



CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Vice-Chair, John Ellis, called the June 27, 2022, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: John Ellis Vice Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Rumsey, Supervisor; Roger Marsonette; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

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

Also, in attendance were Samantha Tappenbeck, Ginger Rigdon, Ginger Kauffman, Flathead CD Staff; Sandy Heil; Mark and Grayce Siderius; Kenny Breidinger, FWP; Sean Johnson, NRCS; Casey Malmquist; Bruce Boody; Brad Bennett, WET; Pete Wade; Gordon Ash, Associate Supervisor; Bill Yankee, Walter Bastiaanse.

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

- 5/23/2022 Business Meeting Minutes

Consent Agenda Item 3: Financial

Check Detail dated 06/13/2022

1. CHS \$250.50

Check Detail dated 06/22/2022

1. BCBS \$2132.17
2. Brook Blakeley \$5,000.00
3. Center for Native Plants \$3,600.00
4. Diana Jungemann-Salmela \$2,539.92
5. Flathead Audubon Society \$4,901.14
6. FVCC \$5,000.00
7. James Peterson \$3,370.97
8. Marcia Rosko \$573.75
9. River Design Group Inc. \$13,228.75
10. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi \$5,000.00
11. Flathead County – ImagineIF Libraries \$1,500.00

Consent Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

- DNRC Call for CD Advisory Council Members
- DNRC-CDB Conservation Matters
- MACD Virtual Leadership Training

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- College Scholarship recipient, Grace Siderius reported she is planning to attend Montana State University in Bozeman and will be studying animal science with a focus in livestock and industry.
- Bill Yankee stated he and his wife recently moved to the area. He is a retired rancher and educator and served two 4-year terms with the Popo Agie Conservation District in Lander, Wyoming. He also served on the Wyoming state-wide Water Development Commission. He expressed interest in learning about Flathead CD and possibly getting involved.

310's

Inspiration Drive Properties, FL-2022-007, Whitefish River, dock: John Ellis explained the application was filed 3/7/2022 for a trail and dock on Whitefish River. He noted that condominiums will be built also. A site visit was held, and the application was tabled at the April 310-meeting. A special meeting was then held with the City of Whitefish regarding the Whitefish trail. John noted that he will attend the Whitefish Bike/Pedestrian meeting on July 11th, and has been in contact with John Phelps, Chair of that committee, to inspect the remaining parts of the trail. John asked for other comments.

Casey Malmquist stated the dock has been removed from the application, and we are now only discussing the trail. At the last meeting there was discussion regarding the trail on this and the neighboring properties, however, he asked that only the property in the application be considered.

Kenny Breidinger noted the meeting with the City of Whitefish was productive and they understand the district's concerns. He stated in his evaluation of this application he looks at the connection between Kay Beller Park and BNSF properties as one project. We now have a point person, Craig Workman, with the City of Whitefish, and can move forward with figuring out a plan for that piece of trail.

Samantha Tappenbeck stated additional information has been received from the City of Whitefish which includes a copy of the letter (from the attorney for the condominium owners to the City of Whitefish) with a map for easement of the trail, water quality checklist, Whitefish water quality regulations, and information regarding permitting of the whole trail system working. Updated GIS information is forthcoming. Donna Pridmore noted that the condominium owners did not want the trail right under their decks, which was underwater at the time. Samantha screen shared the map showing the trail and proposed easement. Kenny asked if this was finalized, and no one knew. Casey stated the contention was the city indicated they never

received a copy of this. Donna asked Casey if what was being shown in the map connects with the trail as proposed. Casey stated he had not seen this before and noted independently there has been a proposed trail design for that piece that we are in a line with on Miles Avenue but was not sure if that relates to this. Casey stated he is between a rock and a hard spot and asked if the application could be tabled to allow him time to talk with the city. He noted this is a condition of approval for me to move forward with the project, and if the City could untie/decouple those two, which I think they would, then he did not need a decision tonight.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to table FL-2022-007 until the next 310-meeting.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heil, FL-2021-032, Blaine Creek, bridge: John Ellis stated the extension request was tabled at the 6/13/2022 meeting and the Board requested the landowner provide an explanation for the extension request. John reviewed the history of the complaint and permit.

