



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Ronald Buentemeier called the January 28, 2019, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board member absent: Lori Curtis, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM); Sean Johnson, Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS); Donna Pridmore.

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek motioned "to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications *eResource, Conservation Clips, Forestry Notes*
www.nacdnet.org
 2. Email: Montana Rangelands Partnership newsletter. Contact Stacey Barta
SBarta@mt.gov
 3. Email: Petroleum CD newsletter *District Dirt* www.petroleumcd.com
 4. Email: Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) college scholarship applications are due 3/8/2019. Contact Melissa Downing, 406-443-5711
<https://macdnet.org/programsevents/scholarships>
 5. Email: Starting 2019, Montana DEQ requires SWPPP Preparer certification for Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) writing for construction activity. A SWPPP Administrator and SWPPP Preparer certification and recertification workshop will be held March 13-14, City of Kalispell Wastewater Treatment Plant. Contractors, builder, land developers, engineers, consultants, municipalities, or anyone wanting to learn the newest ESC and LID technologies should attend. Contact Jennifer Lee, 509-947-6583, CleanWatersATS.com
 6. Email: Announcement - two-day workshop in Billings, February 5-6, *Planning, Preparing, and Passing On* agricultural operations.
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Register online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plan-prepare-pass-it-on-tickets-53073346809>

7. Email: Carbon Conservation District is hosting a gardening seminar on Saturday, February 9th in the Bridger Elementary Multipurpose Room at 1:00-3:00pm. Open to the public with no charge! Contact 406-962-3641, Ext. 105.
8. Email: Montana Watershed Coordination Council newsletter *Watershed News*
<https://mtwatersheds.org/app/watershed-news>
9. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana newsletter *the Montana Conservationist* <https://swcdm.org/news>

FINANCIAL

The following bill was paid prior to the meeting:

1. CenturyLink \$278.97

The following bills were reviewed:

1. MontanaSky Networks \$10.00
2. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1545.56
3. Whitefish Lake Institute \$103.10

John Ellis motioned “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

NEW BUSINESS

Work Plan: Valerie Kurth stated she had added Dean Sirucek’s comment to *assist partner agencies with TMDL outreach* under Goal 3. C. of the 2019 Workplan. No other changes were made to the draft. Valerie noted that she will send out final copies of the Work Plan when approved.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to accept the amended 2019 Work Plan.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pollinator Garden: Hailey Graf stated there are several options for moving forward with the pollinator garden project. To help determine which direction the district would like to take, Hailey presented a diagram that outlined the main topics for consideration, including primary design, lease options, budgeting.

1) Design

Hailey provided copies of the preliminary design and stated that the main features of the garden would include a windbreak, native grasses, cover crops, conservation tree seedlings, pollinator meadow, dry streambed (to collect runoff), and rain garden. She added that before moving forward with a final site plan, elements of the garden can be added, removed,



or designed to be implemented in phases according to our priorities and budget. Hailey asked if anyone had questions regarding the site plan or conceptual packet.

Valerie Kurth stated she liked the dry stream bed, and Samantha Tappenbeck asked if it would actually be dry. Hailey responded that it would be dry most of the year but could be used to demonstrate runoff collection from gutters or parking lot areas, as well as show what riparian plantings look like.

Hailey explained that the upland tree section could showcase the district's conservation seedling program and provide privacy to the neighbors. The windbreak area could similarly be used to demonstrate the conservation seedling program. In the grass area, the district could use native grass seed mixes or non-native mixes that are recommended for cover crops or reclamation sites.

John Ellis asked about the materials used for the paths. Hailey responded that the least expensive option is crushed gravel, and it would be a wise choice to begin with because other materials, such as pavers, would need to start with a crushed gravel base anyway. As an alternative, *stepable* plants, such as creeping thyme or micro-clover, would also be cost-effective, and they are quick to establish and do well with foot traffic.

Donna Pridmore asked about irrigation. Hailey explained that there is an existing trunk line that runs along the east side of the site. We could tap into that and run lateral lines, east to west, and place a spigot in the middle near the outdoor classroom. Driplines could be placed around specific plants or trees without having a sprinkler system.

