



# FLATHEAD

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 | [www.flatheadcd.org](http://www.flatheadcd.org) | 406-752-4220

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## **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chair Pete Woll called the June 22, 2020, Business meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in the conference room.

**Board members present:** Pete Woll, Chair; Lori Curtis, Vice Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf, Samantha Tappenbeck and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Mikaela Richardson, BSWCM; Roger Noble; Dalton William; Bill Witsitt; Kimberly Robinson and Trent Smith; Mel and Monica Brown; Kenny Breidinger and Leo Rosenthal, FW&P; Michele Glazier.

## **MINUTES**

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020, Business meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Hailey Graf explained that the Flathead CD was notified that a Workman’s Comp audit will be held on July 10, 2020. Staff is preparing documentation to submit for the audit.

## **FINANCIAL**

Due to the FCD June 8, 2020 310-meeting being cancelled, the following bills were paid on June 10, 2020:

1. Byte Savvy \$155.00
2. Flathead Audubon Society \$96.42
3. Flathead Beacon \$528.00
4. Geum Environmental Consulting \$4,981.25
5. Glacier Institute \$725.00
6. Montana State Fund \$351.20
7. Whitefish School Dist. #44 \$800.00
8. Montana State University – Bozeman \$2,000.00
9. Montana State University – Bozeman \$2,000.00

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$90.00
2. CenturyLink \$310.24
3. David Vissotzky \$539.91
4. MACO \$4,023.25
6. Montana Conservation Corps \$3,125.00
7. Nicola Butcher \$400.00
8. VISA \$1,973.34

Lech Naumovich motioned “to approve the bills as presented.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **310's**

**Baer**, FL2020019, Flathead River, dock: Pete Woll reported that an onsite was held June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The application is to re-do a dock, which was permitted previously, in the man-made lagoon south of the Sportsman bridge. Pete reviewed the considerations in the Team Member Report. Kenny Breidinger added that the dock is 23-feet long, but it is in the lagoon and against a boat house that has been there awhile; it is not sticking out. Pete added that it fits in with what else is in the lagoon

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application as submitted per the Team Member Report.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bayside Park & Marine Center**, FL2020031, Swan River, dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 1:30 P.M. at the site.

**Big Mountain River**, FL2020020, Whitefish River, dock/trail/pavilion: John Ellis explained that the project is for a development just outside of downtown Whitefish where townhomes are being built on 3 combined lots. The property abuts the old Idaho Timber property. The Whitefish trail will go through the western edge of the property however no trail is being built near the river. One small path and dock will be built. John reviewed the considerations in the Team Member Report. Kenny Breidinger noted that the project meets the Adopted Rules. Roger Noble added that there is a boardwalk to a dock, however, the project will have very minor impacts to the streambank.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the application as submitted per the Team Member Report.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Lech Naumovich abstained from voting.*

Lech Naumovich motioned “that Hailey Graf be granted permission to sign 310-permits on behalf of Lech Naumovich and Lori Curtis for this meeting.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bradley**, FL2019066C, Unnamed, complaint: Ronald Buentemeier explained that the landowner needs at least 4 weeks prior notice for an onsite inspection and may have to quarantine for an additional 2-week period due to COVID-19. He noted that this may need to be done in the fall.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to table.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bradley**, FL2019067C, Unnamed, complaint: Ronald Buentemeier explained that the landowner needs at least 4 weeks prior notice for an onsite inspection and may have to quarantine for an additional 2-week period due to COVID-19. He noted that this may need to be done in the fall.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to table.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Brosten**, FL2020024E, Flathead River, notice of emergency: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 12:30 at the site.

**Brosten**, FL2020025, Flathead River, bk stabilization/flood protect/fill/improve existing structure: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 12:30 at the site.

**Brown**, FL2020016, Rose Creek, road/well/residential structure/fill: Pete Woll explained that the landowners are proposing to build on the lot. Everything is outside the CD jurisdiction, except the fill. The fill is approximately one-foot deep, and impacts are minor. Kenny Breidinger noted that the landowners should revegetate as soon as possible and add a silt fence or coir logs to capture sediment run-off. Pete reviewed the considerations in the Team Member Report.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report. The 15-day waiting period is waived.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Brunskill**, FL2020028, Flathead River, dock: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 10:15 A.M. at the site.

