



CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

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

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

Board members absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Samantha Tappenbeck, Jessie Walthers, Ginger Kauffman, FCD Staff; Bill Yankee, Associate Supervisor; 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

- 6/26/2023 Business Meeting Minutes
- 7/14/2023 Preliminary Budget Meeting Minutes

Consent Agenda Item 3: Financial

Check Detail dated 7/19/2023

1. Charter Communications \$162.95
2. CHS \$150.00
3. Fisher's Technology \$1,340.71
4. Glatfelter Insurance Group \$9,592.00
5. Harvard University \$1,000.00
6. Lake County CD \$397.58
7. Land-Tech Landscaping \$320.00
8. Mountain Trader \$74.40
9. MT Biological Weed Control Coord. Project \$25.00
10. Daily Interlake \$176.90
11. VISA (Donna Pridmore) \$112.06
12. VISA (Samantha Tappenbeck) \$3,497.12

Consent Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

- DNRC CD Funding Forum/Meet & Greet 8/7/2023, 5:00 P.M., Bias Brewing in Kalispell

- MACD Resolutions Process Update
- Thank you from Flathead Land Trust
- Flathead Land Trust Partner Profile

Donna Pridmore motioned “to accept the consent agenda as presented.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

NEW BUSINESS

May End of Month Report: Donna Pridmore reviewed the May 2023 End of Month Report with the Board. Donna Pridmore motioned “to accept the May 2023 End of Month Report.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Settlement Funds Account: Secretary/Treasurer, Donna Pridmore, reported that she researched investment fund options for the Settlement Fund. Glacier Bank currently offers a CD account with 5% interest rate for a 3-month period with flexibility in withdrawal or reinvestment of interest toward principal. Specifics were discussed, and Samantha suggested the if the Board decided to do the CD that they discuss any following steps prior to the end of the 3 months.

John Ellis motioned “that we take necessary steps to take settlement funds out of Three Rivers Bank and purchase a 3-month Certificate of Deposit at Glacier Bank.” Scott Rumsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Camp Sponsorship Request: Jessie Walthers explained the district received a camp sponsorship request for two youth to the Land to Hand Camp in the amount of \$550.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the expense of \$550 to send two youth to the Land to Hand Garden Artist camp.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Furniture & Equipment Disposal Request: Samantha Tappenbeck presented a request to dispose of two Garmin GPS units that no longer work.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the Furniture & Equipment disposal request.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Appointments: Samantha Tappenbeck explained that the district currently has two vacancies: 1 elected seat, 1 appointed seat. The Board needs to appoint someone to serve the duration of the term for the Board Supervisor seat (term expires: 12/31/2026) and needs to recommend someone for appointment by City of Whitefish to fill the Urban Supervisor seat. The district has received a letter of interest and relevant experience from Mr. Mike Kopitzke.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to appoint Bill Yankee to complete Gordon Ash’s term (which expires 12/31/2026).” Scott Rumsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Kopitzke talked about his work experience and stated that he is interested in being an appointed supervisor but would also be glad to accept an associate supervisor position. Samantha Tappenbeck explained that an appointed supervisor does not have to reside in Whitefish, but must reside within the boundaries of the district, excepting the 1945 city limits of Kalispell and Columbia Falls. Samantha explained the process for being appointed by the City of Whitefish.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to send our recommendation to the City of Whitefish that Mike Kopitzke be appointed to the Flathead Conservation District Board of Supervisors.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Samantha stated that we recognize that Supervisor John Ellis remains on the Board that it is his intention to resign his position once a replacement can be found. She noted that there is another person interested in a seat on the Board and she will be talking with them.

Personnel: Chair, Pete Woll closed the meeting to discuss personnel. Bill Yankee, Ginger Kauffman, Jessie Walthers, and Mike Kopitzke left the room. Pete Woll re-opened the meeting, and all returned to the table.

John Ellis motioned “that we advance Jessie Walthers one step increase beginning July 29, 2023.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Attached.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Attached.

