



CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair, Pete Woll, called the January 22, 2024, Business meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Pete Woll, Chair; Roger Marsonette; Vice Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; Mike Kopitzke, Supervisor; Scott Rumsey, Supervisor; Bill Yankee, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Samantha Tappenbeck, Jessie Walthers, Ginger Kauffman, FCD Staff; Rick Stern, Land to Hand Montana; Paul Bishop; Patience Pain, Glacier View 4H; Bill Meyers, Bayside Park & Marine Center.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 1: Signature Authority

- Authorization for Samantha Tappenbeck to sign on behalf of Supervisors attending the meeting virtually.

Consent Agenda Item 2: Meeting Minutes

1. January 8, 2024, 310-Stream Permit Meeting Minutes

Consent Agenda Item 3: Financial

Check Detail dated 1/17/2024

1. Mountain Trader \$74.40
2. Susan D. Hulslander, CPA \$3,659.00
3. Charter Communications \$222.95
4. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1,884.86

Consent Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

1. Email invitation from Marc Vessar, DNRC Forest Practice Program Manager, for participation in the upcoming 2024 Field Review Team/SMZ laws.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to accept the consent agenda as presented.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Meyers, Bayside Park & Marine Center, stated he had his property surveyed for a deed restriction as he wants to do a donation/boundary line adjustment with DNRC to provide access to the public dock. He stated that he has talked with FWP about placing buoys in the channel as a warning of low areas in the bay. He added that he is seeking support from the district and requested a meeting with FCD, FWP and DNRC regarding a proposal to DNRC of this donation.

310's

Fullerton, FL-2024-003, Flathead River, bank stabilization: Mike Kopitzke explained that the original onsite inspection was cancelled. The onsite inspection was re-scheduled for Monday, January 29, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

Gress, FL-2024-004, Flathead River, bank stabilization: Mike Kopitzke explained that the original onsite inspection was cancelled. The onsite inspection was re-scheduled for Monday, January 29, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

Wilson, FL-2024-005, Flathead River, bank stabilization: Mike Kopitzke explained that the original onsite inspection was cancelled. The onsite inspection was re-scheduled for Monday, January 29, 10:00 A.M. at the site.

NEW BUSINESS

AIS Partner Position MOU: Samantha Tappenbeck explained the MOU between Flathead CD and FWP directs the district to hire and supervise an AIS Inspector for the north end of Flathead Lake at public access locations. FCD will advertise, review, and hire for the temporary/seasonal part-time position. The position will be from May to September for 100 days at \$17-\$19 per hour. Mileage will be compensated. The MOU is a not-to-exceed contract of \$20,000. A 10% administrative fee will be charged by the district. FWP will provide a tablet for the employee to enter information. Samantha stated she had reviewed the personnel policy relative to this position, and supervisors suggested hiring 2 people to split the 100 days. Donna Pridmore motioned "to approve moving forward with AIS partner MOU # FWP 24-0119." Mike Kopitzke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Records Disposal Request: Ginger Kauffman explained a Disposal Request to dispose of 2001, 2017, and 2018 310-files was approved by State Archives; approval is also needed from the FCD Board. Donna Pridmore motioned "to approve the Records Destruction request." Scott Rumsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vo-Ag Funding Support Request: Jessie Walthers explained that on 11/27/2023 the Education Grant request was not approved, however, the Board did approve \$5,000.00 towards a new swather for the Vo-Ag Center. Staff met to discuss what budget line funds for the equipment would come from. Staff recommended pulling funds from the MACD dues budget line as MACD has reduced dues costs for the current fiscal year. Staff will pursue additional grant opportunities for the remaining \$5,000 needed by the Vo-Ag Center for purchase. Donna Pridmore motioned "to take the previously approved \$5000 from the MACD dues budget line." Bill Yankee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CD Renewal: Donna Pridmore explained that the district CD matures on January 27, 2024. With Board approval, the CD will be renewed for another 3-month period. Bill Yankee motioned “to approve the CD renewal.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Donna stated that the district also needs to add Vice-Chair Roger Marsonette to the account. She will contact the bank regarding necessary paperwork.