Sandy Heil explained that her mother-in-law owns the property and has had major health issues. She stated they did not want to burden her and took on the project financially themselves. They could not do it financially last year but have been working hard to put funding aside to remove the culverts and put in a bridge. They now have a contractor that will be working with them to do it themselves. Part of the project will begin late fall before it freezes, and the rest of the work will be done in the spring before water flows. This is the only access to the property. Donna Pridmore stated the concern was the culverts were cut too high and narrow to get the road width for firetrucks etc. to go over. Gordon Ash read his notes stating *culverts poorly installed going down the stream at the wrong grade. Scouring an issue on the lake side.* The permit is to remove the culverts and replace with a bridge.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve extension of permit #FL-2021-032 until 9/6/2023.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Karrow Whitefish Investments LLC, FL-2021-027, Whitefish River, path/trail, bridge, dock, stormwater system: John Ellis explained that a permit extension was approved, with the condition that the center line of the trail be staked out for a final inspection and approval prior to being graded. Retaining walls were also to be staked out. The centerline stakes were placed, and a map of the trail, via GPS, was submitted. John attended the final inspection and provided and reviewed photos with the Board. Staff noted that the permit extension was mailed 5/9/2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Resignation: Lech Naumovich submitted a letter of resignation on 6/17/2022. Samantha Tappenbeck stated Supervisors and Staff have reached out to him to see if he might reconsider. Donna Pridmore recommended waiting to make a final decision until the district receives further information from Lech.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to table the acceptance of Lech Naumovich’s resignation until the next business meeting.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2022/2023 Conservation Grant Applications: Samantha Tappenbeck explained the district received six applications for the coming fiscal year (FY) 2022/2023. Donna Pridmore and Gordon Ash conducted on the ground reviews and provided summary information and recommendations based on review and ranking. Samantha noted that the summary sheet includes score and ranking criteria. She explained the program and review processes and noted the total funding request for FY 2022/2023 is \$22,805.85. Gordon and Samantha described applications and proposed projects for CG-2022-01 and CG-2022-05. Samantha noted CG-2020-06 is incomplete and that additional information had not been received, but if the applicant does submit additional information, the Board may want to consider budgeting additional funding to bring the budget for FY 2022/2023 to \$25,000.00. Supervisors noted the final program budget can be set at the budget meeting.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve applications CG-2022-01 to CG-2022-05.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: John Ellis closed the meeting at 8:17 P.M. to discuss personnel. Staff Ginger Rigdon and Ginger Kauffman left the room. John Ellis re-opened the meeting at 8:38 P.M. and staff returned.

Scott Rumsey motioned “to extend an offer to Virginia (Ginger) Rigdon as Public Outreach Specialist at Grade 8 Step 6.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Attached.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson, NRCS reviewed the attached report with the Board, and noted that due to flooding, Flathead County has been added to the disaster designation by Governor Gianforte. He explained that this provides funding through the NRCS EWP Watershed Protection Program, which requires a sponsor organization/entity (with taxing authority) such as the conservation district or potentially Flathead County. The sponsor would provide 25% via cash or goods and services, and make sure practices are installed according to NRCS specifications. NRCS would provide technical and 75% financial assistance to the sponsor. Projects are *engineering heavy* (e.g., irrigation systems, bank stabilization, rehab projects etc.). The program does not cover infrastructure, only private landowners experiencing damage to natural resources, and must be flood related.

Samantha Tappenbeck stated that she really liked the idea to potentially build and strengthen the partnership between NRCS and FCD, to be a better connection for local landowners through the district to those NRCS programs, and to provide information and assistance to landowners along the lower Flathead River that are impacted by flooding. Her concerns were the timeline, budget, planning, and staff capacity. The Board thought a meeting between the district, NRCS and Flathead County would be appropriate. Sean stated he will report to his supervisor that the board is interested in setting up a meeting and that he will identify potential meeting dates/times.