Valerie asked about ensuring the design offered options to build it in phases. Hailey replied that based on the district's priorities, Forestoration can help the district come up with a multi-year plan that allows for changes. Ronald Buentemeier agreed that it is essential to phase the development of the garden in small sections and allow for changes from the original plan if needed.

Samantha Tappenbeck asked if there were any maintenance concerns with each exhibit, such as weeding. Hailey stated that Forestoration will help develop weed suppression strategies, such as cover crops and sheets of black plastic.

Dean Sirucek asked Hailey to better define the rain garden. Hailey explained that a rain garden is an inverted area used to capture water run-off and help filter pollutants before water enters an aquifer or stream. They can collect water from roofs, driveways or parking lots, and they are planted with water-loving plants. Dean stated that some type of a French drain field may need to be added to help with any potential high run-off situations. Donna asked where the collectors would be. Hailey stated the garden is the high point and the rain garden may have to be excavated to capture runoff; however, that question will be answered when elevations are taken. Ronald agreed that a drain/drainage area is needed to stop water from running on to adjacent properties.

Verdell Jackson asked about the bee boxes. Hailey stated the boxes shown in the design are for leaf cutter bees, not honey bees, wasps, or hornets. She noted that native bee species



nest in holes and trees. This is an example of how to provide that type of habitat because native bee species also can help with pest control. The bee boxes are for promoting native pollinators and are not commercial honey bee boxes.

Sean Johnson asked if the adjoining parking lot or road gets salted/plowed; and wondered if salt might be moved in to the south edge of the garden. Hailey stated parking will be on the south side adjacent to the road. A 10-foot utility easement is in that area and nothing will be planted there. She noted the area may be sufficient if runoff is well planned.

2) Lease

Verdell Jackson asked about the lease options for the adjacent property. Hailey explained that when Tim Birk, the owner of the office building and adjacent lot, attended the 310-meeting, he proposed two options. 1) A short-term lease with a 60-day auto renew, or 2) to add the adjacent property as a line item to the existing lease. There was general agreement that the second option is preferable. The current lease ends and will be reevaluated in June 2021. Valerie Kurth and Ronald Buentemeier both noted that the district has had 5-year leases. Hailey stated the taxes on the lot are \$649/year, and, when divided by 12, this comes out to just over \$54/month, so the annual lease cost for the lot and the office is just under \$1600/month. The draft lease was reviewed and approved by Tara Fugina, Flathead County Attorney's office. Pete Woll asked if Tim was ok with the new total per month. Hailey replied yes.

Hailey reported she had contacted the Evergreen Sewer & Water District, and they recommended a seasonal meter specifically for the lot. If it is winterized and we don't have sewer, the meter cost is \$100/month for 100,000 gallons. This works out to be .88/1000 gallons. John noted then the district is billed at an irrigation rate rather than a sewage rate.

3) Budget

John asked about the budget and where funds would come from, and Hailey noted several potential account lines in the budget: Watersheds Other, Education Supplies, Conservation Practices Other, and Engineering. A brief discussion followed regarding possible large upcoming expenses, available funds, and timeline. Hailey stated that beginning the project could be weather dependent, and work may begin April or May. Pete explained that he would like to get a lease agreement before July 1st because the Weed Department has agreed to spray the lot, but the district must have a current lease before it can be done. Hailey also noted that grants cannot be applied for until the district has a lease. John asked if Hailey had a dollar amount it would take to begin the project. Hailey proposed setting a cap of \$10,000, which would be enough to initiate work and seek grant funds. Ronald expressed that \$10,000 is low and it would be difficult to accomplish anything with that. He thought we would need \$20,000 to begin. Board members agreed \$20,000 would be a good initial start, and then a budget could be set in July. John voiced concern regarding the amount of time and work the project will take, especially for Hailey. Hailey stated she would love to take on the challenge of the project. Valerie added that Hailey's enthusiasm and attitude are testament to her ability to carry the project through. It may take additional time in the beginning; however, we have good communication with our partners and a great board. Pete asked for an update on what Forestation is doing for the district. Hailey replied for \$2500 Forestation is doing the site plan, design work and providing materials to help



with grants. They will also oversee the on-the-ground development of the project and donate time to the project.

