



FLATHEAD

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 | www.flatheadcd.org | 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer called the January 25, 2021, Business meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Pete Woll, Chair, absence is excused.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf, Samantha Tappenbeck and Ginger Kauffman, Flathead CD (FCD) staff; Fiona Handler, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member; Kenny Breidinger, Wildlife & Parks (FWP); Leo Rosenthal, FWP; Roger Noble; Mark Cahill; Phil Duty; Jason & Terri Beatty; Bill Whitsitt; Eric Osterberg; Mitch King, Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation; Shawn McDonough; John McCrorie; Jeff Larsen; Sandy Heil; John Murer.

Election of Officers:

Chair - Donna Pridmore motioned “to retain Pete Woll as Chair.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair - Verdell Jackson motioned “to nominate John Ellis as Vice-Chair.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer - Donna Pridmore motioned “to nominate Lech Naumovich as Secretary/Treasurer.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Appointments:

Supervisors and FWP stated they had talked with people that are interested in being on the district board as a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor. Board members discussed placing a notice in the paper or that anyone interested should submit a letter of interest and resume or background information which the Board can review.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to table supervisor appointments until a later date, and request resumes and letters of interest before the next meeting.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

John Ellis motioned “to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020, Business meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD/SWCDM 2021 combined budget. MACD will be hosting a question & answer session on Wednesday, January 27, 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM. Supervisors and Staff can attend.
2. Letter from Morrison Maierle regarding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company South Ponds Remediation Project and review request for Phase 2 of the project.
3. Request for Comments from Flathead County Planning & Zoning regarding Lone Aspen subdivision.
4. DNRC CD Bureau survey on how they serve districts.

FINANCIAL

The following bills were paid (Check Detail 1/4/2021 to 1/6/2021)

1. Unemployment Insurance Division \$115.74
2. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
3. MACD-EO \$90.00
4. Montana Conservation Corps \$6,000.00
5. Montana Sky networks \$10.00
6. Byte Savvy \$55.00

The following bills were paid (Check Detail 1/12/2021)

1. Anders Business Solutions \$3,821.00
2. Flathead County School District #6 \$3118.00
3. Mountain Trader \$74.40
4. Blue Cross Blue Shield \$1985.86

The following bills were paid (Check Detail 1/15/2021 to 1/19/2021)

1. VISA \$300.00 – Samantha Tappenbeck
2. VISA \$2,334.20 – Hailey Graf
3. Susan D. Hulslander, CPA \$91.00

John Ellis motioned “to approve Check Details dated 1/4/2021 to 1/6/2021, 1/12/2021, 1/15/2021 to 1/19/2021, 1/15/2021 to 1/19/2021 as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION:

John Ellis motioned “to allow Hailey Graf to sign for board members Lech Naumovich and Donna Pridmore attending via ZOOM.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310's

Beatty, FL-2020-070, Flathead River, bank stabilization/walkway/dock: Donna Pridmore and Kenny Breidinger explained that the site has some erosion from wave action. Mr. Beatty proposed to place rip rap, incise an access area to the water and install a dock. The proposed dock exceeds the allowable length of 20-feet specified in the Adopted Rules, but water depth at 20-feet cannot be achieved. The proposed 33-foot length will allow the applicant to achieve 5-feet of water depth. Hailey Graf reviewed the Team Member Report.

Donna Pridmore motioned "to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Butts, FL-2019-056C, Unnamed, complaint: Lech Naumovich explained that he has talked with Mr. Butts, who will complete and submit the Work Completion form for permit #FL-2020-002. Until then, the complaint remains open.

Lech Naumovich motioned "to table until the next meeting." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cahill, FL-2020-075C, Flathead River, complaint: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 10:30 A.M. at the site.

Day, FL20201-007, Rose Creek tributary: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 11:30 A.M. at the site.

DeVore, FL-2020-062, Whitefish River, steps/trail boardwalk, landing, dock: Lech Naumovich motioned "to table until next meeting awaiting additional information." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Donald A Gatzke Trust, FL-2020-063, Flathead River, fill: John Ellis explained that when they did the onsite inspection the river was not close and there were no side channels.