Bill Witsitt stated that comments via emails have been submitted regarding the Brunskill application. He noted that the application is not complete and wondered if the application is ready for an onsite inspection. He asked if there would be opportunity to comment after the onsite inspection. Pete Woll replied that normal procedure will be followed. The onsite inspection would be held, the application would be reviewed during the onsite, public comments will be reviewed, and the application will come before the board at the next meeting. Hailey Graf affirmed that comments were received from Bill Witsitt, Flathead Lakers and Mitch King, Montana Outdoors Legacy Foundation, and will be forwarded to Pete Woll and Kenny Breidinger.

**Butts**, FL2019056C, Unnamed, complaint: John Ellis motioned “to table until the next meeting.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Butts**, FL2020002, Unnamed, well/cistern: Lech Naumovich stated the onsite inspection was held June 5<sup>th</sup> however, Mr. Butts did not attend. This is a perennial stream. The application needs more information before any decision can be made. Lech noted that he spoke to Mr.

Butts recently and told him that additional information was needed on the application and referred him to the Adopted Rules.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to send a letter to the applicant requesting additional information on the application.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Cliffton**, FL2020022, Bowser Spring Creek, bridge/culvert, bank stabilization, channel alt.: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

**FNF/Big Mtn Winter Sports**, FL2020009, Haskill Creek tributary, culvert: Lori Curtis explained that she had talked with Doug Yaeger. The road is not in yet and there is still too much snow to see the site. Lori added that the Flathead National Forest Service is drafting a new letter regarding 310 permits, and she will bring that to the district office when she receives it.

Lori Curtis motioned “to table until the next meeting.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Grob Family Trust**, FL2020030, Briggs Creek, culvert/road construction: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 9:30 - 9:45 A.M. at the Red Gate turnout.

Michele Glazier explained that this site is approximately ¼ mile up-stream from the projects they are currently working on. When they started to open a skid trail, they found the bridge had fallen in. They have 2 culverts onsite that they can put in place.

**Klempnow-Meece**, FL2020032, Tepee Creek, bridge: Ronald Buentemeier explained that this was a bridge that F.H. Stoltze installed 15+ years ago. It is a railroad car with planking on top. Some of the planking has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. Kenny Breidinger waived the onsite inspection.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application as submitted. FWP waives the onsite inspection.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Ronald Buentemeier abstained from voting.*

**Kusler**, FL2020029, Flathead River, dock addition: An onsite inspection was set for Wednesday, July 8, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

**Lyford**, FL2020007, Trumbull Creek, fill: Lori Curtis explained the onsite inspection was held June 9<sup>th</sup> and she and Kenny Breidinger met with the owner and Justin Ahmann, APEC. The project is for fill however no work will be done in Trumbull Creek. During the onsite inspection, she and Kenny requested an elevation drawing of road fill. The drawing was received in the FCD office 6/19/2020. Kenny noted that the project is back from the creek, but within jurisdiction of the district. The owner wants to fill the area to put in a road and then place the property on the market.

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the application with modifications received June 20, 2020 and waive the 15-day waiting period per the Team Member Report.” Ronald Buentemeier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**McCrorie**, FL2020012, Flathead River, dock: Donna Pridmore explained that the owner wants to put in a floating dock. Dock dimensions emailed 6/11/2020 fit in with measurement criteria. The dock was already there, it just needs to be placed. Donna noted that work that was done under a permit #FL2017056 was interplanted and growing. The owner will do additional work on the bank later.

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

**McIntyre**, FL2020013E, Krause Creek, notice of emergency: Pete Woll reported that windstorms blew over timber along the creek and near the house. Trees were removed from the stream.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the notice of emergency as submitted.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**McIntyre**, FL2020014, Krause Creek, debris removal: Pete Woll explained that the landowner filed an application to do additional work to clean up remaining blow down that fell away from the stream and replant. Pete noted that this needs to be done to stabilize the bank, and reviewed considerations in the Team Member Report.

