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## **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chair Pete Woll called the April 24, 2023, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

**Board members present:** Pete Woll, Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; Gordon Ash; Supervisor; Roger Marsonette, Supervisor; Scott Rumsey, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members absent:** John Ellis, Vice Chair. Absence is excused.

Also, in attendance were Samantha Tappenbeck, Jessie Walthers, Ginger Kauffman, FCD Staff; Bill Yankee, Associate Supervisor; Kenny Breidinger, FWP; Chris Peterson, Hungry Horse News; Mark Siderius; Bill Myers; Mikel Siemens, CORE Water Consulting; Mary T. McClelland; Elizabeth Blacker; Trent Baker, legal counsel for Ambler's; Rick & Carole Murphy; Tristan Scott, Flathead Beacon; Charles Bolton, KECl; Monica Jungster; Mike Kopitzke.

## **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: Minutes**

- 3/27/2023 Business Meeting Minutes

### **Consent Agenda Item 3: Financial**

Check Detail dated 4/12/2023:

1. Fisher's Technology \$1,104.49
2. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
3. Lake County Conservation District \$3,000.00
4. Montana State Fund \$583.76
5. Mountain States Leasing \$1,884.86
6. River Design Group 15, 222.03

### **Consent Agenda Item 4: Correspondence**

- HB 321 (CD Funding) passed house Appropriations Unanimously
- Flathead County Finance Training for District Staff & Supervisors will be held Thursday, May 18, 3:00 or 6:00 P.M. in the South Campus building, 40 11<sup>th</sup> Street West, Kalispell.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the consent agenda.” Gordon Ash seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

General – No one was in attendance to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

Bayside Park & Marine Center: Bill Myers asked if anyone had comments or questions after viewing his property in Bigfork. No application has been submitted, and no one provided comments or questions. Bill noted that an offer on his property fell through.

### **310s**

**Winthrop**, FL-2023-045, Stillwater River, clean diversion intake: Donna Pridmore motioned “FL-2023-045 is a complete application.” Gordon Ash seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 9:30 A.M. at the site.

**Stillwater River**, vegetation clearcut, grading bank: Samantha Tappenbeck explained riparian vegetation was clear cut and removed, and the bank was excavated on the Stillwater River immediately downstream of bridge on Whitefish Stage Road. No 310 or 124 permit application has been filed. Fish Wildlife and Parks contacted landowners (Flathead County Economic Development Authority); they were unaware. Glacier Stone Inc. was contacted, and they stated they had done the work to prevent loitering/occupancy by unhoused people. There is no complaint on file. Samantha wondered if she should file a complaint as she took photos. Adopted Rule 18 Complaint Procedure, and Rule19 Orders on Violations, were discussed. Samantha agreed to file a formal complaint.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**End of Month Report** (January/February 2023): Donna Pridmore ask the Board if they had any questions regarding the January and February 2023 End of Month reports. Gordon Ash motioned “to accept the January and February 2023 End of Month Reports.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**College Scholarship Funding Recommendations:** Jessie Walthers stated fourteen college scholarship applications for FY 2022/2023 were received. Applications were reviewed and ranked by Jessie and Supervisor Gordon Ash. Applications were grouped into 3 tiers for funding proposed. Award recommendations are as follows:

- o Five scholarships for \$1,000, totaling \$5,000
- o Four scholarships for \$750, totaling \$3,000
- o Four scholarships for \$500, totaling \$2,000
- o One student missed the deadline, no award recommended.

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

**Dyer's Woad Project Request:** Samantha Tappenbeck explained this is an annual request for a renewal of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Beaverhead County Weed District. The MOA is for a temporary staff appointment for the Dyer's Woad Cooperative Project. The program is funded through the Montana Noxious Weed Fund. FCD liability would include Workers Comp, Unemployment Insurance, FICA, Medicare. Samantha noted that Flathead CD does budget for this position, and the Weed District reimburses expenses to FCD. Danner Pickering has been working on this project for several years. Supervisors asked if Danner or Amber Birch could attend a meeting to report on the process and monitoring.

Donna Pridmore motioned "to accept the Dyer's Woad Project request." Gordon Ash seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Declaratory Ruling, Hearing Officer Appointment:** Samantha Tappenbeck explained a petition for declaratory ruling regarding the McDonald Creek violation was received 4/3/2023. The FCD Board of Supervisors must appoint a hearing officer within 30 days of receipt of the petition for declaratory ruling. Appointment must take place at a public meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Deadline for appointment: May 3, 2023, and must be made at a meeting that has been publicly noticed. Pete Woll stated that he and Samantha have been in contact with potential persons for the hearing officer, however, no one has yet officially accepted. Samantha noted that if no appointment is made tonight, a special meeting must be scheduled, and must be noticed 5 days prior to that meeting.