John Ellis motioned "this is not a project." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Eagle Bend Golf Club, FL-2020-073, Unnamed, bank stabilization: Kenny Breidinger explained this is a pond that is not connected to the stream or surface water.

John Ellis motioned "this is not a project." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Goodwin, FL-2020-067C, Mill Creek tributary: Shawn McDonough explained that he is the owner, not Goodwin. An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

Griffin, FL-2020-060C, Garnier Creek, complaint: Lech Naumovich explained that a shed was placed within 6-feet of the stream, which is a violation. Kenny Breidinger stated the shed is on compacted fill/pit run, and there is room to move the shed away from the stream.

Lech Naumovich motioned “this is a violation.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lech Naumovich motioned “the landowner must submit a 310-application to remediate the complaint within 60-days.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heil, FL-2020-042C, Blaine Creek, complaint: The complaint was previously tabled pending receipt of the 310-permit application. Sandy Heil stated she has just started the application process.

John Ellis motioned “to table pending receipt of the 310-permit application.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hodge Creek Reserve HOA, FL-2021-003, remove culvert/install pipe: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Friday, January 29, 1:45 P.M. at the site.

Hughes, FL-2020-065C, Mill Creek tributary, complaint: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

Hughes, FL-2020-066C, Mill Creek tributary, complaint: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 9:30 A.M. at the site.

Hughes, FL-2020-068C, Mill Creek tributary, complaint: John Ellis motioned “to table pending receipt of a response.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

InterBel Telephone Coop, FL-2021-005, various streams, fiber optics: Verdell Jackson explained that the project is to bury fiber optics and bore under streams from Olney to Kalispell. Kenny Breidinger noted that the application states boring will be only 3-feet under streams, and specifications were not included on how far back boring entrance and exists will be. The applicant needs to be made aware that if they bore 20-feet back from the top of bank and 5-feet under stream they may not need permit. If they do not want to go to that depth/length, an onsite inspection will need to be scheduled.

John Ellis motioned “to table the application until the next meeting. A letter is to be sent requesting additional information regarding the depth and distance back from the stream. Information from the Adopted Rules will also be included.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Krachen, FL-2020-071C, Unnamed, complaint: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 12:30 P.M. at the site.

Kusler, FL-2021-004, Flathead River, dock/shore station/boat lift: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

Legacy Mountain Holdings, FL-2020-064C, Unnamed, complaint: Verdell Jackson provided a description of the project, explaining that the landowner filled an area then created a channel to direct water to a culvert which passes under the highway. Kenny Breidinger added that it is very difficult to tell where the water used to flow and for what duration and what the implications of this work will be. Verdell and Kenny both suspect

there will be future issues with neighboring properties and that we should use caution because the water ultimately drains to a wetland and waterfowl sanctuary. All agreed that current conditions make it difficult to determine if it is a perennial stream and if the 310-law applies.

John Ellis motioned “to table and request a technical review by a consultant to help us determine if this is a perennial stream.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Legacy Mountain Holdings, FL-2021-002C, Unnamed, complaint: Verdell Jackson explained that the additional work has turned the water to flood the other storage unit.

John Ellis motioned “to send the standard complaint letter.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

McCrorie, FL-2020-074, Flathead River, bank stabilization: Donna Pridmore explained the project is to finish a previous bank stabilization project. The applicant has contacted the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Mr. McCrorie explained that Flathead Electric Coop could move the poles when ACOE approves. Kenny Breidinger noted that this is an extension of a previous rip rap project.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the application as submitted.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to amend the previous motion to include waiving the 15-day waiting period.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MT Outdoor Legacy Foundation, FL-2020-055, Flathead River, vegetation management.: Kenny Breidinger explained that there is a long wetland along the Eagle Bend community. There are a few high points with trees and brush where the applicant wants to remove some dead brush/trees/branches.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the application as submitted.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nagy, FL-2021-006, Flathead River, bank stabilization/dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 12:30 P.M. at the site.

