will be hosting a public meeting on the TMDLs on September 26th at 5:30 pm in the Madison Valley Library. We will be helping to advertise for the meeting, and encouraging people to attend.

Madison Stream Team – We're into the final weeks of sampling, and are now working on some backlogged data entry and analysis from the summer. If you see any Stream Team volunteers around, please thank them for all of the time they have contributed.

Watershed Stories – We've been working with MWCC and contractors to finalize the written content for the stories, and have received draft layouts for all of the stories, as well as a draft banner that will be displayed at the MWCC Symposium.

Planning Board – During the August Planning Board meeting, the board ultimately made a recommendation to approve Moonlight's proposed ODP, allowing a maximum of 1,651 units with the 100 units in the Moonlight Territory (only 19 units were approved here in 2007). One of the conditions for approval is that Moonlight must place the remaining 16 – 160 acre parcels in the Moonlight Territory in a conservation easement within 5 years.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton – Watershed Coordinator:

Request to take the following days off: Sept 21 and 24 (estate business in South Dakota), Nov 2 and 5 (visit family in Seattle).

Leadership Montana: The initial orientation in Big Sky Sept 5-7 was very valuable, and I know the rest of the trainings will be worthwhile. I will provide some distilled information to MCD.

Lower Jack Creek: We were notified that we will be awarded \$20k for the Phase II work on Lower Jack Creek by the DNRC 223 program on August 29th. We need to sign the contract for that. Additional grant support requests have been distributed.

Moore's Creek Lyons: Final monitoring is complete.

USGS Cameron Gage: We have learned that the BLM, DNRC, FWP, Northwestern Energy, and USGS are all willing to support the 2019 water year operations. The amount from BLM is to be determined, but will reduce the contributions from the committed partners at the committed levels: \$6875 USGS, \$3,500 – Madison Conservation District (funds provided to MCD via MOU with NWE), \$3,155 – DNRC, \$3,000 – FWP. If the gage operates for only a portion of the year, these numbers will be reduced further.

GROWW: Working on the greenhouse project- waiting to hear from NRCS on grant application submitted for those supplies. Nichole will be on maternity leave from early Nov- Jan 2019.

Conservation Film Festival: Big thanks to Kaye and Jon for being there and to Kaye for helping with programs and greeting. Feedback was very positive- Ennis Chamber would like to do it again next year.

Madison Watershed Partnership: Planning to meet in October. No date set but a supervisor will need to attend.

BSWC: We have been accepted as a host site for the next term. Tasks will include Pollinator garden planning at the school, preparation of strategic planning docs and annual report, and outreach and communication for the watershed restoration plan.

Emily Osborn- Administrator:

Administration tasks: I have been busy with various administrative tasks. I have been assisting Kristi Lyons with the transition of payroll duties. We have successfully processed two payroll cycles for September.

Meeting adjourned: 10:06pm