A Special Meeting to appoint a hearing officer was scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.

## **REPORTS**

**Flathead CD Staff:** Attached.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Attached.

**DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau:** Attached.

**Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB):** Attached.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC):** Samantha Tappenbeck stated a grant application is in the preliminary stage and HBWC is working with the City of Whitefish and Whitefish Lake Institute regarding the dewatering of Haskill Creek for the city's use. A planning meeting is coming up, along with a tour of the wastewater treatment plant. Samantha plans to attend and will provide a report at the next meeting.

**Flathead Basin Commission (FBC):** Scott Rumsey stated the next meeting will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Whitefish Community Center. He noted that upon the merger of FBC and UC3, it will then be named the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC).

**Flathead River Commission (FRC):** No report.

## **MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

**FCD representative, Office of Emergency Services (OES) Working Group:** Mark Siderius explained a Flood Forecasting Outlook meeting will be held May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 P.M. in the Earl Bennett Building. He stated that last spring, he could not participate in the daily meetings and briefings. After the follow-up meeting, they noted that he had provided a lot of information and asked why he was not in the briefings, and then provided him with a seat at the table. The emergency group meets quarterly. It was recommended that the district appoint Mark as an Associate Supervisor, so Flathead CD (FCD) could maintain a seat on the OES Working Group, and to tie the Flathead River Commission in as they are sponsored by FCD.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to appoint Mark Siderius as an Associate Supervisor to the district.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Siderius added that FEMA has funding for residential property damage, but nothing else, and does not recognize the flooding as a natural occurrence due to water level adjustments by the dams. Samantha noted that she recently sent an email to both Mark and Hailey Graf regarding unmet flood recovery needs, and that responses must be sent directly to the Governor this week.

**Technical Review on the Sneed complaints,** Samantha explained a limited solicitation was sent out for a technical review of Meadow Creek and Patterson Creeks. Two responses were received and are comparable in cost. She provided the two responses for the Board’s review and asked for feedback. Samantha noted that River Design Group (RDG) has the lowest estimate and extensive experience from a 2017 review for Lake County upstream from this property, and recommended selection of RDG based on those.

This item will be placed on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting agenda.

**Flathead River unpermitted work:** Donna Pridmore explained that permit #FL-2021-011, *Flathead River, Birk*, expired 3/22/2022. The Work Completion form was submitted stating work was completed 3/2022. When Donna called Mr. Birk to schedule a follow-up inspection, he said he was not done, and could not do a follow-up this week. Supervisors noted that they have received calls and have noticed equipment at the site. Samantha Tappenbeck stated that the permit has expired, he is working without a valid permit and is in violation. Discussion held regarding a possible cease and desist order. Donna will contact him again to inform him he is in violation and schedule a follow-up inspection.

**Forestry Expo:** May 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Samantha Tappenbeck encouraged Supervisors to sign up to help at the Riparian Station.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, 7:00 P.M. in person and via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Donna Pridmore “to adjourn.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Submitted By:  
Ginger Kauffman  
Administrator

Reviewed By:  
Samantha Tappenbeck  
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>5/22/2023</u>	<u>Pete Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

## Staff Report: April 2023

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

### Office and Administration

#### 310

- 2023 total 310's to date = 50
- Processing of 310's
- Scanning of older 310-files continues
- Consultation with DNRC legal counsel, supervisors, and staff on McDonald Creek violation declaratory ruling process; Identification of candidates and outreach to inquire for interest in service as declaratory ruling hearing officer
- Staff hosted a 310 Training for FCD Supervisors on 4/20/23

#### Bookkeeping

- Processed daily bookkeeping items including payroll, payroll reports & payments, invoices, credit card receipts, deposits, grant billing/vendor invoices, program payments.
- Updates to district files made as needed

#### Office Support

- Staff meetings held weekly per staff availability
- Staff discussed reorganization of office space and furniture to meet needs and better utilize space

#### Big Sky Watershed Corps

- Camryn assisted FCD this month by:
  - Helping plan the Garden Wake-up and Pollinator Seed Giveaway event scheduled for April 22
  - Assisting with seedling sorting and order delivery on April 18