Pete Woll motioned “to approve the application with modifications per the Team Member Report. The 15-day waiting period is waived.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Petersen**, FL2020026, Whitefish River, remove tree: John Ellis explained that the application is for removal of the tree that fell last year. The site is just south of the Columbia Avenue bridge in Whitefish (see notes under FL2020027E). It will be removed when the water goes down. John and Kenny Breidinger agreed to waive the onsite inspection.

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

**Petersen**, FL2020027E, Whitefish River, notice of emergency: John Ellis explained that 3 trees fell into the river. The site is just south of the Columbia Avenue bridge in Whitefish. Last year the first tree fell, blocking some of the river. This spring two more trees at the same location fell into the river almost totally blocking the river and creating a boating hazard. John and Kenny Breidinger agreed to waive the onsite inspection.

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

**Prairie Dog Dev.**, FL2020015, Unnamed, road/wetland alt/fill: Lori Curtis explained that this project is to provide a road access to a 49-lot subdivision and is not near a perennial stream.

Lori Curtis motioned “this is not a project under the jurisdiction of the conservation district as it is not near a perennial stream.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Schnell**, FL2020018, Trumbull Creek, bridge/dredging/fill/debris removal: Lori Curtis explained that the applicants plan to remove and replace a bridge, clear fallen debris, and fill beaver-made holes in the lawn adjacent to the creek. All work will be done by hand with use of a backhoe as needed. They will re-seed areas after disturbance, leave root wads, and maintain the grade of the stream while conducting work. Lori reviewed considerations in the Team Member Report. Kenny Breidinger noted that beavers had created holes and tunnels in the lawn, and all vegetation had been removed. The stream is very wide and shallow, and the lawn was mowed right up to the stream. Pallets had been placed as a make-shift bridge.

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

**Siderius Construction**, FL2020023, Unnamed, bank stabilization, storm drain outlet: An onsite inspection was scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2:00 P.M. at the site.

**Skyline Metal Roofing**, FL2020017, E. Spring Creek, commercial structure: Donna Pridmore explained that the applicant wants to build a shop located on Cottonwood off Hwy 35 just past the Rainbow Bar. This is not in our jurisdiction because the building site is not near the stream. Donna noted that the owner was informed by the County Floodplain office that they needed to apply for a 310-permit.

Donna Pridmore motioned “this is not in our jurisdiction and not a project.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Smith**, FL2020001C, Unnamed, complaint: Lech Naumovich explained the complaint was that a tractor had been driven in a stream/creek. The onsite inspection was held June 5<sup>th</sup>. In looking at the site, this is not a violation. It is not a perennial stream at this location. It had some flow; the soils were mostly dry with a small incised channel approximately 6-8 inches at max and no vegetation.

Lech Naumovich motioned “this is not a violation as it is outside of the jurisdiction of the conservation district.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**WestWood Park**, FL2019033C, Bowser Spring Creek, complaint: Verdell Jackson explained that this was a follow up onsite inspection as under permit #FL2018054 the trail had been built too close to the stream. The trail has been moved away from the stream, grass was planted, and thistles were removed.

Verdell Jackson motioned “the complaint is now satisfied.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Phone Polls:** Hailey Graf explained that phone polls were done on 6/8/2020.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the 6/8/2020 phone poll to sponsor 2 youths to attend the Families in the Forest Camp in the amount of \$725.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to withdraw the 6/8/2020 phone poll regarding FL2020002 as it was addressed in tonight’s meeting.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Long Range Plan & Annual Work Plan:** Hailey provided a draft update for the FCD Long-Range Plan. The board provided feedback and suggestions for improvement. Hailey agreed to compile input from the board for additional changes.

**DNRC 223 Gr. #23G-19-3639:** Hailey Graf explained the Vendor Invoice, in the amount of \$400, needs to be approved and sent to DNRC for reimbursement.

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the invoice to DNRC in the amount of \$400.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Education Grant Extension Request:** Samantha Tappenbeck explained that an extension request was received for contract #EG1819-05 from Flathead Audubon (FA) to support their comprehensive bird education program. The contract, which totaled \$2267.00, was split over two fiscal years 2018/2019 & 2019/2020. To date \$1859.54 has been spent. However due to COVID-19, shut-downs, and their program being tied to schools, FA was not able to spend the rest of the funding, so they are requesting that \$407.46 be rolled into fiscal year 2020/2021. They have submitted a report for the work already completed. Samantha noted that in the past there was no formal contract extension document, however she will update the contracting procedure for the coming fiscal year.

