



*Flathead Conservation District*  
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**CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members not in attendance: John Ellis, Supervisor; Camisha Sawtelle, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Megan Stockfisch; Aaron Clausen, Flathead Lakers; Kelly Morrow, Flathead High School/Flathead FFA; Chiree Bondurant and Eli Frandsen, Flathead High School; Eric Sawtelle, Haley Borger, Cassidy Grady, and Emma Nixon, Whitefish High School; Lew Weaver; Larel Weaver.

**MINUTES:** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. DNRC AIS Grant Program applications due mid-March 2016
2. House Bill 334 – As of July 1, 2015, conservation districts, and watershed groups under those districts, are required to record their minutes with the County Clerk & Recorder’s office. *NOTE: Flathead CD has contacted the County Clerk & Recorder & their watershed groups. Minutes will be emailed to the Clerk & Recorder’s office.*
3. Flathead Lakers forwarded a link to the May 20, 2015, article in the Flathead Beacon titled “The Flathead River to Lake Initiative works to preserve riparian environment in the valley”
4. DNRC Reclamation and Development Grant (RDG) applications due June 21, 2016.
5. Announcement: Montana Range Days is looking for someone to host. Contact 406-632-5534, Ext. 101.
6. Summer 2015 issue of McCone Conservation District newsletter “Conservation News”
7. Notice: Youth Range Camp applications due July 3.
8. Gallatin Conservation District announcing Natural Resource Specialist position. Contact [info@gallatincd.org](mailto:info@gallatincd.org)
9. Whitefish Planning Board May 21, 2016 meeting agenda.
10. MACD Spring Board meeting June 1-3, Helena.
11. May 12, 2015 issue of “The Montana Conservationist”

**FINANCIAL:** The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$244.10
2. DTM Consulting \$4,140.00
3. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
4. Montana Tech \$1,000.00
5. Safeguard Business Systems \$122.58
6. VISA \$1,642.76

Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:** Chiree Bandurant and Eli Frandsen introduced themselves to the Board and thanked the Board for their scholarships.

**EDUCATION GRANT REQUEST:** Kelly Morrow, Flathead FFA, made a request to the Board for an education grant in the amount of \$1009.26 to purchase binoculars for the bird-watching field trips that are part of their ornithology unit.

**ED GRANT UPDATE, ED GR.REQUEST, ENVIROTHON:** Eric Sawtelle, Whitefish High School, and three members of the Envirothon team presented their results from Envirothon. The teams did very well this year, and they are thankful for the financial support from FCD. The students explained how the competition worked, and answered questions from the Board.

Eric thanked the board for the education grant he received in the last fiscal year, which funded a light cart for growing plants. His students have used the light cart to grow plants for science experiments, and they have grown food to serve at the cafeteria. They have also grown plants to fundraise for campus community greenhouse.

Eric made a request to the Board for an education grant in the amount of \$1334.50 for soil probes and a soil nutrient testing kit. These soil sampling supplies will be used in a variety of scientific applications related to food production, forestry, and water resources.

**RIVER STEWARD UPDATE:** Megan Stockfisch presented an update on her recent activities, including her involvement at Flood Awareness Day, Forestry Expo, and Arbor Day. She also organized some volunteer planting events as part of the River2Lake Initiative, and she is learning to monitor the riparian buffer projects. This summer she will continue developing outreach materials for the R2L Initiative.

### **310's**

**STORER, FL2015013, Rose Creek, steps:** Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the application per his and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports and to waive the 15-day waiting period.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**BUDGET:** The April End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the April end of month budget report.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**FY 2015/2016 BUDGET MEETING DATE:** Discussion held. The Board scheduled their preliminary budget meeting for Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

**310 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT:** Discussion held regarding the remaining funds in the 310 Administrative Grant.