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau: Attached.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): No report.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported WCPB approved a mini-storage warehouse and a guesthouse.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Ginger Rigdon reported HBWC met June 1st. There is major concern that the City of Whitefish is pulling more water than what is needed out of Haskill Creek, that excess is draining into a different basin, and how to address/resolve the matter. A letter expressing those concerns is being drafted and will be sent to the city. Discussion was also held regarding the success of prescribed fires/burns on the Mountain.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Samantha Tappenbeck reported FBC held a 2-day septic system workshop at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Speakers provided information on what is being done, studies, and mitigation examples undertaken in other parts of the country that are dealing with similar issues to Flathead. There was discussion on current practices in Flathead County, a GIS study of septic risk in Flathead County, and a DNA-tracer study which is in progress to identify points of septic leachate into surface water bodies. An on-site wastewater treatment committee meeting will be held in July.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): FRC Chair, Mark Siderius stated that landowners on Half Moon Slough have submitted a petition for a no-wake zone to the FWP Commission. He reported that he had talked with the National Weather Service and Flathead County Commissioners about addressing the flooding issue, and the message going forward to Senators Daines and Tester, and Governor Gianforte. A federal delegation will call a meeting with all stakeholders in August regarding dam management decisions as related to the flooding event. Donna Pridmore added at the last meeting Samantha Tappenbeck provided an update on the Flathead River Erosion Study, and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Whitefish Trails Meeting Follow-up: Samantha Tappenbeck stated this is an opportunity to discuss steps in follow-up to the meeting with the City of Whitefish regarding the Whitefish trail system. She noted that regulatory and criteria information was received from Whitefish City Staff, the Public Works Department and from Riverbend Condos Association.

- District staff is working with the Public Works Dept. to get an accurate representation (shape files) of trail sections that have been permitted (310, 124, etc.), so the map the district provided at that meeting can be updated.
- John Ellis will contact John Phelps of the Bike/Ped Committee to schedule a time to view proposed areas of the trail.
- After the bike/ped tour, district staff will contact Craig Workman (point of contact) and schedule a meeting with the Public Works and Planning departments.
- The district should provide copies of the Adopted Rules and 310 forms to the City.
- The district could suggest the city add stream permitting information into their pre-app form and Water Quality Check list of considerations under Part 3; and suggest that part of the City of Whitefish's process could be to inform applicants along streams that they need to contact the conservation district for permits.

Letter Regarding Flooding: Verdell Jackson read a letter he wrote regarding flooding issues and the help that was provided to his community. He noted that he will send the letter to the Daily Inter Lake.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Verdell Jackson motioned “to adjourn.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Reviewed By:

Samantha Tappenbeck
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>8/22/2022</u>	<u>John Ellis</u>	<u>Vice-Chair</u>
Date	Signature	Title (Chair, etc.)

Staff Report: June 2022

Samantha Tappenbeck, Resource Conservationist
Ginger Rigdon, Administrative Assistant
Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Office and Administration

310

- Office received thirty-five 310 applications and complaints to date.
- Scanning of older 310-files continues

Bookkeeping

- May bank, revenue, capital improvement and credit card statements reconciled; End of Month Report in progress
- June payroll, payroll reports and payments processed
- Bookkeeping set up for Flathead River Erosion Prevention & Mitigation Study Grant # 23G-22-3725
- Processed payments for Conservation Grants, Education Grants, College Scholarships
- District file, bookkeeping updates made as needed

Budget

- Fiscal year 2021/2022 ends June 30, 2022
- Drafting 2022/2023 budget for July 19th Budget Meeting

Office Support

- Worked with Personnel Committee to review candidates, conduct interviews, and provide recommendation to the Board for hiring the Conservation Program Manager
- Arranged for stenographer to transcribe minutes and coordinated among FCD Board, City of Whitefish staff and Council, FWP, interested stakeholders for Special Meeting on 6/14

Projects

Trumbull Creek Restoration & Aquifer Protection Project

- No action on this project has taken place this month
- Next steps involve a request for additional funding from the Flathead County Commissioners, and coordination with Glacier Park International Airport on plans for implementation