John asked if we would have to wait until we treat the weeds before starting the project. Pete explained that it would be best to spray before doing anything else because knapweed seeds can stay in the ground for 7-9 years. Spraying should be done as soon as the weeds emerge in the spring, probably April or May. John asked if the spraying fits in to the timetable of the project. Hailey stated yes, and then we can start excavation, water line installation, and adding soil and plants. Dean agreed with Ronald that stages needs to be built into the plan with approximate costs. Hailey stated the preliminary design is the end goal. Preceding the preliminary design, Forestoration will produce a series of overlaying plans, and the district can determine what that series is (i.e. year 1-3 for irrigation/excavating/planting). Hailey noted when she talked with other companies, they were not willing to do this, however, Forestoration is.

Dean Sirucek motioned “that the general design concept that was brought forward by Forestoration be accepted as our general plan for the education center and pollinator garden.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to accept the amended lease agreement as proposed.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve a \$20, 000 limit this Fiscal Year on the Education Center/Pollinator Garden using funds from Watershed Other, Engineering, Conservation Practices Other and Educational Supplies accounts.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hailey stated that she would like to move forward with applying for grants. The Montana Native Plant Society Small Grants Program offers a grant for \$1500 for the purchase of plants and is due January 31st. Ronald asked what the stipulations of the grant are. Hailey replied it is to be used for education to further the values of native plants. Grants are awarded by March 15th and must be spent within a year.

John Ellis motioned “to apply to the Montana Native Plant Society Small Grants program.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hailey stated that the Bayer Pharmaceutical Company also offers a grant program with up to \$5000 for supplies related to pollinators. They award one grant in each state every year, however Montana has not yet been awarded a grant. This grant has a rolling deadline.

John Ellis motioned “to apply for the Bayer Company pollinator grant.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dyer’s Woad Cooperative Project: Valerie Kurth explained Dyer’s woad is a priority 1A species in the Montana Noxious Weed list (highest priority). There are 7 known locations of dyer’s woad in Montana, one of which is in Flathead County on Tally Lake Road (Flathead National Forest). The Montana Dyer’s Woad Cooperative Project is focused on managing the



spread of dyer's woad in Montana and, ultimately, eradicating it entirely. The project is coordinated by Beaverhead County and has grant funding from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund and Department of Agriculture with matching funds from Beaverhead, Missoula, and Park Counties and the University of Montana (U of M). In summer 2018, the project hired a student from the U of M to conduct weekly monitoring of the Tally Lake site. He recorded data and removed over 475 seedlings. He was paid a modest stipend through the grant. The student has volunteered to do the Tally Lake monitoring again in 2019, but he is graduating this spring, so the funds cannot be issued through the U of M. Beaverhead County cannot employ him because all the work is in Flathead County. The project partners have approached Flathead CD (FCD) about the possibility of hiring him as a short-term employee and then having Beaverhead County reimburse FCD with the grant funds, not to exceed the allotted \$1200. Valerie asked Laurie Zeller, DNRC, about how this could work, and Laurie suggested hiring him as a short-term employee. The grant coordinator in Beaverhead County is working out the time frame and hourly wage, and she can also draft a Memorandum of Understanding. Valerie explained that these details were not yet final, but she wondered if the board would be supportive of this project. Dean Sirucek asked when this will happen. Valerie replied this summer - May through September. John Ellis stated he is ok with the concept, but the district should wait to make a motion to approve until formal paper work (terms of employment and MOU) is received. Supervisors agreed.

Computer Service Agreement: Valerie Kurth stated that the district needs to renew the one-year Computer Service Agreement for security and updates. The district currently has an Agreement with Byte Savvy for \$45 per month and noted that the Agreement is the same as in previous years. Hailey Graf noted that Byte Savvy also handles the district IT issues which are billed separately. Valerie stated this is working well for the district and recommended continuing the Agreement with Byte Savvy.

