
FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION

Flathead River Commission (FRC) Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7:00PM
Flathead Conservation District conference room

CALL TO ORDER

In attendance:

Mark Siderius, Chair; Hailey Graf, Secretary; Kenny Breidinger, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Donna Pridmore, Flathead CD; Pam Holmquist, County Commissioner; Samantha Tappenbeck, Flathead CD staff; Ginger Rigdon, Flathead CD staff;

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Donna motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Hailey Graf seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- Water Policy Interim Committee study bill (SJ28) on Flathead River Erosion
 - Mark provided a review of the very successful WPIC meeting. Mark, Hailey, and Donna attended the meeting as FRC representatives. Mark provided testimony on the impacts of boat wakes on erosion along with representatives from other conservation districts with similar issues. The committee discussed options such as draft legislation, education, land use ordinances, and local processes.
 - Samantha and Mark provided a brief overview of the interlocal agreement between the county and Flathead CD that allows Bigfork bay to be managed as the lake but permitted as a river under the 310 Law.
 - Mark also provided a summary of the information presented by FWP during WPIC including boater safety, examples of existing boat regulations, where boat regulations work and don't, and other options.
 - Samantha suggested that FRC consider drafting a letter to WPIC stating that additional study is needed in context of the study bill as written. The membership agreed that it would be a good idea and will work on a draft for the next meeting. Hailey and Samantha will work to draft a letter and send it out to the membership prior to the next meeting.

- During the last meeting WPIC tentatively agreed to visit in July, but no formal plans have been made. Ginger and Donna took photos at ten sites in preparation for a potential field visit to Flathead River by WPIC. Samantha will touch base with Jason Mohr for more guidance on planning a site visit.
- Flathead River erosion study
 - The study will look at erosion causes including wind, lake influence, and boat traffic. The data gleaned will be provided to WPIC to assist them with decision making. The RFP for implementing the study is currently open and closes on April 22nd. The study will hopefully be completed by mid-September.
 - Samantha provided an update on landowner outreach and preparation for a possible WPIC field trip to Flathead River. Flathead CD has contacted interested landowners to discuss installing erosion pins as part of the study.
- Meeting Schedule
 - The members agreed to stick with the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM for future meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7:00pm**, at the Flathead Conservation District office.

ADJOURN: Kenny Breidinger made a motion "to adjourn." Hailey Graf seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted By: Hailey Graf, Flathead River Commission Secretary

April 6, 2022 Minutes approved by FRC Board motion made on:

5/4/22
(Date)


(Signature)

Chair
(Title - Chair, Vice-Chair, etc.)