Lech Naumovich motioned “to extend the Education Grant for Flathead Audubon for the next fiscal year.” Lori Curtis seconded.

Ronald Buentemeier asked for additional discussion. The Board discussed additional extension issues, funding, contract language, bookkeeping, and submittal of a new application.

Lech Naumovich retracted the previous motion, and Lori Curtis, as the second, agreed. Motion was retracted.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to deny the extension request and send a letter encouraging Flathead Audubon to submit an application for the remaining funds and any additional they may need in the next fiscal year.” Ronald Buentemeier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**End of Month Budget Report (May):** No report.

**Vehicle Purchase:** Hailey Graf explained that 4 bids were received, and reviewed the proposals with the Board. The Board discussed the number of supervisors and staff using the

vehicle, trade-in values, and current economic circumstances. Supervisors agreed that the district should keep the Expedition and purchase a pickup later.

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to table the purchase of a vehicle for another 3 months.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Bookkeeper

Hailey Graf explained that the district extended a hire-offer to the first candidate for the Bookkeeper position but was turned down. The second qualified candidate did not return calls/contacts. Hailey noted that she will edit the job description, have the hiring committee review the updates and re-advertise the position. Supervisors agreed.

Staff Evaluations

Pete Woll closed the meeting and staff left the room. After discussion by the Board, Pete Woll re-opened the meeting and staff rejoined the meeting.

Conservation Program Manager

Lori Curtis motioned “to move Samantha Tappenbeck from a GS9/4 to a GS9S/6 effective this pay period.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resource Conservationist

Lech Naumovich motioned “to move Hailey Graf from a GS9/7 to a GS9/9 effective this pay period.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Meeting:** The budget meeting was set for Tuesday, July 14, 9:00 A.M.

**REPORTS**

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

*Office and Administration*

310 – Ginger processed seven 310-Permit Applications and two Notice of Emergencies. Ginger and Hailey coordinated with landowners to cover essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic and to safely arrange for onsite inspections.

Bookkeeping – Ginger processed payroll on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The next payroll, along with federal and state taxes for May, and unemployment and federal 941 quarterly's will be processed on 6/24/2020.

Ginger worked with Donna Pridmore to reconcile bank statements for May and processed the End of Month Budget Report for May.

Ginger, Hailey, and Samantha met 6/11 to work on preliminary 2020/2021 budget sheets.

District Office – Hailey coordinated with NRCS and DNRC on office protocols to ensure employee and public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NRCS office is



currently in a phased re-opening with staff still encouraged to telework when possible and public allowed in the office with an appointment only.

Workplan – Hailey completed a draft of the District Long-Range Plan. She also worked to reorganize the annual workplan to reflect the priorities identified in the Long-Range Plan.

Vehicle Purchase – After discussion at the last board meeting, the deadline for submitting a proposal was extended to June 15. Hailey contacted local dealerships with the updated information and a request for additional proposals. In response, the District received two additional proposals.

### *On-the-Ground Projects*

Cow Creek Restoration Project – Hailey, FWP staff, and an MCC crew conducted repairs and maintenance on the fencing and plant protection enclosures on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Hailey and Ginger completed the match tracking, billing statements, and quarterly status report, which was submitted to DEQ on June 15. Mikaela used GPS to ground truth the project installation and create an implementation map. Mikaela also assisted Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute) with ongoing monitoring and sampling of Cow Creek.

Trumbull Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection Project – Hailey coordinated with DNRC and the County Attorney's office with regards to contracting for engineering services. She also discussed updates to the Scope of Work with prospective engineers and reviewed cost estimates.

Krause Creek – This project was approved during the recent legislative session for funding through the DRNC Renewable Resources Grant program; however, funding has not been released for it yet.