Study of Erosion on the Flathead River/SJ28

- Executed contract for HB223 Grant (\$20K)
- Worked with Tetra Tech to finalize the study design and place orders for instrumentation and equipment
- Contacted landowners on the Flathead River to secure access and establish monitoring sites at four locations
- Installed camera equipment at four monitoring sites

Krause Creek Restoration Project

- Field trip to the Krause Creek project site during the spring runoff with the landowners, River Design Group and FCD Board of Supervisors
- Communicated with the landowner and River Design Group to receive and provide updates on flow conditions through the project reach.

Programs

College Scholarships

- Worked with a scholarship recipient on designation of funds and a request to the Board to hold scholarship funds until next fiscal year
- Processed payments

Conservation Grant Program

- Compiled completion forms/receipts/photos and processed payments for completed FY21/22 projects
- Received six applications for FY 22/23 projects
- Associate Supervisor Gordon Ash reviewed application materials and conducted site visits with applicants
- Compiled application materials, photos, ranking and recommendation to the Board
- FY22/23 award decisions will be made at the 6/27/22 business meeting

Education Grant Program

- Compiled completion forms/receipts/photos and processed payments for completed FY21/22 projects

Rain Garden Initiative

- Worked with program partners at the Flathead Basin Commission and City of Kalispell to plan a “walking tour” outreach event. Event will take place in downtown Kalispell and invite participants to visit rain gardens that have been established through the program
- Worked with Center for Native Plants to purchase gift certificates to provide through the Homeowner Incentive Program

Seedlings & Native Seed Program

- Worked with landowners to cost-share native grass seed through CHS Kalispell

Education and Outreach

Education Events

- Rolling Rivers Trailer presentation at the Whitefish Lake Institute 5th grade wetlands/watershed education day; 5 presentations to Whitefish Middle School students
- Loaned Enviroscape to local educator with Kalispell SD5

Demonstration Garden

- Routine maintenance including mowing and weeding – done as time allows
- Tilled the cover crop area and acquired seed for a new cover crop mixture from CHS

- Coordinated with Flathead County Weed Department staff to arrange strategic herbicide application
- Contacted landscaping companies to gather quotes on basic mowing and weeding maintenance
- Flagged the above ground irrigation system and ornamentals so that a landscaping company would be aware of hose to avoid

Land Stewardship Series

- The Living By Water & Septic Solutions workshop - June 15th: cancelled due to low registration and cancellations.
- Soil Health and Pasture Management workshop - July 12th

Advertisements

- Flathead Beacon - 310 Permits (6/9/22)
- Flathead Beacon - ISO new membership on the Flathead River Commission (6/23/22)

Website

- Website visited by 1,800 users this month.

Social Media

- Facebook page – 826 followers to date
- Instagram page – 503 followers to date

eNewsletter

- The Local Dirt was distributed on 6/6/22 to approximately 720 recipients

Partnerships

- Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting on 6/1/22
- Flathead River Commission meeting on 6/1/22
- Septic Systems Workshop at Flathead Lake Biological Station 6/9-10/22
- Nutrient Work Group meeting on 6/22/22
- River to Lake Initiative meeting on 6/29/22



**JUNE 2022
PHOTOS**



NRCS DC Report – 6/27/2022

Sean Johnson

➤ Programs

- EQIP
 - Continuing to work through our initially funded EQIP applications
- Joint Chief's (JC)– FY22 Funding
 - Received initially funded applications. Waiting to hear if we will be receiving any additional funding for the year
- CSP
 - Funding announced. Working on developing final contract for selected applicants.