### Projects

#### Trumbull Creek Restoration & Aquifer Protection Project

- Project is inadequately funded and will require \$150K-\$160K in additional funding for the project as designed
- Grant #: RRG-20-1750 extended through 12/31/2023
- Planning to host landowner meeting to review project designs and answer questions/address concerns
- Submitted quarterly progress reports for grant #s RRG-20-1750 and WMG-22-0086A

#### Study of Erosion on the Flathead River

- Draft final report received from Tetra Tech on 3/9/23; in review

- Samantha and Scott attempted to collect measurements on the erosion pins (installed 2022) but many were still under ice
- Submitted quarterly progress reports for grant #s 23G-22-3752 and WMG-22-0089A

## Programs

### College Scholarships

- College scholarships applications were reviewed and ranked by Jessie and Supervisor Ash.
- Award recommendations made for April Business Meeting.
- Applicants were well qualified and a good representation from all the area schools: Flathead, Glacier, Columbia Falls, Whitefish, and Bigfork High Schools and one Home School Student.

### Conservation Grant Program

- We have received four Conservation Grant Applications to date.
- In-office consultations were held with four landowners submitting applications, or planning future projects.
- Final Conservation Grant deadline is approaching: April 30<sup>th</sup>

### Education Grant Program

- Education Grant contracts were completed for three projects:
  1. Invasive Weed Pull Supplies for Environmental Club - GHS
  2. Environmental Science course supply kits - GHS
  3. Field Trip Transportation Support – Land to Hand
- Funding is fully allocated for FY22/23

### Pollinator Initiative

- Pollinator Seed was received from Lake County Conservation District.
- Notice was sent for seed pick up to all individuals in the pollinator database (past participants and new sign-ups)
- Site prep information was sent to all participants
- A Pollinator Seed Pick-up day was held Saturday April 22, Earth Day, with Samantha, Jessie, Big Sky Watershed Corp Member Camryn and intern Keanu
- Pollinator plug kits were also provided by Lake County CD for established plants. Kits were sold, payments made directly to Lake County Conservation District
- Pollinator Seed was provided to Grizzly Bear Recovery Program/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for education materials and pollinator seeds for outreach, to discourage bird feeder use and encourage pollinator-friendly plants.

### Rain Garden Initiative

- Planning meeting was held on 4/13/23 for Rain Garden Workshop scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at Center for Native Plants with program partners
- Two rain garden site visits were conducted: one with teacher Sarah Connor from Glacier High School and one with a landowner in Whitefish

### Seedlings & Native Seed Program

- Seedling Pick-up was held Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kalispell DNRC office. Samantha, Jessie, Supervisors Yankee, Marsonette and Rumsey assisted, as well as Big Sky Watershed Corp Member Camryn Gamble, FBC's Emilie Henry and DNRC staff.
- FCD coordinated with DNRC and the seedling nursery for pick up logistics and communication with landowners.
- Seedling 101: Planting and Care Webinar was held Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Samantha, Jessie and Ashley Mattson from the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery hosted
  - Approximately 17 people viewed and participated live;
  - Webinar recording was uploaded to the FCD website and YouTube; To date, 10 more additional people have viewed on YouTube

### Watershed Support Program

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

### Youth Camp Sponsorships

- Several inquiries for Youth Camp Sponsorships were received. Participants are waiting until after July 1/start of new fiscal year to apply as current year funding has been fully allocated.

## Education & Outreach

### Education Events

- Seedlings 101- Planting & Care Webinar hosted Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Rolling Rivers Trailer:
  - Training planned for May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for other CD partners and staff.
  - Spring presentations planned for three schools/events, several additional sessions being scheduled

### Demonstration Garden

- Spring Wake-up was held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22. Spring garden tasks were accomplished: trash clean up, raking, clean-up of garden beds, installation of a native bee house
- Samantha and Jessie met with native bee expert Steve Guttering to discuss placement and care of a bee house in the garden for native bees
- FCD staff met with Forestation and Center for Native Plants staff to discuss priorities, challenges, and needs for upcoming season including pollinator garden, cover crops, weed treatment options, and sheet mulching workshop.
- Garden assistance and planning conducted with Flathead High School student intern

### Website

- Updated links for seedling webinar and recording, 310 forms, and upcoming events
- Updated website archive of meeting agendas, posted 2023 meeting agendas
- Website visited by 1.6K users (↑11%); Impressions = 61K; Total Clicks = 966