Smith, FL-2020-072, Whitefish River, residence: John Ellis explained the application is for a residence that sits above the Whitefish River in an arear with sloughing issues. Kenny Breidinger stated it is a lower angle slope to the river than the neighboring houses, there are some benches, and the distance is further. They are dealing with the water from impermeable surfaces and runoff. John reviewed the Team Member Report.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sneed, FL-2021-001C, Bear Creek tributary, complaint: John Ellis motioned “to send the standard complaint letter.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wu, FL-2020-069, Swan River, fill/house deck: Leo Rosenthal stated that the project is for a new deck on an existing house. The work is well away from the top of the bank and not a project.

John Ellis motioned “this is not a project.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

District Credit Card Re-Allocation: Supervisor Lori Curtis submitted her resignation as of 12/31/2020.

John Ellis motioned “to remove Lori Curtis from the district credit card, and to add John Ellis to the credit card reallocating the \$500 spending authority to him.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Signature Authorizations: Supervisors Lori Curtis and Ronald Buentemeier submitted their resignations as of 12/31/2020.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to remove Lori Curtis and Ronald Buentemeier as authorized signers; and to add John Ellis and Donna Pridmore as authorized signers to district accounts.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Transfer Funds: John Ellis motioned “to approve the Resolution to transfer \$5,000 from main Fund 7201 to CIP Fund 7235.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

November 2020 End of Month Budget Report: Ginger Kauffman reviewed the November 2020 End of Month Budget Report with the Board.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to approve the November 2020 End of Month Budget Report as presented.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Records Disposal Request: Ginger Kauffman explained that records from 2012 are ready to be disposed of, however, any studies or reports tied to grants will be retained.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the Records Disposal request.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310-Files Disposal: Hailey Graf explained that districts are legally obligated to keep 310-files, but do not have to keep the hard copies. 310-files dating 2007 to current have been completely scanned. The district hired a person years ago to scan older 310-files, however they only partially scanned the files. Staff continues to slowly scan all documents in the older files. Hailey asked if staff could be allowed to dispose of 310-files that have been completely scanned and saved. CD Records Schedule #9 states that 310-files may be destroyed 5 years after completion, but significant files are to be kept permanently. Files may be offered to DNRC or the historically society prior to disposal. If they do not want the files a shredding company will be contacted.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to continue gradual work on making sure all 310-files are scanned to a safe electronic hard drive, confirm hard copies are scanned and dispose of the old files.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Standard Letters for 310s: Hailey Graf asked if, to streamline the complaint process, a standard complaint letter could be sent as soon as a complaint is received in the office instead of waiting until the Board makes a motion to send the standard complaint letter at an upcoming meeting. The letter will be sent with the complaint inspection report and complaint to the area supervisor. FWP also receives copies of complaints.

John Ellis motioned “to allow staff to send the standard complaint letter before initial board action on complaints.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf, Samantha Tappenbeck and Ginger Kauffman submitted the following report:

Office and Administration

310 – To date Ginger has processed six 310-Permit Applications and three Complaints. Ginger and Hailey coordinated with landowners to cover essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic and to safely arrange for onsite inspections. Ginger contacted landowners and applicants regarding 310-onsite inspections and processed 310-permits and letters. Hailey attended onsite inspections and coordinated with landowners to provide the virtual meeting attendance information.

Bookkeeping – Donna Pridmore & Ginger Kauffman reconciled the November banks statements and Ginger processed the November End of Month Report. Ginger processed payroll on December 8th & 22nd, completed December federal & state tax reports and payments, and completed 2020 4th Quarter (941-Federal and MT Unemployment) Reports and payments. Ginger processed payroll on January 6th & 20th and federal and state tax reports and payments will be done at the end of January. Ginger provided documents and a backup of the accounting system to the CPA to do W2's and 1099s.

District Office – Fiona Handler, the new Big Sky Watershed Corps Member started work on January 11. Hailey and Samantha have been working with her for orientation and training. Weekly staff meetings were held via Zoom each Monday at 2 PM. Annual employee performance reviews were conducted for all three staff members on January 13.