➤ Review Items

- Attended Irrigation training in Ronan
- Attended Fire Safe Flathead Meeting
- Assisted with tour of Glen Lake area on 6/1 for Congressional District 1 candidate Monica Tranel
- Pathways intern, Willa Nagel, started on June 6th
- Attended North Fork Fuels Reduction Field Trip on June 15th

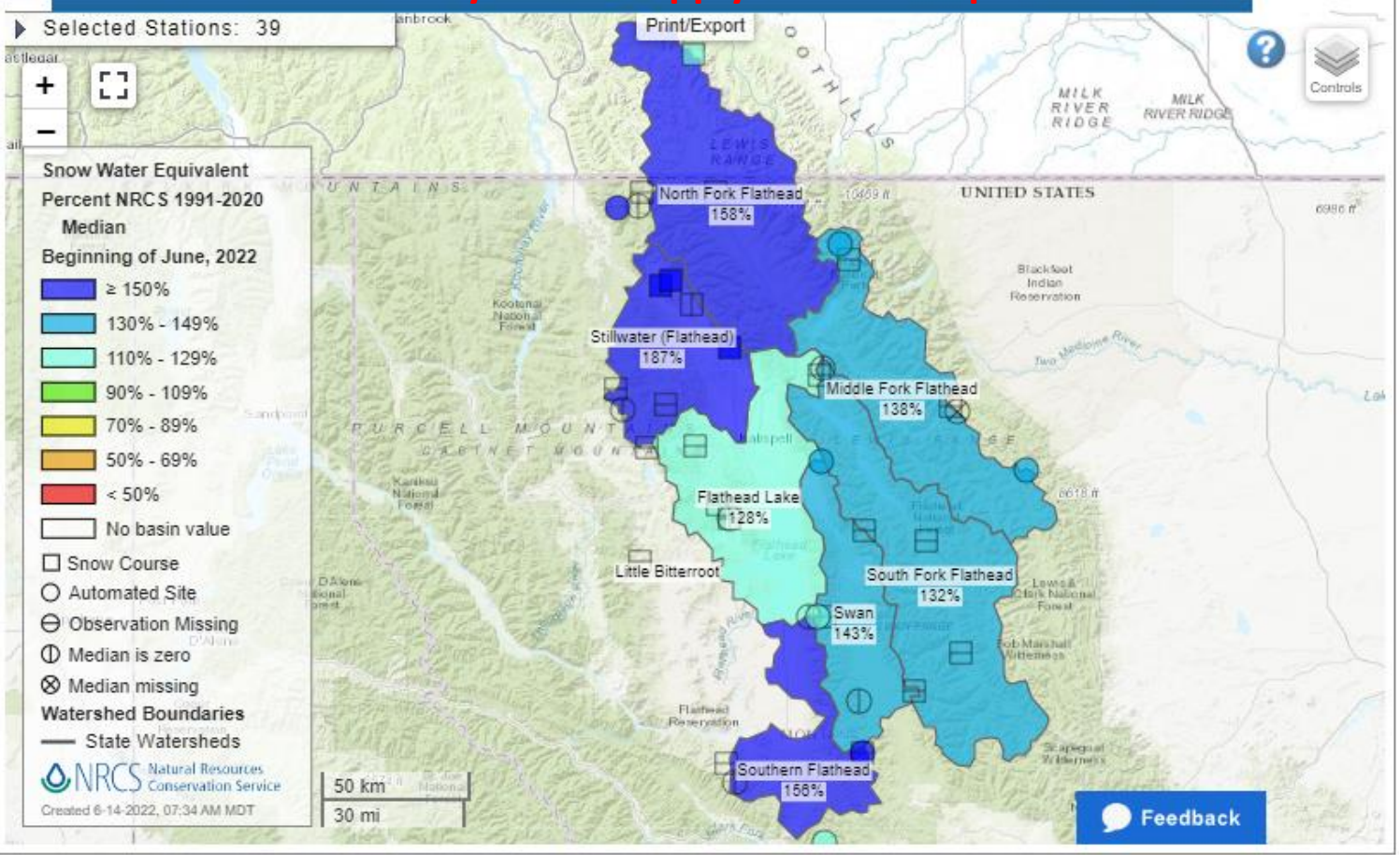
➤ Upcoming Items

- R2L Meeting
 - June 29th at Creston Fish Hatchery
- Soil Health Workshop for FCD Land Stewardship Series
 - July 12th, 6:00-8:00
- North Fork Annual Firewise Day
 - July 13th at Sonderson Hall
- MSU Extension Forestry Workshop
 - July 14-15

