



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

222 E. Main Street Suite 2B | PO Box 606 | Ennis, MT 59729
406.682.3181

WWW.MADISONCD.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** September 15, 2020
Ennis Rodeo Grounds & Conference Call

1. **Call meeting to order: 7:01**
2. **Supervisors Present:** Nick Dyk, Colten Clark, Paul Jurenas, Abigail Dennis, Jon Siddoway, Kaye Suzuki, Kate Roberts (Phone), George Boyd
3. **Staff Present:** David Laufenberg, Bayley Gibson
4. **Others Present:** Cataract Water Users – Diane Rice, George Reich, John Wagoner (NRCS – phone)
5. **Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:04**
 - a. August Meeting Minutes:
 - Modifications: Nick Dyk asks that the Missouri Headwaters Partnership discussion have its own paragraph. Regarding permit 20-14E, Nick Dyk clarifies that irrigators may perform work in a streambed without a permit if it impedes on the delivery of water and does not obstruct channel structure. The board wants it noted that permit 20-16 is a project outside of our jurisdiction and therefore invalid using today's date for a reference. Concerning the update on Mile Creek, Kaye Suzuki wants it noted that people have not driven off of the culvert but come very close.
 - **Kaye Suzuki motions to approve the minutes as modified.**
 - Seconds: George Boyd
 - Approved/**Modified**/Tabled
 - All in favor and the motion carries.
6. **Financial-Emily Osborn: 7:12**
 - a. August Financials
 - There is a new line for the Missouri Partnership Fund in the savings account. Nick Dyk asks if we are settled up on the Lower Jack Creek project we owe. David Laufenberg will have a report for the board for next month and Emily Osborn can make a report for the board on that project as well.
 - b. **Kaye Suzuki motions to approve the August financials**
 - c. Seconds: George Boyd
 - d. **Approved**/Modified/Tabled
 - e. All in favor and the motion carries.
7. **Public Comment 7:22: None**
8. **NRCS Report 7:23:**

Office is in "Phase 3" for now. Each county must have less than 4 active cases, and maintain for several weeks before we can fully open, or go back to normal. Building is still closed to public, but visitors are allowed by appointment and must wear face mask.

5 EQIP contracts obligated, for 1750 acres of juniper clearing in the S. T-Roots. Work has been completed on 1 of the contracts with approximately 630 acres being treated. I have been working w/ Sean Claffey (SMSP), and he has had contractors out to bid all of the contracts from 2020, and expected to them all completed by this fall if things go as planned. The Sage Grouse Initiative, Conifer encroachment fund pool, is expected to be increased in the next 5 years. It is likely, we will have funds to treat more acres than originally projected when drafting the TIP. I estimated NRCS could treat around 9000 acres over the next 5 years.

I'm working with Sean Claffey (SMSP) and USFS to make a proposal for Joint Chiefs funding in the Ruby Watershed. I committed NRCS to cutting 1000 acres of juniper per year, for 3 years. USFS is committing to cutting conifer under Aspen cat- ex, upper ruby moose project, and greenhorns project. I don't expect it to be chosen, as it is a highly competitive fund pool.

If we are able to use SGI dollars for accomplishing the TIP goals in the South T-Roots, I would like to start drafting another TIP to pull funds from the Missoula area's general EQIP fund. I would like to have TIP in the Madison. May be worth exploring some ideas this fall. (S & N Willow Cr, invasive weeds, riparian grazing/ infrastructure?) Other ideas in the hopper would include leafy spurge project in Waterloo- Whitehall country.

I wrote a conservation plan for Audra and Dominique's BDA project, which should cover most of the ACOE permitting requirements.

- Nick Dyk asks John Wagoner how is TIP working right now? John Wagoner says he wants to start something in Madison County that is not conifer removal and is open to anything with landowners on board, and that is achievable. For a 2022 project implementation, project proposals should be in by Feb. 2021. Restoration work would fit into TIP as well as low tech restoration. John Wagoner explains that TIP does not necessarily require a match in funds. Nick Dyk asks if TIP would cover infrastructure type projects? John Wagoner says its getting more complicated, but if that type of project could be justified as a resource concern, it could be an option. Diversion projects tend to complicate things and there is no practice for water monitoring according to John Wagoner. They have done some riparian monitoring though.
- David Laufenberg points out that Travis Lohrenz with FWP was approached with work on South Meadow Creek. Work would involve getting cows out of the stream, off stream watering options, and a county road that crosses South Meadow, where a culvert is undersized and problematic. It could become a bigger project with more tributaries in the southern Tobacco Roots. Kaye Suzuki thinks we could start with a smaller project as an example of what can be done.

