



FLATHEAD

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Pete Woll called the 8/26/2019 Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Pete Woll, Chair; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor; Lech Naumovich, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Lori Curtis, Vice Chair. Absence is excused.

Also, in attendance were Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Greg Dennison; Loring Cox.

MINUTES

Ronald Buentemeier motioned “to approve the minutes of the 8/12/2019, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: Newsletters/Publications

1. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publications
NACD eResource, Conservation Clips, National Conservation Foundation Leadership Institute <https://www.nacdnet.org/>
2. Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) and Montana Conservation Districts of Montana (MACD) 8/22/2019 issue of *The Montana Conservationist* <https://swcdm.org/>
3. Montana Watershed Coordination Council *Watershed News* <http://mtwatersheds.org/app/>

Email: Workshops

1. Soil Health Tour, September 18, 2019, 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M., meet at Lions Park for then travel to Icopini Farms, Hysham, MT. BBQ to follow. Contact Angie Stahl 406-342-5510, Ext. 102.
2. Northern Rockies Tree School, October 7-9, 2019, Best Western GranTree Inn, Bozeman, register at <https://isarmc.org/meetinginfo.php?id=126&ts=1566495997>

- Registration questions call (720) 977-7941
- 2019 Montana Range Tour, September 4-5, Kiwanis Youth Center, 310 3rd St. NE, Harlowton, MT. See agenda and register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-montana-range-tour-tickets-65050229989>. For more information please call Cheryl Miller 632-5534 Ext. 101 or Stacey Barta 406-930-0693.

Email: Funding/Grants

- The Montana Urban Community Forestry Association is looking to assist a Montana community, Montana arboricultural businesses, or nonprofits with grant funds to complete creative urban forestry projects in Montana communities that will help promote and strengthen Urban Forestry in Montana. Funds Available: Media Grants- **\$250.00**; Northern Rockies Tree School Grant- **\$2,500.00**; Urban Forestry Service Grants- **\$2,000.00**. Submit application to montanaurbanforestry@gmail.com by 9/13/2019. Contact: Tim Egan, 406-683-6305, tegan@mt.gov

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

- CenturyLink \$303.53
- Heart of Sky Fencing \$10,000.00
- Seth Major Electric \$414.00
- VISA \$3532.09
- MontanaSky Networks \$10.00

Dean Sirucek motioned "to approve the bills as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

NEW BUSINESS

Cost Share Program:

#FCD 2019-01, Dennison: Hailey Graf stated when this application was presented to the board at the last business meeting, the board asked for further information on the efficacy of fall weed spraying, so she talked with the Flathead County Weed Department (FCWD) and acquired literature. Hailey explained that in late fall spraying knapweed and thistle can be very effective because the plants are actively transporting materials between the roots and leaves in preparation for winter dormancy, meaning they also readily transport chemical throughout the plant. The application originally stated that they would do broadcast spraying in the fall, but after discussion with Mr. Dennison he modified the application to do spot spraying in the fall specifically for thistle and knapweed then do broadcast spraying in the spring.

Lech Naumovich asked about the herbicide Opensite. Hailey explained that per the label and FCWD, Opensite has the same active ingredient as Milestone and will be effective on the weeds listed in the cost-share application. Mr. Dennison added it also contains Escort so there is an overlap with Milestone. It is a dry chemical making it easy to store, which is his

preference. Lech asked if he would be spraying near water. Mr. Dennison replied they have a spring but will not be spraying next to it and there is no running water on the property.

John Ellis motioned “to approve cost-share application #2019-01 in the amt of \$2,200.00.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#FCD 2019-02, Cox: Mr. Cox explained he purchased 25 acres in Somers last year, and the timber on the property has some major issues which he is trying to take care of, primarily for fire mitigation and disease. The timber stand is approximately 80% Douglas Fir, 15% Larch and some Ponderosa Pine. The Larch and Doug Fir are heavily infected with mistletoe, so he contacted Rick Moore, DNRC Service Forester. For the first stage of the project Mr. Cox removed some of the dead and heavily infested trees this last spring. The next stage is to reseed and replant. Rick advised him to leave the Doug Fir and add Engelman Spruce, Larch and Pine so there is 25/25/25/25 on the stand at the end of the project. He will re-seed then re-evaluate in 3-4 years. The worst of the trees should be dead by then so a second removal can be done. With the first removal, he now has about 60% of the Doug Fir but a lot of it is still sick and he is currently using those trees for shade and covering of the seedlings.