➤ Miscellaneous

- Drought – Map prior to local rains in early June
 - D0 – 19%, D1 – 46%, D2 – 16% , D3 – 9% , D4 – 4% - Most Current
 - D0 – 8%, D1 – 20%, D2 – 46%, D3 – 19%, D4 – 0% - May report
- Snow Survey
 - The Flathead Basin is up to 197% of normal overall so far as of June 14th due cool weather and elevated rainfall the first couple weeks of June
 - January was at 107%, February was 97%, March was 94%, April was 93%, May was 111%

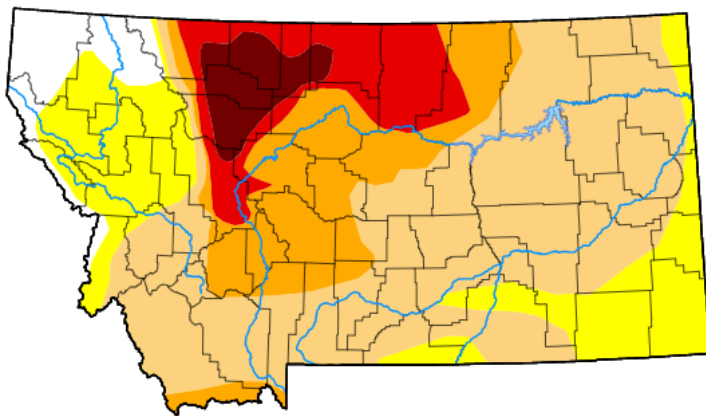
May Water Supply Outlook Report



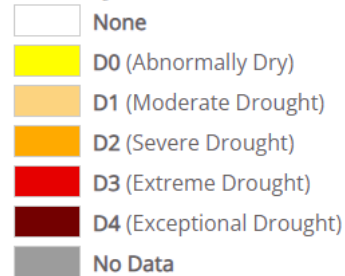
May Drought Monitor

Map released: Thurs. June 9, 2022

Data valid: June 7, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brad Pugh, NOAA/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



PROCUREMENT 101 TRAINING

I recently hosted a procurement training for district staff and supervisors. This training was geared towards anyone at a CD that deals with CD finances or grants, which is probably most of you. There was a lot covered during the training, so please feel free to reach out to me for a one-on-one chat if you missed the initial training, or to discuss any lingering questions you have following the training. I believe the recorded zoom training will also be available on the EO website.

GRANT STATUS UPDATES

To those of you that recently applied for grants, well done! We saw some really great project ideas come through and some well-written proposals. Unfortunately, the way the cookie crumbled this year, all the grants for our entire division seemed to come due at roughly the same time. For you, this means that we at DNRC are in a bit of a scramble to grants reviewed, ranked, awarded, and contracted. Some of you may have already heard from me while others are still wondering what their status is. If you have questions, never hesitate to call me. Otherwise, please know we are working through all your applications as quickly as possible!

CD ROAD TRIPS!

In an effort to meet everyone in person and to strengthen the relationship between CDB and the CDs we support, I am hitting the road this summer to travel to each district in my area. This week, on my first road trip I visited Green Mountain, Eastern Sanders, Mineral, and Missoula CDs. Thank you to everyone that met with me for your time and hospitality. I learned so much from you all and have some wonderful ideas for how to support your programs and help you address challenges at the state-level. For those of you I haven't met with yet, I look forward to scheduling a time to meet you and learn more about your CD.

MACD SPRING BOARD MEETING

Spring Board Meeting will take place in Helena, June 14-16. Some great events are planned, including a speaker from Washington State CDs to inspire you with new project ideas and ways to engage your community. The Employees' Organization is also planning a training on CD finances and QuickBooks. If anyone is interested in attending, funding for Supervisor travel may be available through MWCC. Contact me for details!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, program development ideas, or projects that you need assistance with, please reach out.

-Hailey Graf



Hailey Graf

Conservation District Specialist
Conservation Districts Bureau

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