Legislative – The FCD sponsored Resolution for the Study of Erosion on Flathead River has been carried to the Legislature by Senator Mark Blasdel. It is listed as LC2292 as an Interim Study Resolution. Hailey will work with Jason Mohr for bill drafting. Additional details can be found on the [Montana Legislature Detailed Bill Information Page](#).

Hailey attended the MACD Legislative Ad Hoc Committee meetings on December 18 and January 12, & 26. At those meetings, [SB 20](#) was discussed. This bill would directly impact FCD and it may be worthwhile to explore the option of creating a CD-led Water

Council similar to the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council or the Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council. Hailey will continue to attend these meetings and will provide pertinent updates to the board.

MACD has asked FCD to contact Rep. Brian Putnam in support of [HB 30](#). This bill corrects an issue with CD Supervisor election law and would prevent a quirk in the legislation that causes all supervisors to need election at the same time if a vacancy was filled mid-term.

DNRC has also asked that FCD support [HB 6](#) for the Renewable Resource Grants, which we have two of currently. This bill is currently in Appropriations committee and our local legislator for that committee is John Fuller. If appropriate, the board can also submit written testimony in support of HB 6 by February 20.

Hailey is also monitoring [LC2023](#) which will amend the requirements to get a no-rise certificate for certain projects in the floodplain. Currently, almost all projects in the floodplain are required to get a no-rise certificate which requires about \$30,000 in modeling by an engineer. This, in turn, means that many landowners and conservation districts cannot afford to do stream restoration projects. Amending these requirements could greatly improve our ability to maintain and restore streams across the state.

There is also a soil health bill proposed that would create an interim subcommittee to review the need for a state-wide soil health program. Hailey will provide updates on this proposed bill as they become available.

Trainings – Hailey is taking an online Business Management training through FVCC and participated in a legislative testimony training hosted by MACD & DRNC on January 15. Samantha completed a self-paced, Intermediate WordPress training through FVCC. Ginger is taking a self-paced, Intermediate QuickBooks training through FVCC. FCD Staff participated in the OWL web cam training. Hailey and Samantha participated in the Montana Forest Action Plan RFP Training.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek Restoration Project – Hailey met with project partners, including Whitefish Lake Institute, the City of Whitefish, and Fish Wildlife and Parks, to discuss potential project approaches for the new reach downstream. WGM Group provided an engineering consultation to project partners regarding project feasibility and risks. Hailey solicited additional engineering companies for interest in project and feasibility of budget and timeframe.

Trumbull Creek – River Design Group (RDG) has begun ground water monitoring and conducted a wetland delineation. RDG also submitted preliminary cross sections and a flow exhibit with their December status report.

Krause Creek – An updated scope of work and schedule was approved by DNRC and the EPA. Funding for this project is expected to be released in Spring, 2021 and contracting with DRNC will begin at that point.

Programs

Conservation Grant Program – There are currently 13 open or recently completed contracts, seven in FY19/20 and six in FY20/21. These contract periods overlap because of recent adjustments to the program timeline. Funded practices include weed control, reforestation, native seeding, wildlife habitat improvement, riparian buffer improvement, bank stabilization, and windbreaks. The application period for FY21/22 opened on January 1. We have already received several inquiries, and one application.

Seedling Program – FCD began accepting orders on September 14. We have received and submitted five orders to date. Samantha provided information to landowners about the ordering process and access to the current inventory and reviewed and approved conservation plans for several orders placed directly through the Nursery.

Education Grant Program – FCD has funded three contracts in FY20/21 for projects that (1) develop a conservation curriculum for preschoolers, (2) plant native-species at the Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship, and (3) expand a program that uses hydroponic tower gardens to teach students about growing and supplying food. Samantha worked with Ginger to process the reimbursement payment for a completed project and update the contract files.