**CULVERT REPLACEMENT:** Valerie Kurth reported that the Haskill Basin Watershed Council would like her to continue working on this project, including procuring an estimate and seeking funding. Pete Woll made a motion “to have staff continue looking into the needs of the culvert replacement project on Haskill Basin Road.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**310 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Valerie Kurth reported that the Montana DNRC is still uncertain about the availability of technical assistance funding. Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to pay for the outside technical assistance for FL2015016 using FCD engineering funds.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**PLT WORKSHOP:** Kari Musgrove presented on a Project Learning Tree Workshop for teachers, and made a request to the Board in the amount of \$440 for the Workshop. Pete Woll made a motion “to fund this event from the Educational Supplies.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**LOST TRAIL WRP PROJECT LETTER OF SUPPORT:** Angel Rosario presented a draft letter of support for the proposed boundary adjustment for the Wetland Reserve Program Easement held by NRCS on the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. There will be no net loss of acreage involved in this boundary change. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve sending this letter to Lisa Coverdale from FCD.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION SUPPLIES:** Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to approve the two original receipts totaling \$75.19, and approve the purchase of three additional print ink cartridges requested.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**WATER WHEEL DISCUSSION:** Pete Woll introduced Lew and Larel Weaver to the Board. Lou explained his plans to use local artesian wells to start a water bottling plant. Electricity is limited for this project, so he wants to propose placing a small water wheel in the river off of his property to create electricity. He plans to get student engineering assistance from FVCC. Ronald Buentemeier suggested there is some local precedence for water wheels.

### **REPORTS**

**NRCS REPORT:** Angél Rosario reported that eight EQUIP applications approved for a total of \$112,000. The deadline for 2016 EQUIP funding is June 1, 2015. Three new and three renewal contracts were accepted in the Conservation Stewardship Program.

**RC REPORT:** Valerie Kurth reported:

**Cost-Share Program:** In early May, I followed up with all the landowners who had expressed interest in the program. I met with one potential applicant on 5/11/15. Since the beginning of May, we have had two additional inquiries about the program. Ronald Buentemeier and I visited a landowner on Ashley Creek, and we discussed the possibility of obtaining cost-share funding for a bank stabilization project. This year's application deadline is 5/31/15.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC):**

1. HBWC met on 5/19/15, and I documented the meeting minutes for the group. I updated the Council on potential avenues of funding for the culvert replacement project, and we discussed working with Flathead County Roads and Bridges to obtain an estimate. The Council also decided to present their questions and concerns regarding the Reservoir Management Plan to the City Council at an upcoming Council meeting. The next HBWC meeting will be on 6/23/15.
2. I visited the Reimer project site on 5/22/15 with Aaron Clausen and Megan Stockfish. Several of the browse protectors have fallen over, but, overall, the site looked to be in very good condition.

**Outreach:**

1. I did four Rolling Rivers presentations at Edgerton School on 4/29/15 (100 5<sup>th</sup> graders total) with help from Pete Woll and Kari Musgrove.
2. I helped with the District-run riparian station at Forestry Expo on 5/4/15, 5/6/15 (half-day), 5/7/15, and 5/8/15.

**River Steward and River2Lake Initiative (R2L):** I helped with a riparian buffer planting on 4/28/15, and we had a River Steward meeting on 5/13/15.

**Seedling Program:** I submitted an additional seedling order for a local landowner.

**Sourcebook Curriculum Project:** I developed a project calendar with targets and deadlines. This will guide the partners in completing the project by the end of 2015. We are currently planning the field testing of the guide, which will occur in the fall of 2015.

**Training:**

1. Completed trainings: Perspectives from a Grant Maker – seminar (5/14/15), Board-ED/Staff Relations and Effectiveness – webinar (5/13/15), and 310 GIS database training (5/14/15).
2. Upcoming: WordPress training is officially scheduled for July 21-22<sup>nd</sup>. I sent a formal email invitation on 5/18/15. So far, three people have registered for the training in addition to FCD staff. The training is posted on the MACD website, and it will be advertised in the next issue of The Montana Conservationist.

**Trumbull Creek:** Mark Siderius and I visited the project site on 5/21/15. Most of the project reach appears to be in good condition, and much of the flooding from previous years seems to have been ameliorated. However, flooding occurred this past spring in an area that had not had an issue in prior years, so Mark and I will be working with the Sapas and DNRC to see what can be done this year.

**Whitefish Lake Institute WLI – Septic Leachate Project Partnership:** WLI requested support from FCD to conduct preliminary engineering reports (PERs) – funding and grant sponsorship –

for septic leachate mitigation on Whitefish Lake. They have since learned that they can only have one set of PER grants open at one time, and they are trying to complete the Lion Mountain area PER in 2015. The Whitefish Water and Sewer District is the grant sponsor for this PER, and funders include City of Whitefish, Treasure State Endowment Program grant, and DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program. WLI expects to utilize the sponsorship and funding resources put forth by FCD for the East Lakeshore PER in 2016.