Mr. Cox explained that he is also dealing with invasive weeds, mostly Hounds Tongue and Cheat Grass, and has a plan for removing those also. He is currently hand pulling the Hounds Tongue and spraying those he knows are in the second-year life cycle; trying to keep any of it from going to seed again. His big concern is with the logging activity and wanted to make sure he could go after what has been brought in especially in heavy traffic areas. There is also a large amount of Cheatgrass moving into the homesite area, which is mostly Mountain Fescue, so he is hoping to find an herbicide to remove the Cheatgrass but leave the Fescue.

Hailey Graf asked about the budgeted amount for seedlings and Mr. Cox responded that the listed price includes the cost of site prep, and planting for each seedling. Lech Naumovich asked about natural recruitment. Mr. Cox replied that Rick Moore said there would be natural recruitment but about 90% would be Doug Fir, and recommended putting in as many new species as possible to help stop the mistletoe disease cycle from reoccurring. The board discussed options for planting phases and using herbicides to control weeds to best ensure seedling success. Dean Sirucek also expressed concern about spruce seedling survival due to the soil conditions. The landowner stated he is open to suggestions and agreed to plant fewer spruce the first year to see how the seedlings do.

Lech asked if Hailey had done a site visit? Hailey replied that while she had not, Rick Moore with DNRC had and she reviewed the information he provided to the landowner. She stated she would be willing to conduct an onsite with any of the board members if they chose but was comfortable relying on Rick’s recommendations. Supervisors stated that they were comfortable DNRC’s recommendations, and amendments would not be necessary. However, they would like a site visit when the work is completed.

John Ellis motioned “to approve cost-share application #2019-02 in amount of \$5000.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding the cost-share program process.

Grants:

DEQ Gr. #218013 – Cow Creek: Hailey Graf explained that the billing statement is for the deposit for the fencing project under the Cow Creek restoration grant. Construction is starting this month. The district approved the invoice this evening, and now we are requesting reimbursement from DEQ. The billing statement also includes \$100 for grant administration per the grant agreement.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the Cow Creek DEQ Grant #218013 billing statement in the amount of \$10,100.00 and submit to DEQ for payment.” Lech Naumovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DNRC 223 Gr. #23G-19-3639: Ginger Kauffman explained the DNRC Vendor Invoice included supplies for the Demonstration Garden & Outdoor Education Center per the grant agreement.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the DNRC 223 Grant #23G-19-3639 Vendor Invoice in the amount of \$1014.15 and send to DNRC for payment.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

End of Month Budget Report (July 2019): Ginger Kauffman explained that the July VISA bill and revenue sheets came in too late, so the July End of Month Report could not be completed before this meeting. The report will be provided to the Board in September.

2019/2020 Budget Revisions: Pete Woll asked supervisors to review the suggested changes for the 2019/2020 budget and be ready to provide comments and approval at the September 9th 310-stream permit meeting. The final budget is due to Flathead County Finance on September 11th. Hailey Graf noted if board members want to review the spreadsheets prior to the meeting, to please contact staff.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon – 310 summer ad with QR code and Rain Garden Workshop.
2. Hailey created a flyer and outreach materials for the August 22nd Rain Garden Workshop. The flyer was distributed to local nurseries and other interested parties.
3. Hailey and Pete participated in the MACD Convention planning meeting on August 6th. The group discussed the proposed budget, menu, and speakers.
4. Hailey met with SWCDM and FWP staff to discuss the planting plan for the Cow Creek restoration project.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek – Working with project partners, Hailey finalized materials for the Floodplain permit which was received on August 19. Hailey and SWCDM staff met with the fencing contractor to review the site requirements and Hailey flagged the final fencing location. The hardened crossings will be constructed the week of September 9th and the fencing will be installed at the end of the September. Hailey also wrote the status report and compiled in-kind match reports from all the partners for reimbursement request to DEQ.

Krause Creek – Hailey contacted the grant manager with DNRC, Lindsey Volpe, to discuss the implementation timeline for the project and provided updates to the landowners.

Landowner Programs

Cost-Share Program – Hailey has met with three different landowners to discuss options for cost-share opportunities and has provided information to numerous others. Two landowners have submitted applications so far this cycle. Application are due September 30th for this fiscal year.