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau: Attached.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Bill Yankee reported that the last meeting included zone change requests, a land use review, and preliminary plat approvals. Samantha Tappenbeck noted by statutory requirement Flathead CD does have a voting seat on the FCPB and that Bill Yankee currently attends FCPB meetings in a non-voting capacity in order to report back to the board.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Samantha Tappenbeck reported that the July 12th meeting included discussion regarding diversion of water from Haskill Creek for municipal water use by the City of Whitefish. HBWC drafted a letter to the City of Water requesting they stop diverting water from 2nd & 3rd Creeks, and instead switch to drawing water from Whitefish Lake due to low stream flows and drought conditions. Samantha noted that Public Works was responsive to a request to release water at the diversion site. She noted the staff gage reading on Haskill Creek has continued to drop even with the release of water, so the amount released may not be significant enough to impact flows, or more time may be needed to see the effect. Flathead Conservation District has drafted a letter requesting they stop diverting water from 2nd & 3rd Creeks, and instead switch to drawing water from Whitefish Lake in support of Haskill Basin Watershed Council’s request.

Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC): Samantha Tappenbeck stated WMCC staff will attend the August business meeting to provide updates.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): Donna Pridmore stated the next meeting will be in August.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Declaratory Ruling Exhibit Record Review: Samantha Tappenbeck explained that pertinent records are available on the district website and in hard-copy form at the district office for review prior to the hearing. Supervisors are encouraged to review the record in advance of the hearing, which will be held August 25, 2023, 9:00 A.M. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Samantha further explained processes and time frames to the Board.

Follow-Up Inspection: John Ellis explained he conducted a follow-up inspection today and the applicant had a bank that needs to be revegetated and a silt fence installed. Pete Woll noted that standard protocol needs to be followed; the 310 should be placed on the next meeting agenda for the board to discuss and motion on.

The next 310-permit meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2023, 7:00 P.M. in person and via ZOOM.

Adjournment: John Ellis motioned “to adjourn.” Donna Pridmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Reviewed By:

Samantha Tappenbeck
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>7/24/2023</u>	<u>Pete Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

Staff Report: July 2023

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

Office and Administration

310

- 2023 total 310's to date = 75
- 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
- Compiled and posted exhibit record for declaratory ruling public review and comment period; Received and processed submissions to exhibit record
- RC assisted with 310 onsite inspections

Bookkeeping

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

FY 2023/2024 Budget

- Received preliminary budget sheets from Flathead County Finance.
- Preliminary Budget meeting held 7/17/2023
- Staff met several times to draft the preliminary budget for FY 2023/2024
- FY 2023/2024 preliminary budget submitted to County Finance 7/21/2023.

Office Support

- Staff meetings held weekly per staff availability
- Samantha placed orders for new furniture and cubicle partitions and assembled partitions in Ginger's office space
- Samantha purchased office supplies and researched options for expenditure of 310 Administration Grant funds

Big Sky Watershed Corps

- Camryn assisted FCD this month by:
 - Assisting with Rain Garden Walking Tour 7/12/23
 - Continued coordination for Septic Cost Share Program
 - Demonstration Garden workdays 7/14/23, 7/21/23

Projects

Trumbull Creek Restoration & Aquifer Protection Project

- Received final design plan set and cost estimates from River Design Group

- Progress reports and vendor invoices submitted for RRG-20-1750 and WMG-22-0086A
- Cost estimates:
 - Birch Grove Rd crossing construction estimate = \$152,713; Channel grading, streambank restoration, private culvert crossing construction estimate = \$159,128; Total project construction estimate = \$311,841
 - Total secured funds for project construction = \$75,939
- Planning to host landowner meeting to review project designs and answer questions/address concerns

Study of Boat Wake-Driven Erosion on the Flathead River

- Draft final report received from Tetra Tech on 3/9/23; Review and revisions sent back to Tetra Tech on 6/26/23
- Samantha had several discussions with landowners on the lower Flathead River about study findings and current conditions and recreation on the river this season
- Approximately \$9800 remain in project budget

Programs

College Scholarships

- No College Scholarship activity this month.

Conservation Grant Program

- Conservation Grant Contract landowners are currently returning their signed contracts to the district and getting underway on their projects.

Education Grant Program

- One inquiry for an education grant, for Flathead County Extension, for installing a Rain Garden at the Fairgrounds. May postpone project but inquired about process.

Pollinator Initiative

- Distributed Pollinator seed to two participants.