Education Grants: Final Report Submission and New Applications: Jessie Walthers explained Land to Hand has submitted the final report for education grant FCD EG 2024-01, for Fall field trip bus costs in the amount of \$627.62. Donna Pridmore motioned “to reimburse the education grant for bus costs in the amount of \$627.62.” Mike Kopitzke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Grant Applications:

- FCD EG 2024-04 Glacier View 4H, Trowels and Supplies for MT Survival Project: \$750: Bill Yankee, motioned “to approve the Glacier View 4H education grant in the amount of \$750.00.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- FCD EG 2024-05 Land to Hand, Spring Field Trip Bus Costs: \$699.96: Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the Land to Hand education grant in the amount of \$699.96.” Scott Rumsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Attached

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Attached. Sean Johnson noted that the MOA review will be done at a later date.

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau: Attached. District staff noted that Pete Woll’s and Donna Pridmore’s terms end 12/31/2024. Filing for those positions opened January 11th and will end March 11th. Those interested must contact the Flathead County Election Dept. for relevant paperwork.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Attached.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Next meeting February 28, 2024. Samantha Tappenbeck stated that she is currently reviewing the HBWC by-laws and noted that there is a seat for a conservation district representative on the council.

Western MT Conservation Commission: Next meeting February 7-8th.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): No report.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Spring Outreach Events - Volunteer Shift Sign-Up:

- Home & Garden Show, March 2nd & 3rd
- Free the Seeds event, March 2nd

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2024, 1:00 P.M. in person and via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Donna Pridmore motioned "to adjourn." Bill Yankee seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Reviewed By:

Samantha Tappenbeck
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

2/26/2024
(Date)

Pete Woll
(Signature)

Chair
(Title – Chair etc.)

Staff Report: December 2023 – January 2024

Samantha Tappenbeck, Resource Conservationist
Jessie Walthers, Conservation Program Manager
Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Office and Administration

310

- 2024 total 310's to date = 7
2023 total 310's = 115
- Processing of 310's
- Scanning of older 310-files continues
- McDonald Creek violation, Ambler vs. FCD litigation:
 - Preparation of exhibit record for court
 - Coordinated meetings with attorney, provided relevant information to Supervisors
 - Correspondence with insurance company regarding representation and relevant policy coverage
 - Provided comment and interviews to local news outlets

Bookkeeping

- Processed daily bookkeeping items: payroll, payroll reports and payments, invoices, credit card receipts, deposits, grant billing/vendor invoices, program payments, and reconciliation of statements.
- Updates to district files made as needed.
- Took documents to CPA accountant to process end of year

Office Support

- Staff meetings held weekly per staff availability
- Worked with IT Support/JBUR Computing Solutions to manage problematic file storage and install proper backup hardware and processes
- Staff and Supervisor DP reorganized desks and office space following termination of WMCC sublease

Projects

Cow Creek Restoration Project

- Seedling delivery pending in spring 2024
- Reviewed grant program criteria for pending application(s): DNRC HB223, MACD Ranching for Rivers

Trumbull Creek Restoration & Aquifer Protection Project

- Received and signed term amendment to contract #RRG-20-1750
- Submitted quarterly progress reports for contracts #RRG-20-1750 and #WMG-22-0086A

- Project designs are complete but insufficient funds have been secured for construction and implementation of this project
- Cost estimates:
 - Secured funds for project construction = \$75,939
 - TOTAL project construction estimate = \$311,841
 - Birch Grove Rd crossing construction estimate = \$152,713
 - Channel grading, streambank restoration, private culvert crossing construction estimate = \$159,128
- Landowner commitment remains uncertain; Plan to host landowner/stakeholder/partner meeting to present final project design this winter

Study of Boat Wake-Driven Erosion on the Flathead River

- Grant contracts #WMG-22-0089A and 23G-22-3725 termed out on 12/31/2023; Contract for Services with Tetra Tech termed out on 12/31/2023
- Waiting on final report and database deliverables from Tetra Tech
- Samantha worked with Tetra Tech on expectations and timeline for finalizing report, invoicing, and plan for Tetra Tech to internalize costs for services beyond 12/31/2023
- Approximately 10% (\$10,246) of project funding remains in budget; will hold until final report is complete and deliverables provided

Programs

College Scholarships

- Notified Flathead County high school counselors of college scholarship application and deadline.
- Shared scholarship information in Local Dirt newsletter.