College Scholarship Program – The application period for 2021 College Scholarships is now open. Samantha distributed program information to Flathead County schools and educators and advertised the program in the Flathead Beacon and on social media. Applications are due March 15th.

Watershed Support Program – We received one application from a landowner on Middle Ashley Creek. The application was incomplete, but Samantha coordinated with the landowner, land manager, NRCS, and FCD Supervisor to arrange a site visit. Samantha, the land manager, and Donna Pridmore visited on site to discuss the potential project and determine next steps. The project includes three possible components: an efficiency upgrade to the irrigation system, riparian livestock fencing, and eroding bank stabilization.

Pollinator Initiative – 43 people have indicated interest in participating in this program. 20 pollinator plots (0.7 acres) were seeded in spring and fall 2020. Samantha went on site visits with landowners at Flathead Electric property and the lower Swan River. Samantha recorded a presentation about the Pollinator Initiative for a breakout session at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting.

Education and Outreach

Workshops and Events – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person events were canceled or postponed. Staff continues to work with partner organizations to plan alternative outreach opportunities and reschedule events when it is safe to resume gatherings. Samantha is working with partners involved in the Small Acreage Landowner Workshop Series to convert these workshops to a webinar series that will be facilitated by FCD.

Advertisements – FCD ran advertisements in the Flathead Beacon about the College Scholarships Program (December 9, January 13) and 310 permit information (December 23). Upcoming advertisements will include information about the Conservation Grant Program, Small Acreage Landowner Webinar Series, and 310 permit information.

Website and Social Media – Over the past 30 days, the website was viewed 1,092 times, with 84% new (vs. returning) visitors. The most viewed pages and posts were the FCD homepage, a blog post about the life history of larch trees, and a blog post about heeling in bareroot plants. Over the same period, the FCD Facebook page gained 3 new followers, posts reached 525 people, and there were 130 post engagements. The most engaging posts were about the WLI Science Quencher, urban rain gardens, managing pollinator gardens in the winter, and a Daily Interlake article about Montana Milk Moovers.

eNewsletter – The Local Dirt was distributed on 12/7/2020 and 1/4/2021 and included upcoming events, available programs, a partner profile, Success Story, blog post, and 310 permitting information. The current mailing list includes 275 people.

Issue	# of opens	# of clicks	Most clicked links
December 2020	259	46	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FCD Success Story: Magone Reforestation Project 2. FCD Blog Post: Upcycle Your Evergreens 3. FCD Native Seeds webpage
January 2021	371	54	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WLI Science Quencher event 2. Farm Hands Nourish event 3. Swan Valley Connections - Ethnobotany presentation event

Partnerships

- Hailey attended the MACD Leadership meetings on December 18 and January 8 & 15. Hailey also attended the monthly board meetings for Lake, Missoula, and Gallatin Conservation Districts for both training and coordination among districts.
- Hailey met with representatives from NRCS and Fire Safe Flathead to discuss possible opportunities for funding a forest health and fuels reduction project near Little Bitterroot Lake.
- Samantha and Fiona met with the Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership Group.
- Samantha worked with Heidi Fleury (Lake County CD) and Sarah Bowman (Gallatin CD) to coordinate, prepare, and record a virtual breakout session presentation on the Pollinator Initiative for the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in February.
- Samantha attended the AIS Update for Conservation Districts zoom meeting.
- Hailey attended the River 2 Lake Initiative meeting.
- Samantha and Hailey participated in the Flathead Basin Commission Education & Outreach Partner Meeting; Samantha signed up to be on the E&O Steering Committee.
- Hailey began discussions with DNRC, MACD, and other CDs to create a CD idea-share platform. This would be a monthly meeting open to all CDs and

partners. Each month would have a topic and would start with a short presentation by an expert on that topic. Following the presentation, all attending would have an opportunity to discuss challenges and share ideas for solutions.