## Social Media

- Facebook: Page followers = 898 (↑3%); Post Reach = 3,094; Post Engagement = 317
- Instagram: Page followers = 740 (↑2%); Accts Reach = 1,528; Accts Engaged = 21

## The Local Dirt eNewsletter

- Distributed on 4/3/23 to 810 recipients

## Partnerships

- BSWC Partner meeting for Garden and Pollinator Planning 4/5/23
- Flathead CORE Meeting 4/12/23
- Family Forestry Expo Planning Meeting 4/12/23
- Wastewater Partners/Septic Cost Share Meeting 4/21/23

## Photos



# NRCS DC Report – 4/24/2023

## Sean Johnson

### ➤ Programs

- EQIP and Joint Chief
  - Initial allocations received on March 10<sup>th</sup> for application funding. Currently working on developing contracts for signatures
- CSP
  - No active applications for FY23

### ➤ Review Items

- Attended meeting with USFWS at Ninepipes to help with their Comprehensive Conservation Plan for refuges and WPA's in NW MT
- Attended FireSafe Meeting on 4/19
- Attended Stoltze meeting on 4/19
- Karli attended R2L meeting on 4/19

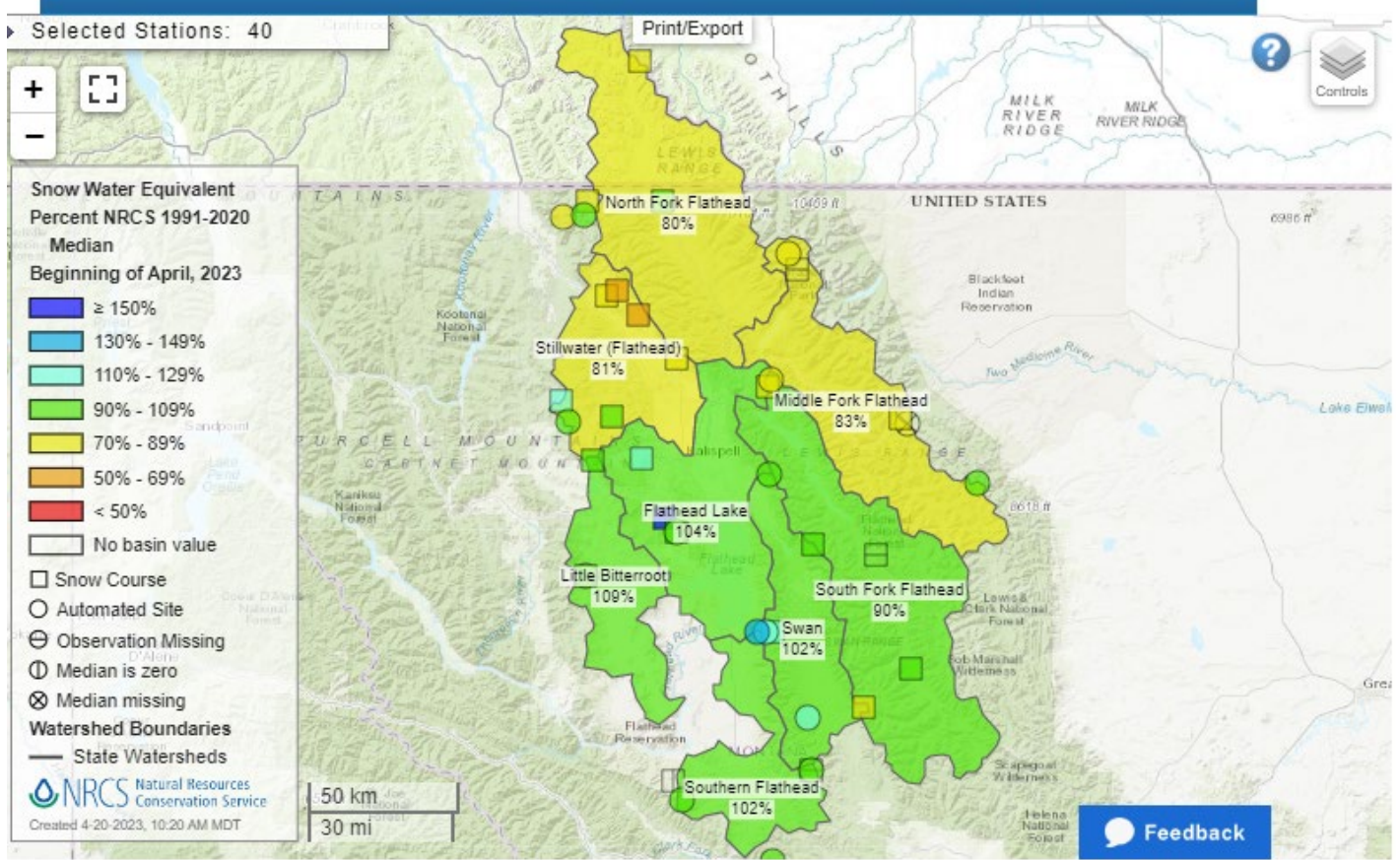
### ➤ Upcoming Items

- Agronomy training in Ronan on May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Supervisory DC meeting in Missoula May 16-17
- Pathways Intern, Alexandra Simpson, is scheduled to started on May 22<sup>nd</sup>

### ➤ Miscellaneous

- Snow Report
  - No real change to Snowpack Report. Flathead basin is currently at 92%, was at 94% last month. Sub basins currently range from 80% – 109% of normal
- Drought – Most of Flathead still in “Moderate Drought” status. Overall improvement across the state
  - None – 33% , D0 – 27% , D1 – 35% , D2 – 5% , D3 – 0% , D4 – 0% - April