Conservation Grant Program

- Responded to multiple landowner inquiries about Conservation Grant program form 2024.
- Updated grant application and process information on FCD website.

Education Grant Program

- Two education grants submitted and one final report processed.

Pollinator Initiative

- Participated in Zoom Pollinator education program hosted by Montana Native Plant Society and Xerxes Society about Montana native pollinators.

Rain Garden Initiative

- Worked on Rain Garden Presentation for Montana Native Plant Society Go Native program.
- Coordinated for spring outreach events with WMCC for Rain Garden promotion.

Seedlings & Native Seed Program

- Conducted consultations and provided support for landowners ordering seedlings.
- Conducted outreach and provided information on seedling and native grass program.

Watershed Support Program

- Program funding is currently allocated to support of the Trumbull Creek Restoration & Aquifer Protection Project and the Flathead River Boat Wake Erosion Study

Youth Camp Sponsorships

- One Youth Camp Sponsorships inquiry was made this month.

MT Biological Weed Control Coordination Project

- Provided information to landowners about biocontrol options for weed management.
- Worked with MTBCCP Coordinator to identify sites and landowner contacts for release of test system for flowering rush in Flathead Lake

Education & Outreach

Education Events

- Winter and Spring outreach calendar finalized and shared.
- Coordination with partners for Land Stewardship Series.

Local news media:

- Staff worked with Supervisor Bill Yankee to draft press release about District of the Year award and submitted to Daily Interlake; Staff interviewed for an article:
- Staff interviewed with Daily Interlake for press release and article about the Living in the Flathead Guide: <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2024/jan/18/local-organizations-create-a-living-in-the-flathead-guide/>

Demonstration Garden

- Several Demonstration Garden winter photos shared on Social Media.

Website

- Posted approved meeting minutes and agendas; Updated website with information about 2024 meeting schedule and new zoom information
- Maintenance and updates: WordPress, plug-ins, calendar events
- Website visited by 1.7K Users; Impressions = 37K; Total Clicks = 402

Social Media

- Facebook (last 28 days): Page followers = 1,021; Post Reach = 195
- Instagram (last 30 days): Page followers = 910; Accts Reach = 2

The Local Dirt eNewsletter

- Distributed on 12/5/23 and 1/8/24 to 807 recipients.
- Advertised winter photo contest and received several entries from the public.

Partnerships, Meetings, Trainings

- Living in Flathead Partner Meeting 12/11/23
- Land Stewardship Series Planning Meeting 12/12/23 and 1/9/24
- Employee Organization Board Meeting 12/20/23

- Crop Production Update 1/18/24

Upcoming:

- Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference 1/25/24 and 1/26/24
- Family Forestry Expo Planning Meeting 1/31/24

Photos



NRCS DC Report – 1/22/2024

Sean Johnson

➤ Programs

- EQIP and Joint Chiefs
 - Working through all of our applications for site visits. Created a new funding methodology called ACT NOW that will allow us to expedite funding for certain projects.
- CSP
 - Working on our CSP contracts that were going to expire that elected to renew their applications for another 5 years.

➤ Review Items

- Attended a Joint Chiefs planning meeting on 1/4/2024 for planning and development on the next Joint Chiefs proposal
- Staff attended FireSafe Flathead meeting on 1/17/2024
- Attended a meeting with Intermountain West Joint Venture on 1/17/2024 looking at our forestry work and its impact on birds