- FCD Staff participated in the MACD-DNRC Info Session regarding the DNRC-CARDD budget in the coming legislative biennium.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson reported

➤ **Programs**

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Sign-up deadline of November 17th
 - Joint Chief's (JC) Proposal
 - JC proposal was not selected for funding this year
 - None of the 3 MT proposals were selected due to less than half of the funding compared to last year
 - Submitted 3 TIPs for 2022 funding that went through the first review last week with very positive remarks by reviewers
 - Wedge Canyon – North Fork
 - Little Bitterroot Lake
 - Irrigation Improvements for Lower Valley
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Both of our CSP renewal applications were funded
 - Developing contracts for those two

➤ **Review Items**

- Took part in 2 days of TIP reviews for Missoula Area
 - 17 TIPs submitted in Missoula Area for 2022
- Firesafe Flathead meeting on 1/22

➤ **Upcoming Items**

- Firesafe Flathead meeting on 1/28
- Montana Focused Conservation (MFC) Steering Committee Meeting on 2/18

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Kalispell Field Office has returned to the very beginning of COVID precautions due to increase in cases towards the end of 2020
 - One person per office space (one per individual enclosed off and one per open space)
 - To move forwards in office reopening process, office must be below 2 new cases/10,000 people in the county for 14 consecutive days

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): No report.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Verdell Jackson reported three zoning changes and three subdivisions were reviewed.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported an accessory apartment, and a beer and wine permit were reviewed.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): No report.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Lech Naumovich reported the January 19th meeting included legislative overview, permanent funding for FBC, presentation of a Watershed Study and Septic Modeling, and the education committee held a kick-off meeting.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Consent Agenda: Hailey Graf proposed using a consent agenda. She explained that is when items listed at the top of the agenda (minutes, correspondence, check details), which normally have full consent of the Board, is covered all at once, but only if the information is provided in the meeting packets for Board prior review. The Chair opens the meeting, calls attendance, and asked if anything needs to be removed from the consent agenda. If Board members have questions or concerns, that item is moved to the end of the agenda for additional discussion and motion. The Board agreed to try it at the February meeting.

Committees: Hailey Graf proposed developing standing committees that could provide input and expertise to staff in subject areas, such as district projects, personnel etc. She noted that the district is required by the state to have a personnel committee.

John Ellis stated that as the Chair is not in attendance, and the district needs two more supervisors, this should be a discussion of the full board.

Work Authorization Sheet: Hailey Graf explained that the state 310-permit application has a signature page where the landowner applicant and contractor sign. At some point, the Flathead CD (FCD) added a Work Authorization sheet which requires the landowner and applicant to sign. She noted that this is redundant and has created confusion for landowners, applicants, and contractors. She asked if anyone knew the reason for having the form attached to the permit application. Board members suggested staff contact Caitlin Overland with regards to liability, and then continue with a full board discussion. Staff will also review old minutes.

Legislative Outreach: Hailey Graf provided an update to the board and described that the FCD info booklet for legislators is nearly completed. She also proposed an idea to host a series of legislative virtual happy hours as an informal meet & greet opportunity. The board encouraged trying it one evening, making it live with no videos, and interactive. Hailey will keep the board updated.

Conservation District Watershed Council: During the legislative update to the board, Hailey Graf described that one of the currently proposed bills may create a legislatively attached watershed council in the greater Clark Fork Basin.

Legislative Updates: Hailey Graf presented legislative updates to the Board.

HB6 – The board agreed to support the bill. Hailey will draft a letter of support and send to supervisors for review and comments. The deadline is February 2nd.

LC0943 - Hailey provided some background on the issues related to decreased revenue from the coal severance taxes. She explained that DNRC is requesting funds from the general budget, and Montana Association of Conservation Districts is asking all conservation districts to support the bill. The board agreed to support LC0943. Hailey will draft written testimony to be reviewed by the board and signed by Pete.

PROGRAM PAYMENTS: Samantha Tappenbeck requested feedback from the board regarding the process for completed program payments. Supervisors agreed that approval is needed from the board before payment is made, however they wanted further discussion when the Chair was present.

The next Business meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Lech Naumovich made a motion “to adjourn. Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Hailey Graf
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>2/22/2021</u>	<u>Pete C. Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)