  - None – 16%, D0 – 27% , D1 – 38% , D2 – 16% , D3 – 3.11% , D4 – 0% - March
  - None – 5%, D0 – 27%, D1 – 44%, D2 – 20%, D3 – 3.71%, D4 – 0% - February
  - None – 8%, D0 – 31%, D1 – 24%, D2 – 25%, D3 – 11%, D4 – 0% - January
  - None – 12%, D0 – 21%, D1 – 26%, D2 – 25%, D3 – 16%, D4 – 0% - November

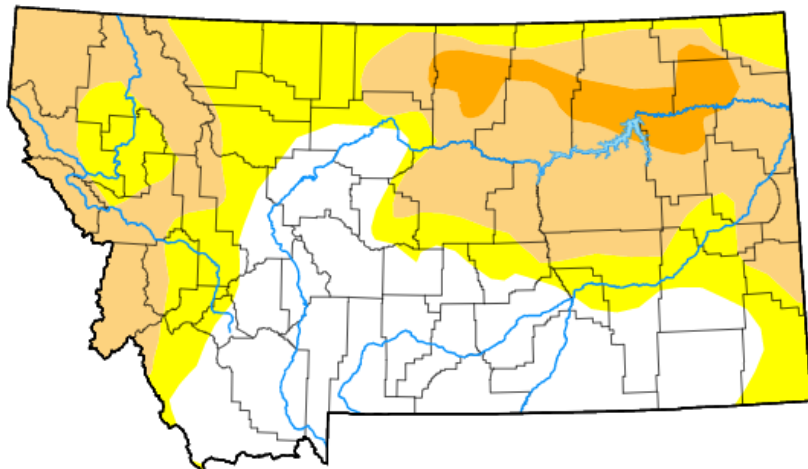
# April Snow Report



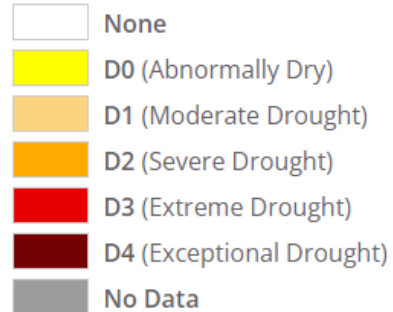
# April Drought Monitor

**Map released: Thurs. April 20, 2023**

**Data valid: April 18, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT**



## Intensity



## Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):



REPORT TO WESTERN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
APRIL 2023

### CD ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT FUNDING (CDA GRANTS)

The CDA grant is open March 1 and closes April 28. There are a several funding bills going through the legislature at this time that we hope will allow CDs to be funded at higher levels but until we learn differently, we will work on the assumption of a minimum \$36,000 base budget, same as the last biennium. The process will be the same as last year, with a short application and required documentation to complete and submit through Submittable.

- [Mill levy form](#)
- [Admin Grant Application](#) (word) [Admin Grant Application](#) (fillable pdf)
- [Admin Grant Budget Worksheet](#) (excel)

### EDUCATION MINI GRANTS

The [Education Mini Grant](#) is open year-round. Grants are for conservation and natural resource educational projects. The grant minimum \$500 and may not exceed **\$5,000**.