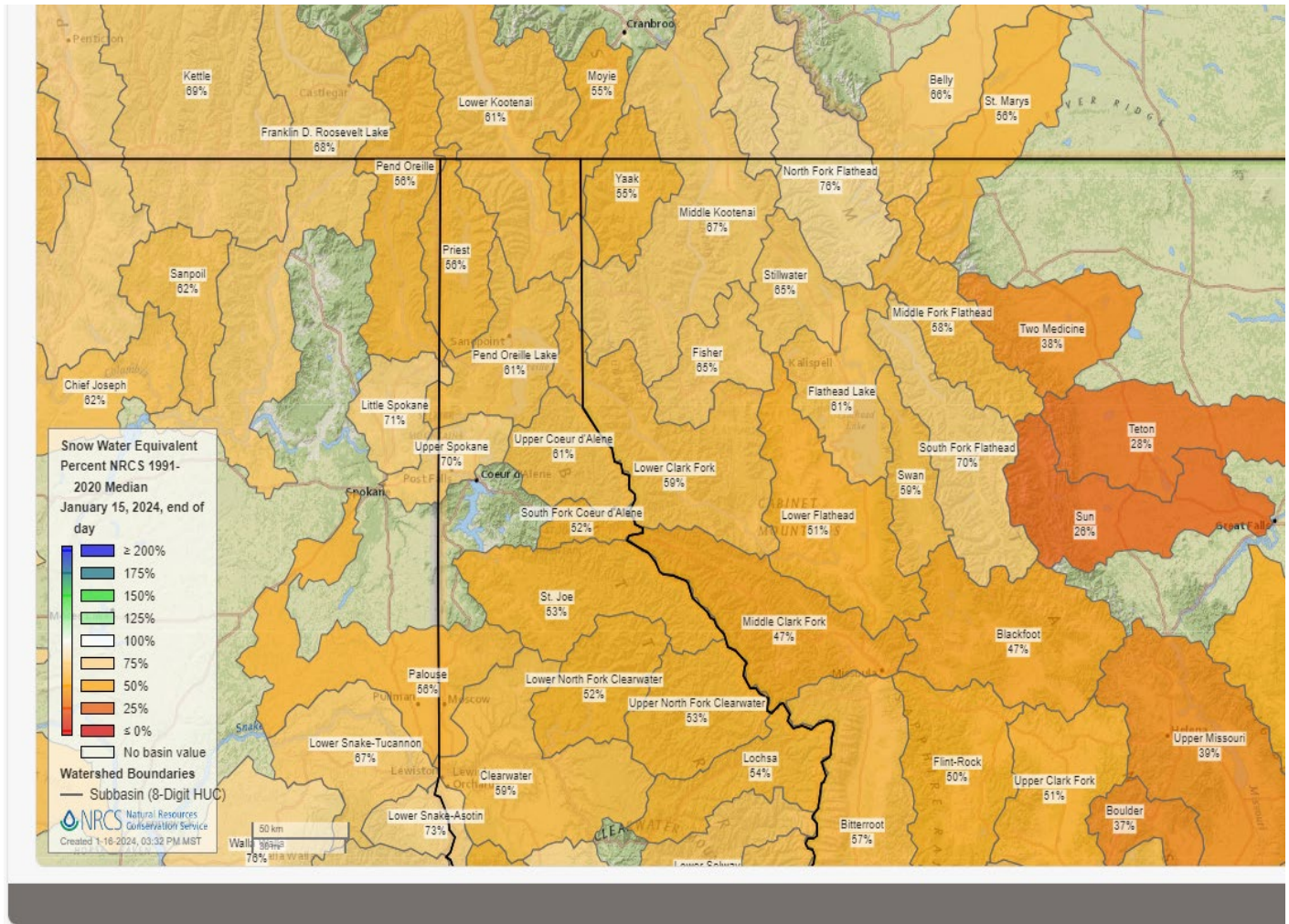
➤ Upcoming Items

- Reviewing all new TIPs submitted for the Missoula Area January 29-31
- Firesafe Flathead meeting on Thursday 2/21
- Our EQIP ranking deadline comes up on 2/23
 - Funding begins to be released by March 1st