Education and Outreach

Programs – Hailey presented the Rolling Rivers Trailer for approximately 35 participants of the Kalispell Parks and Rec summer program on July 26th. Hailey set up and staffed a display at the NW Montana Fair with much appreciated help from Dean Sirucek, John Ellis, and Ronald Buentemeier. During the week of the fair, August 14-18th, over 2,000 local residents and tourists visited the display booth.

Demonstration Garden – The irrigation system for the garden was installed by Diamond Sprinklers on August 9-11th. The system includes a HydraWise irrigation controller with predictive watering based on local weather forecasts and is designed for water conservation. Hailey presented the first workshop, focusing on rain garden building, on August 22nd. Hailey received positive feedback about the workshop and two landowners have committed to constructing rain gardens on their property. Additional workshops on pollinator gardens and noxious weed spraying will be on August 29th and throughout September. Hailey also worked on writing status reports for the grant funding associated with the Demonstration Garden.

Website/social media - Blog post topics for May included: *The Benefits of Mulch* and updates about the Demonstration Garden and upcoming workshops. Over the last 30 days, the website had 892 users and 1,787 pageviews. The Facebook page reached 2,827 users and had 547 post engagements.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson submitted the following report:

- **Programs**
 - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Wrapping up contracting this week
 - Current sign-up going for our national initiatives (high tunnel, pollinator, Organic) along with the select TIP's that were approved last year already with sign-up deadline of August 30th
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Wrapping up contracting this week and next week
- **Review Items**
 - General contracting and site visits taking place
 - Certification requests starting to come in for completed practices
- **Upcoming Items**
 - Supervisor Training
 - Great Falls, Sept 4th and 5th
- **Miscellaneous**

- Working through process on filling Soil Conservationist position. Hoping to have the selected person in place by October sometime.

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported this is Jeff Tiberi's last week as MACD Transition Manager. The hiring process has been put on hold due to reorganization issues and Joyce Swartzendruber/Ray Beck may be putting in time to help keep things running.

Pete asked the FCD supervisors to review the MACD Dues Revisions. Pete also noted that MACD Resolutions will be on 9/23 business meeting agenda for the Flathead CD board to discuss and vote on. Copies of the Resolutions will be provided to Supervisors at the 9/9 meeting.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported three zone changes went forward with positive recommendations to the county commissioners. St. Herman Orthodox Church by Batavia School also requested a zone change to take 2 acres out of 40 to build a new church on. This was tabled due to road/traffic safety issues that needed to be further addressed.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported he was not present at the meeting, however, the agenda included accessory apartments and minor zone changes downtown. Lech Naumovich noted that the 43-apartment project on Skyles Place was approved. John stated the property had been commercial and is going back to residential. It was passed to the City Council without a recommendation. John noted that the hospital re-development and the Idaho Timber projects have not started.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): No report.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): No report.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Dean Sirucek reported that FBC is applying for a DNRC Administrative Grant. The next meeting is September 26th.

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

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

MACD 2019 Convention: The 2019 MACD convention will be held November 19-21 at the Red Lion Hotel & Convention Center in Kalispell. Supervisors were asked to contact Hailey Graf by the September 9th 310-meeting if they plan to attend convention, and she will register them. Copies of the draft agenda were provided to the board.

Area V Pollinator Initiative: Hailey Graf reported that conservation districts in Area V have discussed beginning a pollinator initiative to expand on Lake CD's program, which is providing outreach materials and locally adapted native seeds for pollinator gardens. Hailey asked if the board had any issues with participating in the project as it fits well with the District's other, ongoing programs. Supervisors agreed that it is important to support pollinator resources and that the district should be involved with the program. Hailey noted

that no action is required at this time, however she would bring it back to the board as further details develop.

Resource Conservationist (RC) Hiring Update: Pete Woll and Lech Naumovich updated the board on the hiring process for the RC position. The first round of interviews will be held September 4th.

Area Meeting: Pete Woll encouraged everyone to attend the Area V meeting on September 25th, in Corvallis, MT, which is being hosted by Bitterroot Conservation District. Supervisors were asked to contact Hailey Graf if they plan to attend, and Hailey will register them. Registrations are due September 18th.

District Employee/Supervisor of the Year: Nomination information for district employee/supervisor of the year award was provided to the board. Nominations are due September 6th to Laurie Zeller, DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT, 59620-1601.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Verdell Jackson motioned “to adjourn.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Hailey Graf
Interim Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>9/9/2019</u>	<u>Pete Woll</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)