Demonstration Garden – Due to COVID-19 the Demonstration Garden open house was canceled, and planned workshops have been redesigned to be hosted virtually. The first workshop, DIY Pollinator Gardens, is scheduled for July 1 and will be hosted through Zoom. Staff installed additional irrigation for new plants and conducted maintenance, such as weeding and mowing, in the garden weekly.

### *Programs*

Conservation Grant Program – Six applications for FY20-21 Conservation Grants were funded at a total of \$17,954.38 in program funding. Funded practices included reforestation, native seeding, wildlife habitat improvement, riparian buffer improvement, bank stabilization, and windbreaks. Samantha developed individual contracts and distributed to landowners for review and signature. FY20-21 contracts begin July 1. Samantha also conducted on-site project inspections and worked with Ginger to complete FY19-20 contracts and submit reimbursement payments.

Seedling Program – This program is currently closed and will open for orders on September 1.

Education Grant Program – FCD funded one contract in FY19-20, and two contract extensions from FY18-19. Final reports were submitted June 1, and Samantha worked

with Ginger to issue prepare payments. The program is closed to applications during the month of June to close out the fiscal year. Staff continue to provide information and resources to educators interested in this program. Staff anticipate two applications in July and additional applications this summer and fall.

College Scholarship Program – Nine applications were awarded to Flathead County high school seniors in 2020. Several students have submitted thank-you notes and indicated their interest in attending a future meeting.

Watershed Support Program – FCD contracted with Geum Environmental Consulting to complete phase one of an assessment of upper-middle Ashley Creek to determine potential restoration projects, sites, and feasibility. The phase one assessment was completed by June 1 and deliverables include a GIS map package and landowner database ranked by restoration potential and potential project ideas. Samantha and Mikaela are currently reviewing the assessment and working together to determine next steps in program implementation.

Pollinator Initiative – 22 landowners have submitted interest forms and 0.45 acres-worth of seed has been distributed to 11 of these landowners for planting this spring. Staff worked with landowners to provide information on site preparation and planting guidelines. Mikaela worked on updating the program database and managed seed distribution and supply tracking. Mikaela and Samantha conducted a site visit in Bigfork. Staff will be conducting site visits over the summer and providing technical assistance to landowners on site preparation and maintenance.

Rain Garden Initiative – Mikaela and project partners are continuing to coordinate with landowners for rain garden construction. Funding was provided to the Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship for the purchase of plants for the on-site bioswale/rain garden. Mikaela has also been designing education and outreach materials, and information and guidelines for design.

### ***Education and Outreach***

Workshops and Events – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all spring workshops, and events, including Family Forestry Expo, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Rolling Rivers Trailer presentations, have been canceled or postponed. It is our hope that these valuable events can be rescheduled for fall. The FCD schedule of educational workshops is unchanged but staff will respond to COVID-19 conditions and restrictions on gathering sizes by converting to live webinars as needed. See Upcoming Events below for the complete schedule of workshops.

Advertisements – We ran advertisements in the Flathead Beacon:

- Free live webinar event on July 1: DIY Pollinator Habitat
- 310 permit information

We also ran an advertisement in the summer issue of the Mountain Trader:

- 310 permit information

Website and Social Media – Over the past month, the website was viewed 2,327 times (up 10% from last month), and the most viewed pages and posts were a blog post about local fishing ponds; a link to USGS data on dam, river & lake levels; and stream permitting information. Over the same period, posts on the Facebook page reached 233

users, had 139 post engagements, and 3 new followers. The most viewed posts were the Enviroscope educational videos, an update on the pollinator planting in the Demonstration Garden, and an educational resource about living on waterfront property.

eNewsletter – The Local Dirt was distributed on 6/1/2020 and included upcoming events, available programs, blog posts, a partner profile, links to the Enviroscope educational videos, and 310 permitting information. The current mailing list includes 240 people. The June issue was opened by 81 people (177 times) and had 35 total clicks. The top three clicked links were FCD Workshops and Classes, information about native grass seed mixes, and a blog post about forestry assistance in the Flathead.