Dean Sirucek motioned "to renew the Computing Service Agreement with Byte Savvy." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Camp Sponsorship Program: Hailey Graf stated Holly McKenzie recently contacted her about the possibility of the district sponsoring students to attend a scouting camp where they would learn about natural resource-related practices and skill building. Holly wondered if this would fit into the district's camp sponsorship program.

Hailey reviewed the district website for camp sponsorships and found it was in need of updating. She proposed language updates to the website page that would make the intent of the program clearer and provide direct links to camp web pages. Hailey said that she would reach out directly to the camps and let them know the district has a sponsorship program for students from Flathead County. Hailey noted that no one applied last year, and she asked if the board would consider sponsoring students for a scout camp. Dean Sirucek stated the district should consider it as we have supported camps at Glacier Institute. John Ellis stated the new language does not mention Envirothon as it does in the old language. Hailey replied Envirothon is a separate program, so she was going to make it a separate page altogether. Board members agreed that updating the website is a good idea.



John Ellis motioned “to update the website on the Natural Resource Summer Camps.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Free the Seeds Event: Hailey Graf reported that *Free the Seeds* is an educational event hosted by Farm Hands – Nourish the Flathead, a nonprofit group that seeks to support local farmers through community involvement and education. The one-day event will be held March 2nd, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. at the Flathead Valley Community College. The event includes seed swaps, workshops, kid’s activities and informational/vendor booths. Hailey noted that this is a great opportunity to reach out to landowners and agencies and stated she would like to set up a booth. Early registration (by February 15th) is \$40.

Valerie Kurth stated she attended the event the first year, which was very well attended. Donna Pridmore stated she had volunteered last year and observed a lot of seeds being exchanged at the event. Dean Sirucek noted that it would be a good opportunity to have information on the district cost-share program.

John Ellis motioned “to have a booth at the Free the Seeds Event on March 2nd and authorize \$40 for registration.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

December 2018 End of Month Budget Report: The December 2018 End of Month Budget was reviewed with the Board. Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve the December 2018 End of Month Budget Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Transfer Funds: Ginger Kauffman explained that the district needs to move funds from Fund 7201 to the Capital Improvement Fund. Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds from Fund 7201 to Fund 7235.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Valerie Kurth and Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon - Winter 310, Education Grants, new 310 ad with QR code, landowner workshop; Mountain Trader – Winter 310
2. Hailey attended the final class on website optimization on December 5th.
3. Valerie and Hailey attended the Montana Agricultural Forum on December 6th. Hailey set up a table with FCD program information. *Pete Woll also attended and highly recommended all supervisors attend.*
4. Hailey attended the River to Lake Initiative meeting on December 19th and the Flathead Conservation Roundtable meeting on January 9th.
5. Valerie, Hailey, and Pete Woll attended the Western Montana Grazing & Agriculture Conference, January 17th – 18th, in Missoula. Presentations included noxious weed ID and management, soil health and cover crops, and alternative livestock grazing strategies. Hailey set up a table with FCD program information, which was well-received by attendees.
6. Hailey and Valerie met with Noel Jinings with Flathead County Weeds Department to discuss creating a noxious weed webpage and future outreach options.



7. Hailey attended the first Family Forestry Expo planning meeting of the year on January 23rd.
8. Legislative: Staff organized and coordinated FCD's legislative breakfast, which was held on December 6th. Eight legislators attended the breakfast, as well as two county commissioners, three DNRC staff members, and one person each from MACD, NRCS, and WLI. The 2019 legislative session is now underway, and Valerie is monitoring the weekly updates from MACD. *Valerie asked supervisors to contact her if they wanted the legislative information in a different form.*
9. Valerie attended the 310-outreach meeting with the City of Whitefish on January 9th.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek – Valerie continues to work with Samantha Tappenbeck and other project partners on the documentation required by DEQ (e.g., monitoring plan, sampling and analysis plan, and landowner agreement), and she compiled and submitted the annual report in mid-December. Valerie set up an internal website using our new Microsoft system to share information and documents with our project partners. Valerie, Samantha Tappenbeck, and Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute) met with representatives from the City of Whitefish on January 23rd to discuss the City's cash and in-kind match.