9. Business-310-Paul Jurenas: 7:41

a. 20-19

- Applicant: Madison River Foundation
- Stream: Madison River
- Type of Project: Restoration Project at the Storey Ditch Boat Launch
- Status:
- Date: 10/01/2020 to 11/30/2020
- Discussion:
 1. Nick Dyk reads the application project description aloud.
 2. MRF plans to plant willows in the fenced in area to see how they do with no other fencing on the other three project sites. They are planning to fence the individual plants.
 3. MRF's plans indicate that they are not going into the streambed. Jon Siddoway points out that they are sloping the area to make it more conducive to vegetation. David Laufenberg states that this project is receiving future fisheries funding from MT FWP. The project is on BLM land. Abigail Dennis hopes they use strong fence because the elk really like that spot. Kaye Suzuki thinks that is right where there are easily 5000 elk. Abi – it will be interesting.
 4. The board discusses gorging which happens in very cold weather where the river turns into a slushy. When it hits the ice on the lake, it begins to back up. The river can freeze very quickly from the bottom up because it is shallow explains Abigail Dennis. The board is not too worried about the project with a major gorging event.
 5. George Boyd thinks the project is alright even though he doesn't understand it.
 6. **George Boyd motions to approve the permit as proposed.**
 7. Seconds: Kaye Suzuki
 8. All in favor and the motion carries.
- **Approved**/Modified/Tabled

b. 20-20

- Applicant: MB MT Acquisitions LLC (Kevin Germain)
- Stream: Tributaries to Moonlight and Jack Creek
- Type of Project: Installation of a sewer main in Lee's Pool Subdivision
- Status:
- Date: Fall 2020 to Fall 2021
- Discussion
 1. In the applicant's plans, the culverts were sized for a 25 year flood event. David Laufenberg explains how that is the standard of other CDs, but it is ultimately up to us to determine.
 2. George Boyd wants to know how big the sewer main is and how far it goes to the treatment plant. David Laufenberg guesses it is about a quarter mile over topographically diverse terrain.
 3. David Laufenberg mentions that they installed a bridge across a perennial stream without a 310 permit. The sewer main will run along the bridge and will serve most of Lees Pool area.
 4. Kaye Suzuki thinks that a 25-year event might be underestimating potential flood events. There are many sub-tributaries coming into the area and lots of gradient. Jon Siddoway also thinks designs for a 25-year event seem awful low to him.
 5. David Laufenberg reads aloud Mike Duncan's recommendations from the team report. David Laufenberg suggests setting parameters in the language. For example, say the culvert must be at least 48" wide or big enough to handle a 100-year flood event.
 6. Nick Dyk describes how a sewage pond washed out in Big Sky on the other side of our boundary recently. Nick Dyk suggests tabling this project until we can have more info about a 50 year flood event and can get a cross section of the stream.
 7. **Nick Dyk motions to request the applicant to provide the culvert fill size of the sewer line and cross section of the culvert/stream and provide a design for a 50-year flood event and submit it as additional info for this permit and revisit it next month.**
- Approved/Modified/**Tabled**
- All in favor and the motion carries.

c. 20-21

- Applicant: MB MT Acquisitions LLC (Kevin Germain)
- Stream: Tributaries to Moonlight and Jack Creek
- Type of Project: Trail construction will expand existing recreational trails and construct new Trails west and north off Jack Creek Road.
- Status:
- Dates: Fall 2020 to Fall 2021
- Discussion:
 1. There are three crossings in this application - one of the crossings has two culverts because there are two streams at that site. David Laufenberg says that Mike Duncan had no issues with these other than at site 11, where the applicant plans to add connector cuffs and extend the culverts, making them longer. If the culvert is longer than 70ft, there would have to be a resting space provided for fish. However, Mike Duncan doesn't think this should be an issue.
 2. Nick Dyk reads aloud the team report.
 3. **Nick Dyk motions to approve the application as modified in the team member report.**
 4. Seconds: Colten Clark
- Approved/**Modified**/Tabled
- All in favor and the motion carries.

d. 19-18

- **Request for extension.** Project is not yet complete.

- Applicant: MB MT Acquisitions (Kevin Germain)
 - Stream: Moonlight and Jack Creeks
 - Status: Not yet complete
 - Type of Project: Road construction/improvement
 - Discussion:
 1. The permit expires Nov. 30, 2020. A site visit was conducted last year. Nick Dyk reads the modifications aloud.
 2. **Nick Dyk motions to extend the permit as modified.**
 3. Seconds: Kaye Suzuki
 - Approved/Modified/Tabled
 - All in favor and the motion carries.
- e. 20-15
- **Request for extension.** Project has not begun yet. Jeff Laszlo says he doesn't have time to do the work before the permit expires.
 - Applicant: Granger Ranches/Jeff Laszlo
 - Stream: O'Dell Creek
 - Status: Not yet begun
 - Type of Project: Stream crossing
 - Discussion:
 1. Nick Dyk motions to extend the permit until next Dec. after high water in 2021.
 2. Kaye Suzuki suggests we table it to talk to Mike Duncan about spawning. **Nick Dyk amends motion to table this until next month's meeting.**
 3. Second: George Boyd.
 - Approved/Modified/Tabled
- f. Work Completion Reports:
- #19-04: Jim Wellington, O'Dell Creek Phase 16
 1. Work completed June 15, 2019. Permit expired May 1, 2020
- g. Monthly time spent on 310's; 21 hours for Paul
- h. Rohweder 310 Update with RVCD
- Last month the board reviewed a mining application. After looking at the CD boundary map, it turned out this application was outside of our jurisdiction, but within our watershed. Staff then sent the application and materials to RVCD. David Laufenberg attended the RVCD monthly meeting to introduce himself and talk about the boundary. Abigail Dennis points out that the boundary lines may follow commission districts.
 - RVCD wanted to kick the application back to us because it is within the Madison watershed and did not review the application at that meeting. T
 - MCD can enter into an MOU with RVCD that allows each district to perform site inspections within their own watershed and report back to the other district.
 - A second option is redrawing district boundaries.
 - Another consideration is income. CDs are paid by the state to regulate 310s within their districts. It is almost all federal public lands in the disputed area. We wouldn't lose much revenue.
 - Kaye Suzuki thinks an MOU is the best option and the board can make a motion at our next board meeting when we have a draft document.