Upcoming Events – Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff scheduled workshops and outreach events at the Demonstration Garden. The Demonstration Garden open house scheduled for June 17 was canceled, but planned workshops have been redesigned to be hosted virtually as necessary based on the current outbreak status. Schedule of upcoming workshops:

- July 1: DIY Pollinator Habitat (live webinar)
- July 15: Rain Gardens
- August 12: Soil Health
- September 2: Gardening for Water Conservation
- September 16: Noxious Weeds
- September 26: Fall Planting for Pollinators

### *Partnerships*

- Mikaela and Samantha virtually attended the River 2 Lake Initiative partner meeting and provided updates on the Watershed Support Program, Rain Garden Initiative, and schedule of upcoming workshops.
- Mikaela assisted Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute) with ongoing monitoring and sampling of Whitefish-area streams through the Whitefish Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- Hailey and Sean Johnson (NRCS) coordinated on program needs and opportunities to support small diversified farmers in the county.
- Hailey assisted the Haskill Basin Commission with coordinating a watershed group meeting.

Hailey asked if there were any questions or comments.

John Ellis stated that a neighborhood with single-family homes is being built next to Cow Creek. He recently noticed that a lot, which is steep, had no sediment fencing or bales in place and due to current rainstorms mud was going towards the stream. John noted that the development is still under construction. John will talk with the City of Whitefish.

Hailey asked him to contact her with time spent doing this, as it can be claimed in the next report to DEQ as match for Cow Creek Grant #218013.

Samantha Tappenbeck reported that the district received the phase 1 assessment from Geum Environmental Consulting for upper middle Ashley Creek. The assessment was to rank and prioritize potential restoration projects in that watershed to support the

implementation of the Watershed Support Program. She noted that Geum delivered a very nice product, the invoice has been paid, and the assessment is being reviewed.

Mikaela Richardson noted that 3-4 webinars are coming up for the Rain Garden Initiative. Donna Pridmore commented that an ad about the Rain Garden Initiative was in with her water bill, however Flathead CD was not referenced. Hailey noted that the City of Kalispell website mentions the district. Donna stated that a lot of people do not go to websites, and this just seems to be a missed opportunity. She asked that the district be added as a partner.

**Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS):** No report.

**Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD):** Pete Woll reported MACD held their spring Board meeting, however he did not attend. The EO position was offered to a candidate, who turned it down, and MACD is now re-advertising.

**Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB):** No report.

**Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB):** John Ellis reported the last meeting included two accessory apartments; Big Mountain River LLC's 4 affordable housing units went through the Planning Board unanimously; and Sweet Peaks is now using the old Dos Amigos restaurant for a manufacturing facility and ice cream shop.

**Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3):** Lori Curtis reported UC3 met June 10 with the largest attendance due to being held online. Jeff Mow, Glacier National Park Superintendent and Jim Elser, Flathead Lake Biological Station Director both attended. Lori added that she will attend a Columbia River Basin Team Zoom meeting regarding aquatic invasive species on the June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC):** Hailey Graf reported the HBWC met June 17<sup>th</sup>, which she did not attend. Minutes from the previous meeting are available on the FCD website. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> Stoltze Land & Lumber Company at 6:00 P.M.

**Flathead Basin Commission (FBC):** Lech Naumovich reported the quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M. and will be held via Zoom. Lech noted that he talked with Kate Wilson, FCB Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator, regarding how the commission is working and their workplan.

**Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC):** No report.

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

**COVID-19 Updates:** Hailey Graf reported that Flathead County now has 11 active cases, with 2 new cases reported today. Because of that, we are not sure what will happen with phased re-opening of Montana and the office. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for the federal side of the building next week and we hope to have an update on their office plan.

**Stalowy:** Ronald Buentemeier referenced the Stalowy Supreme Court case and encouraged the district to extend a big thank-you to Caitlin Overland, as she put in a tremendous amount of high-quality work. He added that staff and Board members that participated and spent so much time working on this also need to be complimented. Board members agreed that a letter and certificate of appreciation should be sent to Caitlin, with a cc to Laurie Zeller, DNRC. Hailey Graf will draft a letter and send it to the Board for comments.

**District Meetings:** Supervisors and FWP agreed that a district meeting will be held once a month until COVID is done.

The next Business meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020, 6:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lech Naumovich motioned “to adjourn.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman  
Administrator

Hailey Graf  
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>7/27/2020</u>	<u>Donna Pridmore</u>	<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)