### ENVIROTHON

This year's Envirothon will take place in Great Falls on Monday, April 24 at the Montana Expo Park and Tuesday, April 25 at the Holiday Inn Great Falls-Convention Center. The current year issue is "*Adapting to Changing Climate.*" Five member teams in grades 9-12 (schools, organizations and/or associations) test on natural resource topics such as range, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and forestry on day one. All teams give an oral presentation solving the current issue on day two. For more information on this program, visit the [Cascade Conservation District website](#) hyperlinked here.

### 310 MINI TRAININGS!

Due to the high number of requests for 310 trainings this spring, I have decided to host ½ hour trainings on a variety of topics twice per week throughout April. These trainings will be at 2 PM every Monday and at 6 PM every Wednesday for the rest of the month. Topics include forming a team, conducting onsite inspections, determining 310 jurisdiction, emergencies, violations, complaints, forms, adopted rules, and permits from other agencies. **Supervisors, staff, and FWP reps are all invited to join!!**

All meetings will be hosted virtually (contact me for the zoom link) and will be recorded and posted to the DRNC website. A link to the recordings will be sent out to the Administrators Listserv once available. I hope to follow these virtual trainings with in-person trainings this summer. Stay tuned for more details!

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions, concerns, or ponderings.

-Hailey Graf



**Hailey Graf**  
Conservation District Specialist,  
Stream Permitting Coordinator

Conservation Districts Bureau

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**Report to Flathead Conservation District re: Flathead County Planning Board Meeting  
held April 12, 2023**

Item 1: FZC-22-29

A request for preliminary plan approval of Bitterroot Flats North Subdivision which would consist of four residential lots on 41.9 acres, located off Lower Lost Prairie Road near Marion, MT.

Public Agency Comment: None\*

Public Comment: None\*

Action: After some discussion between Board and Applicant concerning method residents would use to dispose of garbage the Board voted unanimously to forward a positive recommendation to the County Commissioners.

Item 2: FZC-23-02

A zone change request for property within the Evergreen Zoning District to change from R-1 (suburban residential) to RA-1 (Residential Apartment). The property is located off River Road near Kalispell and involves approximately 1.9 acres.

Public Agency Comment: None \*

Public Comment: 8 neighbors spoke, all in opposition to this zone change. The concerns expressed were regarding increased traffic, run-off issues, loss of open space, never-ending pace of development, and change of character of neighborhood if duplexes and/or apartments are developed on the property.

Action: After lengthy comments from Board members that they too were displeased with the pace of development and loss of open space, they explained that they were charged with approving developments where sewer and road infrastructure were in place, criteria which this location meets. The vote was unanimous to forward a positive recommendation.

Item 3: FCZ-23-02

A zone change request for property within the Evergreen Zoning District to change from R-2 (One Family Limited Residential) to R-1 (Suburban Residential). The parcel is 1.5 acres and is located at 303 Solberg Drive.

Public Agency Comment: None\*

Public Comment: None\*

Action: Unanimous vote to forward a positive recommendation.

Item 4: FZC-23-05

A zone change request for property within the Evergreen Zoning District to change from R-1 (Suburban Residential) to RA-1 (Residential Apartment). The approximately 0.41 acre parcel is located at 418 Maple Dr. in Kalispell.

Public Agency Comment: None\*

Public Comment: None:

Action: With one member abstaining because of conflict of interest, Board voted unanimously to forward a positive recommendation.

Item 5: Cancelled

Item 6: FPP-23-03

A request for a material change to the previously approved preliminary plat of the Homestead-Chinook Ridge Subdivision. This change would allow the subdivision to be developed in two phases. The property is located at 4538 and 4542 Mountain Home Rd.

Public Agency Comment: None\*

Public Comment: None \*

Action: After Board discussion regarding fire suppression on this location, a unanimous vote to forward a positive recommendation.

Item 7: FZTA-23-01

A publicly initiated text amendment to amend Section 5:11 of the Flathead County Zoning Regulations regarding the performance standards for short-term rental housing.

Public Agency Comment: None\*

Public Comment: None\*

Action: After lengthy discussion, the Board voted (with 1 No vote) to forward a positive recommendation.

Old Business: Scheduling Lakeside residents returning for zoning guidance.

New Business: None

\*Indicates none at meeting. Public Agency and Public comment may have occurred in writing before meeting.

Submitted by Bill Yankee, Associate Supervisor.