



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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FINAL AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting ****7:00 PM**** August 19, 2019
Madison Valley Public Library

1. Call meeting to order: 7:00
2. Review minutes from previous meetings: 7:05
3. Financial-Emily Osborn: 7:06

4. Public Comment:
5. NRCS Report:
6. MACD Report:

7. Business-310-Ethan Kunard: 7:15
 - a. #18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground)
 - b. #19-26 Rob Simpson, South Willow Creek (Creek Bank Stabilization)
 - c. #19-27 Moonlight Basin, South Side Road
 - d. #19-28 Sun Ranch Partners, LLC, UT Moose Creek (Pond enhancement)
 - e. #19-29E Moonlight Basin, UT Jack Creek (Culvert replacement)
 - f. #19-30 Sun West Ranch, Aspen Creek (channel cleanup)
 - g. #19-31 North Western Energy, Madison River (temporary cofferdam)
 - h. Work Completion Reports: #18-11 Yellowstone Club
 - i. Monthly time spent on 310's

8. Old Business and Reports: 7:45
 - a. 2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule – 3rd Tuesday
 - b. MCD Website
 - c. MACD dues
 - d. Urban Supervisor Appointment-Jon and Kaye
 - e. Adopt a highway renewal
 - f. MCD Position Descriptions & Future Staffing Needs.
 - g. Lower Jack Creek Contracts

9. New Business: 7:30
 - a. Mel's resignation, Board Supervisor and Co-Chair
 - b. 310 Administration grant
 - c. Lone Elks Mall Rent Increase
 - d. Realtor Natural Resource Education Course

10. Correspondence: 8:00
 - a. Mark Suta, MACD President

11. Supervisors Report
12. Staff/Project Report

13. Upcoming Dates:

- a. WCS Wildlife Speaker Series: Pronghorns, August 20 - Upper Madison Cliff Lake School
- b. Conservation Film Celebration, August 29 – Ennis, MT
- c. Board of Livestock Meeting, August 28 – Helena, MT
- d. Montana Range Tour, September 4-5 - Harlowton, MT
- e. Missouri Headwaters Watershed Tour, September 11-13
- f. Area 6 meeting, September 24 – Alder, MT
- g. MACD Convention, November 19-21 - Kalispell, MT

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager

River Conditions Web Tool – Although the tool is finished, we are waiting to integrate it into the website until we have a more permanent website platform (see below). In the meantime, the tool can be accessed at the following link: https://uppermissouriheadwaters.org/UMHW_RiverConditions/index.html?H2O_ID=Madison

MCD Website – We had a meeting with a web developer who is interested in helping build a new website for us, and we are waiting for a quote. Meanwhile, Kate Arpin did get back to us on our inquiry to her, and said she would be available free of charge to help us with the website.

Madison Stream Team – We completed water quality and streamflow data collection on Moores Creek, South Meadow Creek, and Jack Creek in July. Additionally, we conducted a week-long data collection effort on Moores Creek for E. coli that was focused around the town of Ennis.

Lower Jack Creek – Draft contracts for construction oversight have been developed. Additionally, the 124 permit through FWP is being updated. We still need to identify potential harvest locations for the ~8,000 willows needed on the project (hoping to work on in the next week or two). Below is the scheduled timeline of activities:

Timeframe	Phase 2 Activities
October 7-11, 2019	Conifer fascine bundling - Work with volunteers and US Forest Service to collect material and construct 627 feet of fascine
Oct 14-16	Willow Harvesting – Work with Montana Conservation Corps Crew to begin harvesting willows (8,000 needed)
	Construction Staking - RESPEC
	Equipment Mobilization – RE Miller mobilize onto site
October 17, 2019	Willow Harvesting – MCC Crew and Volunteers
October 18, 2019	Willow Harvesting – MCC Crew and Volunteers
October 19, 2019	Willow Harvesting – Volunteers and Madison/Gallatin Trout Unlimited
October 21-25, 2019	Streambank construction: floodplain excavation, gravel toe construction, conifer fascine
October 28 - November 1, 2019	Streambank construction: willow layering, soil lifts, willow staking
November 4-8, 2019	Contingency week
April 20-22, 2020	Containerized willow and cottonwood planting