10. Old Business and Reports 9:03

11. New Business 9:03:

- a. Cataract Water Users Funds Request – Diane Rice and George Reich
- Cataract Lake is used for recreation, kayaking, canoeing. There are 1350 acre feet of lake and is a substantial irrigation resource. The DNRC required they install a monitoring device.
 - David Laufenberg asks when it was installed. George Reich says it was installed this spring. on the lake. The yearly maintenance is one or two days a year. There is also a yearly cost that is tied to the telephone service. It provides hourly data, like barometric pressure, elevation, temperature. The association only got the minimum amount of capabilities, but they can add more data.

- The association has nine water users.
 - The association applied for a grant a few years back, but were not funded. The grants were to raise funds to help reduce seepage and to help alleviate concerns about the lake. Then DNRC came back and required this monitor.
 - Abigail Dennis asks the board how funding requests are handled after projects have already been done. Nick Dyk says that we haven't done much like that. Kaye Suzuki cannot think of anything either.
 - Abigail Dennis asks if the data be available to us. George Reich replies that it would. Nick Dyk believes this project would probably fit under MCD's strategic plan.
 - Kaye Suzuki thinks it provides good potential data with water use in the area. In the past, MCD has partnered with Indiana University on stream monitoring and have done similar projects in the past. Nick Dyk thinks the real time data saves wear and tear on access roads, and that the alarms would benefit downstream residents in an emergency.
 - The association is willing to look into the device's capabilities and provide an invoice on the equipment. The request will stay on agenda for the next meeting.
- b. Area Meetings – submitted survey to MACD.
 - All area meetings will be held virtually
 - Bayley and David are interested in attending
 - Supervisors?
 - c. MOU with RVCD regarding common boundary along watershed delineation

12. Correspondence 9:38:

- a. MACD Letter regarding dues
 - Look back at budget. New executive director is proactive. Lobbyist writing monthly reports. MACD is supposed to be a support system for CDs. We rely on the state, DNRC, paid by taxes. We need to invite them down. Kaye wants more info. Bring up at the area meetings. Wait until after the area meeting. The dues are quite expensive.
- b. 2020 NWE Letter to Hebggen-Madison Recreationists
- c. 310 Mining Attachment Form from RVCD
- d. Stream Classification Spreadsheet
- e. Government Relations Advisor August Report to MACD (Jeff Tiberi)
 - Abigail Dennis is interested in becoming the district contact.
- f. CD Boundary options – Laurie Zeller

13. Supervisors Report 9:58 :

14. Staff/Project Report 9:58:

1. Tributary Monitoring Program
 - a. Madison Stream Team
 1. Weekly data collection for another month or so
 2. Tributary Blitz Day went well
 - a. 17 tribs sampled; 5 volunteers; 3 teams
 - b. data analysis and report in the coming months
2. Pollinator Program
 - a. 2 acres of native and 2 acres of non-native seed for distribution
 1. HOAs and Library and GROWW for program engagement
 2. Reach out to prior participants
 - b. Lower Jack Creek project could use some seed
 - c. late October/early November is best time to plant
3. Lower Jack Creek Project
 - a. Sprayed deer repellent on plants mid-August; will need to spray again in October
 - b. Working with Fasules and MVR to ensure adequate watering
 - c. Repaired old pump at Ace
4. Madisonian Newspaper
 - a. Natural Resource Notes (NRN) column on pollinators
5. Watershed Management Grant

a. Utilize recently completed TMDLs within our WRP (Watershed Restoration Plan)

6. Planning Board

a. DL attended subcommittee meeting

b. working on identifying and describing terminology in sub-regs to clarify review process

7. Potential Covid-19 Funding

a. MWCC small grant for speaker and WebEx

b. State CD grant for laptop

8. Events and Meetings attended

a. Records Management Training for CDs Webinar, August 25, 2020

b. RVCD monthly meeting, September 2, 2020

12. Upcoming Dates:

a. MCD Monthly Meeting; October 20, 2020, 7p.m.

b. Low-tech Restoration Field Day with RVCD; October 2 and 3, 2020

c. Area 6 Meeting Oct. 9, 2020

13. Meeting Adjourned: 9:59