Rain Garden Initiative

- Rain Garden Walking Tour was conducted on July 12th, in partnership with Western Montana Conservation Commission, City of Kalispell, and Center for Native Plants.
- Participants visited three rain gardens in Kalispell. 25 people participated.

Seedlings & Native Seed Program

- Office has fielded inquiries about seedling program, for future orders, and for conservation grant recipients who will be utilizing the seedling program.
- Two native grass cost share agreements were received.

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

- One Youth Camp Sponsorships request was received this month, to be reviewed at the Business Meeting. One sponsorship was returned, as family was not able to attend one week of camp at Land to Hand.

Education & Outreach

Advertisement

- 310 Permit ad in the Mountain Trader on 6/29/23
- Boosted advertisements on social media for Rain Garden walking tour

Education Events

- Rain Garden Walking Tour, conducted July 12th, 25 participants.

Demonstration Garden

- Ongoing weeding, herbicide applications, and maintenance
- Installed new butterfly garden complete with plants, puddlers, and mulch

Website

- Posted approved meeting minutes and July 2023 meeting agendas
- Published records associated with Declaratory Ruling for public access/review
- Website visited by 1.4K users (↑2%); Impressions = 57K; Total Clicks = 917

Social Media

- Facebook: Page followers = 986 (↑8%); Post Reach = 4,734; Post Engagement = 1,076
- Instagram: Page followers = 854 (↑9%); Accts Reach = 2,066; Accts Engaged = 18

The Local Dirt eNewsletter

- Distributed on 7/3/23 to 812 recipients

Partnerships

- Area V Conservation District Meeting 7/12/23
- Haskill Basin Watershed Council Meeting 7/12/23
- Rivers 2 Lake Initiative Partner Meeting 7/19/23
- Nutrient Work Group 7/20/23
- Flathead Basin Wastewater Partner/Septic Cost Share Meeting 7/20/23
- Flathead Waters Clean Up Partner Meeting 7/20/23

Photos



NRCS DC Report – 7/24/2023

Sean Johnson

➤ Programs

- EQIP and Joint Chiefs
 - Entering the home stretch of our contract season...finally. Most contracts will be wrapped up by the end of July with a couple probably bleeding over into early August.
 - Work will begin shortly on starting to work on our FY24 applications and getting site visits and plans developed.
- CSP
 - No active applications for FY23

➤ Review Items

- Attended Annual Firewise Day in the North Fork on July 12th to talk about NRCS programs
- Attended the Flathead County Population Change meeting on July 13th at FVCC
- Attended a 2 day Federal Appeals training in Great Falls July 19th-20th
- Hopefully wrapped up soil conservationist interviews as a selection has been made for the both Kalispell and Eureka. Already have confirmation from the Kalispell selection they will be accepting the offer and hopefully will be here sometime in September probably.

➤ Upcoming Items

- All Missoula Area DC meeting August 8th-10th
- Firesafe Flathead meeting on August 16th

➤ Miscellaneous

- Snow Report
 - Next Snow Survey report will come out January 1st, 2024
- Drought – Most of Flathead still in “Severe” category while the eastern side of the state is starting to re enter into some early drought status
 - None – 60%, D0 – 26%, D1 – 11%, D2 – 4%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0% - July
 - None – 70%, D0 – 13%, D1 – 13%, D2 – 4%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0% - June
 - None – 35%, D0 - 43%, D1 - 22% , D2 - 4%, D3 – 0%, D4 – 0%, - May
 - 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

Montana

June Drought Monitor

Map released: Thurs. June 22, 2023

Data valid: June 20, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

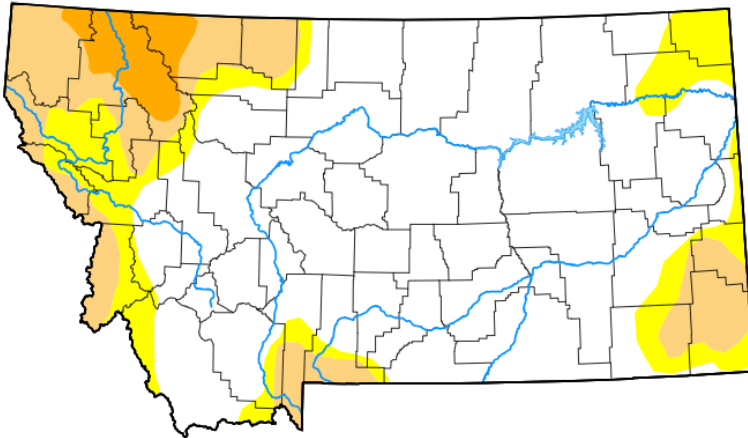
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Adam Hartman](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Richard Heim](#), NOAA/NCEI