MWCC Fall Watershed Tour – We’ve sent out several personalized invitations to our Representatives, County Commissioners, agency partners, local stakeholders, and others. Anyone interested in attending for one day only can sign-

up by following this link: <https://mtwatersheds.org/app/2019-missouri-headwaters-watershed-tour/2019-missouri-headwaters-watershed-tour-one-day-registration>. In addition to planning logistics, we are working on developing content for a handout that attendees will receive with more information about the Madison, as well as information about the project on South Meadow Creek. I've worked with MWCC, as well as Janet, to come up with an outline for the portion of the tour we are hosting at Janet's ranch:

Madison Valley Tour Outline – September 12, 2019 (2:30pm – 4:30pm)

1. *Welcome attendees and introduce Janet/Rachel (Ethan)*
2. *Introduce MCD and provide background/characterization on natural resource conditions and challenges in the Madison Valley (Ethan)*
 - a. *Water*
 - b. *Fish & Wildlife*
 - c. *Agriculture*
 - d. *Noxious weeds*
 - e. *Recreation*
 - f. *Development*
3. *Discuss how we as a community are working to address these challenges*
 - a. *People and wildlife – WCS*
 - b. *Preservation of ranching/agriculture – MVRG*
 - c. *Noxious Weeds – MVRG Weed Committee*
 - d. *Open lands and conservation – MLR*
 - e. *Water, Watershed Restoration, Education & Outreach, etc. – MCD*
4. *Discuss work on South Meadow, and why it is a great example of leveraging multiple interests to improve the use and functionality of the system. (Ethan/Janet/???)*
5. *Wrap-up*
6. *Video interview with Janet*

I will plan to introduce CD Supervisors while at Janet's, so please join if you can. Additionally, we would welcome all Supervisors to attend the dinner afterward at Willie's Distillery.

Watershed Restoration/Drought Resilience Planning – We've gone ahead and purchased the new flow meter, as well as several staff gages that will be toward the DNRC Drought Resilience grant. Additionally, I am trying to put as much time as I can toward finishing an appendix of our Watershed Management Plan that will be focused specifically on drought resiliency. This will be submitted to DNRC at the end of August.

CD Nonprofit – Hoping to resume Fall/Winter

Planning Board – There seems to be continued interest in the future of the Jack Creek Road. There is recent interest/pressure from Big Sky/Moonlight Basin residents for the County to make improvements to the 3 mile section of road in the canyon. In general, a great deal of concern has been raised around public health and human safety with future planned development in the resort area.

Montana Outdoor Heritage Project (MOHP) – I need to organize a Madison Watershed Partnership meeting for August/September. Prior to that, I intend to reach out to partners to see if they are interested in hosting a formal "conversation" in conjunction with this meeting.

Conservation Film Celebration – The films have all been selected, and we are now just working with the film makers to make sure we have high-resolution copies of the films downloaded for the August 29th event. Please join, if you can, at the Madison Theater on August 29th at 6:00pm.

Big Sky Watershed Corps – No updates on financial status.

Emily Osborn: Administrator

Administration Tasks: I am completing the various bookkeeping task throughout the month.

GROWW: The Pollinator Garden has been progressing. I have ordered plant identification signs along with informational signs from Signs West to be installed in the garden. Fencing will be installed to deter deer. We have submitted one request for reimbursement funds from NRCS and that request has been approved.

Madison Farm 2 Fork: Shylea Winegard has been hired to replace Nichole Bailey as the GROWW program director. She will be starting at the beginning of the school year. I have been working on the Campus Greenhouse and have installed flooring. We hope to have a volunteer day in the next week to spread gravel over the floor and set up the planting beds. An irrigation system still needs to be completed.