➤ Miscellaneous

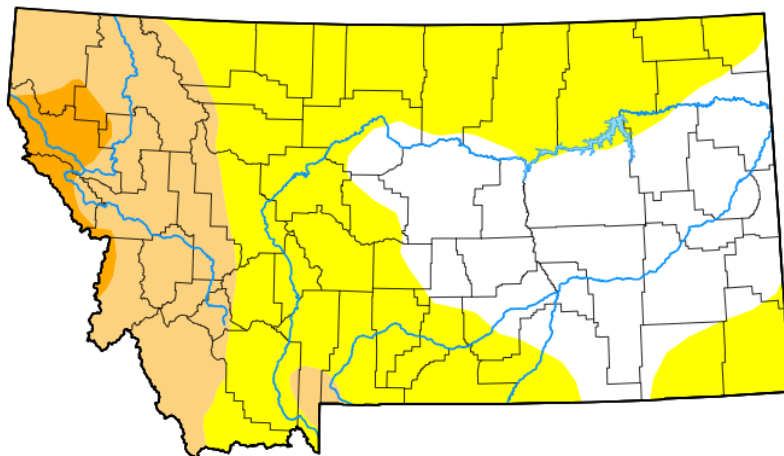
- Snow Survey
 - Flathead Basin at 61% of normal. Sub-basins range from 76% (North Fork) to 51% (Lower Flathead).
- Drought – Just about all of Flathead is in “moderate” drought except for SW corner being in “severe” drought. Increase in “abnormally dry” across the state.
 - None – 31%, D0 – 47%, D1 – 19%, D2 – 3%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0%, January
 - None – 67%, D0 – 7%, D1 -17% , D2 – 9%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0%, November
 - None – 57%, D0 – 7%, D1 – 13%, D2 – 20%, D3 – 3%, D4 – 0%, October
 - None – 53%, D0 – 8%, D1 – 14%, D2 – 15%, D3 – 10%, D4 – 0% - September
 - None – 46%, D0 – 16%, D1 – 24%, D2 – 13%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0% - August

January Snow Report



January Drought Monitor

Montana



Map released: Thurs. January 11, 2024

Data valid: January 9, 2024 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Adam Hartman](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
[Anthony Artusa](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

January 10, 2024 Meeting

Conservation District Report

1. **FLV-23-07** A request from Freshwater Map, Dr. Mark Lorang on behalf of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for a major lakeshore variance permit to enhance the dynamic equilibrium and gravel beach system by placing approximately 1812 cubic yards of gravel fill to control wave erosion and the loss of the fringing wetlands while also providing a gravel beach that will be for public use year-round within the lakeshore protection zone (LPZ) of Flathead Lake. This project is phase 2 of the Somers Beach State Park. The property is located off South Somers Road, Somers, MT and contains approximately 922 feet of shoreline.

No public comments

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the County Commissioners - Passed Unanimously

2. **FPP-23-21** A request from Bryce Dayley, with technical assistance from Sands Surveying, Inc., and 406 Engineering, Inc. for preliminary plat approval of Mountain View Meadows Subdivision, a proposal to create four (4) residential lots on 20.45 acres. The proposed subdivision would be served by individual wells and septic systems. The property is located at 51 Glacier Flats Road, Kalispell, MT.

Public Comment: Concerns about groundwater and septic

The project is consistent with the Helena Flats Neighborhood Plan

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the County Commissioners - Passed Unanimously

3. **FPP-22-06** A request from Farm Industrial, Inc., with technical assistance from APEC Engineering, Inc., for preliminary plat approval of Miller Industrial, a proposal to create twenty-two (22) commercial/industrial lots and one (1) residential lot on 208.57 acres. The proposed subdivision would be served by individual wells and individual septic systems. The applicant is requesting a variance to Section 4.7.16 of the Flathead County Subdivision Regulations to allow the existing 30-foot-wide easement for White Basin Road to serve the subdivision. The property is located at 480 White Basin Road, Kalispell, MT.

Public Comment: Concerns for Patrick Creek and related wetlands

Unzoned so there is no control by the county as to what business could go on the lots.

Only has a 33 foot easement and the FCSR requires 60'. A request for a variance was submitted but staff recommended using the half road provision in the FCSR.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the County Commissioner - Failed 2-6

4. **FPP-23-06** A request from Brent Ervin Johnson and Allmark Land Holdings, LLC, with technical assistance from APEC Engineering Inc., for preliminary plat approval of Johnson Ranch Subdivision, a proposal to create 105 residential lots on 123.65 acres. The proposed subdivision would be served by two new public water supply wells and individual septic systems. The property is located at 1096 Stillwater Road, Kalispell, MT

West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee recommended approval with conditions.

Public Comments: Water and septic issues, school overcrowding, prime agricultural ground, rural lifestyle.

West Valley LUAC wanted park land, however motion to create a 6-acre park failed 6-2.

This subdivision did not meet the requirements of the West Valley Neighborhood Plan that restricts size of lots to 5 acres minimum.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the County Commissioner Passed 7-1