Montana

July Drought Monitor

Hor

Map released: Thurs. July 20, 2023

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

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

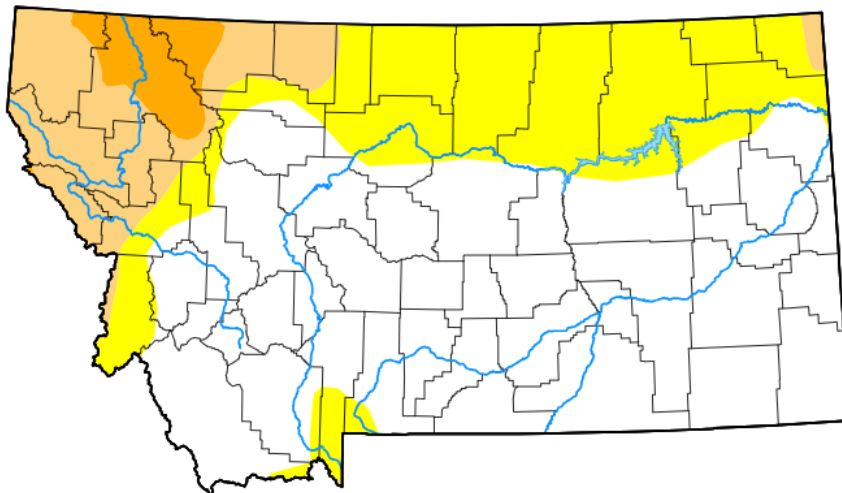
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture





REPORT TO WESTERN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS JULY 2023

FUNDING FORUMS

CDB staff have been hosting funding forums across the state throughout the spring and summer. These funding forums are informal meet-and-greet style discussions to review the funding survey results and legislative updates. The next one we have planned will be in Kalispell on August 7th from 5-6 PM, venue to be determined. Please plan to attend if you can. We also hope to plan another forum in the Missoula area later in August. If you have suggestions for dates or locations, please get in touch with me.

CDB GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES & OFFICE HOURS

We're updating the grant guidelines and making some exciting changes to our grant programs! Leading up to the September 1 call for applications, we will be doing a summer series for grants during our CDB Office Hours. Stay tuned for topics covering contracting, grant guideline updates, tips for applications, Submittable, and more. As a reminder, CDB Office Hours are every first and third Thursday of the month at 2 PM. The first session in the summer grants series will be July 6th, so mark your calendars.

CDA & 310 GRANT PAYMENTS

Wondering when you can expect a payment for your CDA or 310 grant? We are currently working through the contracting process, but we can't make payments until DNRC has reconciled the books for 2023. This process is extra long this year because it is also the end of a biennium. All that to say, we anticipate sending contracts out in July and making payments in August. So, if operations funds are low, please watch your expenditures throughout the summer. We will make every effort to get these payments out the door as quickly as possible, but it's a long process and we thank you all for your patience!

OLD SALT FESTIVAL

On June 24, I had the opportunity to attend the Old Salt Festival and support MACD with outreach efforts. For anyone who hasn't heard of the festival or the Old Salt Cooperative, the intention is to increase awareness of the close link between ranching and conservation. The festival featured a variety of musicians, conservation and agriculture speakers, and delicious food provided by the farms and ranches in the Helmville area. They hope to make this an annual event and I encourage anyone interested in attending next year.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

Don't forget that the 4th of July is a paid holiday! Offices will be closed, and many staff will be taking time off to celebrate. I plan to work most of the week but may work shortened hours. If you need to reach me about something urgent over the holiday, please leave me a voicemail on my cell phone at (406) 437-4437. Have a great Independence Day!

-Hailey Graf



Hailey Graf
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