**AC REPORT:** Kari Musgrove reported:

***Meetings:***

Women in Timber (PLT), 5/12/15  
Flathead River Commission, 5/18/15  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, 5/19/15  
Recreation Superintendent, 5/21/19

**Updates**

***Family Forestry Expo:***

Approx. 1100 5<sup>th</sup> graders toured the Trumbull Creek Education Forest May 4-8<sup>th</sup>. The riparian station taught 100-140 students each day. On May 9<sup>th</sup> Paul McKenzie publicly acknowledged Ronald Buentemeier for participating in all 26 Expo's. He also spoke about the 10,000 acres of forest Stoltze named after him, and the new Ronald Buentemeier Educational Tree Farm sign they installed on the corner.

***Beacon Ads:*** This month we advertised the Cost Share Program, and the Education Grant Program.

***Website:*** I created a 2015 International Year of Soil, an Expo, and an Earth Day post.

***College Scholarships:***

- Two scholarship recipients have turned in dispensation forms, but have not yet scheduled a board meeting.
- Two others have scheduled a board meeting, but not yet turned in dispensation forms. I've scanned both of their dispensation forms and emailed them.
- I have not heard from the fifth recipient, though I have called her, sent her a dispensation packet, emailed her, and mailed a reminder.

***Education Grants:*** We have received applications and scheduled presentations for the Northwest Montana CO-OP Educational Cooperative, Whitefish Lake Institute, The Glacier Institute, two from FHS, and one from Whitefish H.S. I anticipate a request from Somers. Grants are due June 12.

**Upcoming:**

***Citizens of the Watershed:*** I will help the Flathead Lakers run their Citizens of the Watershed field trip at the Flathead Lake Biological Station, May 27.

***Flathead Living Article:*** Ronald Buentemeier was interviewed for Flathead Living's community conversation 5/12/15. It will be a one or two page feature in the summer issue. The community conversation usually focuses on the person's career and life as well as thoughts on important issues.

***Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop:*** Women and Timber would like to partner with us

September 26 to provide a PLT workshop for teachers this fall.

**Summer Camp:** The City of Kalispell's Parks and Recreation department invited me to enhance their summer camp program, this July, with conservation education.

**Movie Night:**

- I'm working with the Parks and Recreation department to create an outdoor screening of Symphony of the Soil at Depot Park, Wed. Aug. 13.
- I am working with a Science teacher at Flathead High School to coordinate a December, 5 screening of the Symphony of the Soil.

**Trainings:**

Perspectives of a grant maker, 5/14/15

Montana Weed Control Association Western Area Annual Crew Training, 5/20/15

**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT:** Dean Sirucek reported that there has not been an FBC meeting since the last FCD business meeting. The next FBC meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup> at Flathead Lake Biological Station.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD:** Dean Sirucek reported that the proposed Halfmoon Meadows Subdivision (approximately ½ mile north of the Hwy 2/Hwy 40 intersection on Halfmoon Road) was approved. In addition, the Whitefish doughnut process is moving forward, and public review is likely to occur in July.

**MACD REPORT:** Pete Woll reported that next week is the MACD spring board meeting.

**WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD:** No report.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION:** Verdell Jackson reported that representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA came to their last meeting.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC):** Valerie Kurth reported that HBWC is planning to bring their concerns about the Reservoir Management Plan to an upcoming Whitefish City Council meeting. The Forest in Focus project that is in conjunction with the Whitefish Face Working Group multi-use management proposal is in the early stages of assembling a team. The USFS is currently analyzing comments regarding the forest plan revision.

**CLARK FORK TASK FORCE:** No report.

**SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT:** Lori Curtis emailed her report. Rose Vallor of the MSU team provided deliverable dates for the remainder of the curriculum material to be drafted. After review by the CORE WEC members, Valerie Kurth and I concluded that a final calendar of deliverables—including grant deadlines—should be developed. Valerie took the lead on creating the calendar which has now been distributed to the team. Rose, Valerie and I—with input from one committee member—also agreed on the general lesson template design, and methodology for referencing the Sourcebook.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- 310 Complaint FL2015020C. County Attorney will be contacted.

The next 310-Steam Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2015, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dean Sirucek made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

Submitted By: Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist

*Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:*

6/8/2015      Ronald Buentemeier      Chairman  
(Date)                      (Signature)                      (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)