Landowner Programs

Seedling Program – Valerie and Hailey have processed 10 seedling orders and helped numerous people select appropriate conservation seedlings.

Education and Outreach

Ashley Creek Outreach – Hailey and Valerie attended the Ashley Creek Landowner Outreach meeting on December 4th. The meeting was attended by 24 landowners and approximately 15 agency/organization representatives. Discussions included current sources of pollution, potential projects that landowners are interested in, and landowner assistance programs available.

Flathead High School Career Fair – Hailey participated in the Career Fair on December 13th. She represented a career in natural resource & agriculture and presented to the students on what experience they would need for a successful career in these fields.

Kalispell After-Care Program – On November 29th, Hailey led an education program for approximately 30 students, grades K-5. She presented on how pollinators are needed for our food and led a painting with vegetables activity.

College Scholarship Program – Hailey updated the college scholarship program webpage and the application for 2019. She created a new scholarship ad and, with help from guidance counselors, it was distributed to all the high schools in the county.

Small Acreage Landowner Seminar – The 6-week seminar starts on February 6th. Valerie will again be teaching the soils section, and Hailey will be teaching the riparian area/water quality section.



Website/social media - Blog post topics for December and January included: the surprising value of a Christmas tree, water conservation, fun facts about Flathead River, and 310 permitting. In December and January, the website had 378 users and 370 users, respectively. Traffic to the stream permitting and college scholarship pages has increased since updating the information and graphics. Facebook page-reach was 692 users for the last 30 days.

Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) reported:
Update on recent work:

- Attended Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference, January 17-18
- Cow Creek Restoration Project (DEQ-319)
 - Met with City of Whitefish regarding match agreement
 - Edits to Sampling & Analysis Plan and Landowner Agreement
- Ashley Creek Landowner meeting (12/4)
 - 24 landowners and 14 agency/program representatives
 - Discussed background information, water quality issues and natural resource concerns, programs available to address issues/concerns
 - Used interactive mapping activity to identify potential projects and arrange follow-up site visits (seven identified, three site visits so far)
- Working on developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Central Clark Fork Basin
 - Hope to engage conservation districts in the area: Granite, Missoula, Mineral County, and Eastern Sanders County

Available Programs:

- **Ranching for Rivers:** Cost-share program (50%)
 - Financial assistance available for labor and materials to construct fences, hardened crossings, water gaps, offsite watering tanks, pipeline, etc.
 - Assistance available from certified grazing plan developer
 - Projects must be located in an area with a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (assistance is available to help determine if you qualify)
 - OPEN ENROLLMENT

John Ellis asked about the “ultimate goal” of the Cow Creek project. Samantha replied that it is a passive restoration project to install fencing and riparian buffers on two large ranch properties along Cow Creek.

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

- **Programs**
 - Farm Bill
 - Passed and signed by President Trump on 12/20/2018



- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) remains an active program moving forwards with some changes, EQIP left largely unchanged, Regional Conservationist Partnership Program (RCPP) is now a stand-alone program instead of needing to be supported through either Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or CSP
 - EQIP
 - Unable to get any of our high tunnel or pollinator applications funded
 - Currently working on our 21 regular EQIP applications
 - Transition starting to the new Montana Focused Conservation (MFC)
 - Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) will be our new focused areas to contract within
 - Currently working on getting a proposal together to address fuels reduction/forest health up North Fork area
 - 2019 is an optional year to start working through TIP's but FY2020 will be TIP's only; no more "old version" of EQIP contracting whatever applications come through door
- **Review Items**
 - Partial shutdown status
- **Upcoming Items**
 - Meeting in Bozeman on how to transition to the new "Targeted Conservation" approach for EQIP
 - Transition to new work unit will officially start on Monday February 4th
- **Miscellaneous**
 - I have been selected to become the new supervisory District Conservationist (DC) for the Kalispell/Eureka work unit effective February 2nd
 - MT water supply outlook – as of Jan 1st
 - Flathead Basin – 86% of normal
 - Sub basins range from 57% to 90% of normal

Sean explained that the new focused approach to EQIP would involve more outreach and planning from their office but will also encourage the agency to focus on the most urgent conservation issues in the County. It is being implemented state-wide.

