



Madison Conservation District
Local Common Sense Conservation

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FINAL AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting **12:00 PM** March 18, 2019
Madison Valley Public Library

1. Call meeting to order: 12:00
2. Review minutes from previous meetings: 12:05
3. Financial-Emily Osborn: 12:06
4. Public Comment:
5. Business-310-Mel McKittrick: 12:15
 - a. #18-20 Steve or Eric Hamilton, South Willow Creek (Ditch Diversion in Potosi Campground)
 - b. #18-29E Keith Dunn, North Willow Creek (Beaver Dam)
 - c. #19-01C Acela Truck Company, David Ronsen, Warm Springs Fishing Access Site (Complaint)
 - d. #19-02 Greg Doud, South Meadow Creek (Headgate replacement)
 - e. Work Completion Reports:
 - f. Monthly time spent on 310's
6. Old Business and Reports: 12:45
 - a. Banquet Planning
 - b. MCD Foundation
 - c. 310 Workshop, Wednesday March 20th
 - d. MWCC Fall Watershed Tour, September 11-13
7. New Business: 1:30
 - a. MACO insurance
 - b. 2020 Meeting/Holiday Schedule
 - c. Montana Focused Conservation (NRCS)
 - d. Set Date for Budget Planning Meeting - June
 - e. Office Space Discussion – Long-term needs
8. Correspondence: 2:00
 - a. MACD Dues notice
 - b. Josey Blazer Thank you note
9. NRCS Report
10. Supervisors Report
11. Staff/Project Report
12. Upcoming Dates:
 - a. 310 Workshop, March 20, 10am-3pm-Madison Valley Public Library
 - b. MCD Board Meeting, April 15, 7:00pm-Madison Valley Public Library
 - c. Livestock Genetic Management and Grazing, May 29-30-Hobson, MT
 - d. 2019 State Wide Administer Training, June 3-6-Highwood, MT
 - e. Montana Range Days, June 17-19-Dillon, MT

- f. Montana Youth Range Camp, June 25-28-Bozeman, MT
- g. 33rd Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp, July 14-19-Missoula, MT

Staff Report

Ethan Kunard: Water Programs Manager

Jack Creek/Moonlight Basin Watershed Planning – Following the last two years of stakeholder meetings in Big Sky to develop the “Big Sky Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan,” several sub-groups were developed to focus on specific issues identified in the planning effort. Given the fact that most of the priority issues and discussions were focused on problems facing the Big Sky Meadow Village area, there was less discussion of the issues facing the Jack Creek drainage surrounded by Moonlight. Therefore, one of the groups that formed as a result of those meetings is focused specifically on the Jack Creek and Moonlight Basin area. Karen Filipovich is contracted by the Gallatin River Task Force to organize meetings with the various groups, and she has helped to coordinate the first of the Jack Creek meetings in Ennis on April 4th. Topics to be discussed include: past/present monitoring efforts and future monitoring needs (water quality, streamflow, groundwater, biological, etc.), water supply, and future development and growth. If there is an interest and/or desire for the CD to be more involved in these discussions, or if we have an interest in addressing some of the identified needs through projects/programs, this could be included in a request to the Big Sky Resort Tax (applications due April 30).

Madison Stream Team – Briana and I have begun identifying monitoring objectives and goals for 2019, in addition to identifying potential funding sources.

Lower Jack Creek – We received confirmation for \$5,000 in support from the Montana Trout Foundation. We had been discussing an opportunity for Moonlight Basin to support the project, but they instead have found another agreement that suits their needs. I will be submitting a final proposal to Madison/Gallatin TU for the remaining funds needed. We have scheduled a Montana Conservation Corps crew to work with us the week of October 14th to help with conifer bough harvesting and willow harvesting, and will then plan to have a 3-day volunteer event to assist with further harvesting efforts from October 17-19.

MWCC Fall Watershed Tour – Tour dates are set for September 11-13, and tour locations are still to be determined. I’m hoping to organize a meeting in early April with the groups in the Missouri Headwaters Partnership to organize these details.

CD Foundation – Given the sudden interest and momentum in providing opportunities for the community to get more involved in natural resource decision-making and conservation work, I am continuing to put effort into developing a proposal for developing a conservation foundation. Once a draft proposal is completed (April Meeting), we can discuss next steps, as well as prospective interested members who can begin carrying out the development of the organization

Planning Board – We are currently reviewing the updated Spanish Peaks ODP, and will discuss further in April. There will be no meeting in March. Also, there are several vacancies on the board in the Ruby, and we are seeking an “at large” position to fulfill our need of a Big Sky/Moonlight representative. Charity’s last day is March 15th, and there is no one lined up to take over the planning director position at this moment.

Emily Osborn: Administrator

I will be traveling to New Zealand from May 15th to May 31st, 2019

Administration Tasks- I have been busy with various administrative tasks.

310 Workshop: Bob Flesher, DNRC will lead the 310 workshop training. The workshop will be held at Madison Valley Bank, downstairs in the Madison Room, on Wednesday, March 20th from 10am to 3pm.

2019 Banquet Planning- We have received 18 sponsors for the banquet. Posters are finished and getting printed. Dinner tickets are sold out but we are offering \$10.00 dancing tickets at 8:00pm. We will be setting up orders for table cloths, flowers. Stewardship photos have been taken by Culberson Landgaard, The Madisonian has interviewed the Jack Creek Preserve and the story should run around the first of April.

GROWW: We continue to meet bi-weekly.

Briana Shook: Big Sky Watershed Corps Member

Madison Stream Team – Ethan and I have begun 2019 planning, including our objectives and goals for this year. I also purchased a drone that will be utilized for monitoring efforts.

MCD Annual Report – The 2018 Annual Report is ready for review. I have also secured a quote for printing costs.

Ennis School Pollinator Garden – I am working on finalizing a list of proposed species to be reviewed by the GROWW committee. Once all this snow melts, I will be taking measurements of the garden and looking into the soil properties. From there, I plan on meeting with local nurseries to gain insight on what may work best in that area.

Social Media – I am playing an active role for MCD social media pages and generating new posts in hopes to gain a more engaging presence to our community and followers. I would like our social media to be a great resource in addition to, and compliment, our E-Newsletter and website.

Snowpack Monitoring Training – At the end of February, I assisted with snowpack monitoring with Montana NRCS at their site along North Meadow Creek.

Aquatic Invasive Species Training – On March 5th and 6th, I attended AIS training put on by Montana FWP and DNRC. This training will allow me to better assist with future AIS efforts at MCD.

AmeriCorps Service Symposium March 6th-8th – I attended the state-wide service symposium with roughly 300 of my other fellow AmeriCorps members serving the state of Montana. We conducted a city-wide food drive in Helena, benefiting low-income children. Together, we collected thousands of pounds of food to be given to the kids in their schools.