Verdell Jackson asked if a landowner wanting to remove beetle-killed trees would qualify for the program. Sean stated NRCS is limited to pre-commercial stands, which means most trees must have a diameter at breast height of 6 inches or less. Projects must also be located on private land in the North Fork Area for this program. Other areas, such as Many Lakes/Foothills Road, if there is enough landowner interest. Discussion followed regarding slash treatments, endangered species habitat requirements, permitting issues, and program requirements.



Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported there are currently 6-8 supervisors testifying before the Legislature for the DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division, which includes the Conservation Districts Bureau, budget. Additional funding will be requested for a base of \$65,000 for all conservation districts in the state.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): No report.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported the meeting included a rezone of an annexed neighborhood. The neighborhood was in the doughnut and the county had zoned it to be more restrictive than the City of Whitefish. The board put it off and gave the homeowners two months to submit an application to go back to the City's zoning.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): Lori Curtis was unable to attend, but submitted the following report:

LEGISLATIVE

On Monday, January 14th, I joined a distinguished group of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) partners to present to the House Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Natural Resources Committee, and the Joint Natural Resources and Transportation Budget Subcommittee in Helena. By all accounts, the partners all did an excellent job representing their various entities and presenting a united front in support of funding this important program. The committee members seemed visibly engaged, very interested in gaining knowledge, and impressed with the program. It is interesting to note the increased level of involvement in AIS by Montana Conservation Districts.

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS MEMBER

On Wednesday, January 16th through Friday, January 18th, I attended a Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) Supervisor and Member training in Bozeman. UC3's BSWC member Sarah Ganter and I both learned many things about the program and enjoyed engaging with other supervisors and members. Sarah is currently working on the AIS Marina Pilot Project from Whitefish Lake Institute's (WLI's) office in Whitefish but will be visiting the DNRC and Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) headquarters in Helena, partners, and attending trainings throughout the state during her tenure. I will bring Sarah to the next Board meeting. We intended to come to tonight's meeting, but she will be joining me in Helena. Sarah is living in Kalispell with a group of other AmeriCorps Members.

Two meetings are scheduled for February:

AIS Early Detection & Monitoring Workshop, Co-sponsored by FWP and UC3, Tuesday, February 12th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, FWP Region 1, Kalispell

UC3 Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 13th, 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, FWP Region 1, Kalispell

Lori noted that the agendas are being finalized, and if anyone wants the agendas to please contact her.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): No report.



Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Dean Sirucek reported the January meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is March 19th.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): Verdell Jackson reported he testified on Senate Bill 47 in Helena. The Bill passed the Senate and will go to the House. Funding for the CFKRBC is currently through grants.

State TMDL Advisory Group (STAG) Meeting: Dean Sirucek reported a STAG meeting was held January 4th with 18 members. The primary areas identified for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study/work the next 2 years are the Smith River, Missouri River and the Yellowstone River.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Oaths of Office – Oath of Office forms were given to Ronald Buentemeier and Verdell Jackson to sign and have recorded with the Clerk & Recorder’s office.

FCD Signs Update – Valerie Kurth reported that Lincoln CD is now in the process of applying for an HB 223-grant for new boundary signs for Flathead and Lincoln CD’s.

Renewable Resource Grant & Loan Program (RRGL) Grant Hearings: Valerie Kurth explained that the RRGL grant application hearings for Trumbull Creek and Krause Creek will be held Wednesday in Helena. She stated that the consultants will attend. Valerie noted that Board members have encouraged her to attend and testify, and she thought it would be good experience for Hailey Graf to attend as well. The Board approved travel.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Dean Sirucek motioned “to adjourn.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Hailey Graf
Assistant Conservationist

Valerie Kurth, Ph. D.
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

2/11/2019 Ronald Buentemeier Chair
(Date) (Signature) (Title – Chair etc.)

