



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Ginger Kauffman and Kari Musgrove, FCD staff; Kenny Breidinger, MFWP; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps; James Dillon, River Steward.

MINUTES: Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015, 310-meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice: Whitefish Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:00 P.M. in the Whitefish City Council Chambers at 1005 Baker Avenue.
 2. Email from MACD re: funding for Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM).
 3. Notice: SWCDMI is hiring for the positions of “Program Manager, Sage Grouse Initiative Range Conservationist, and Area Resource Specialists in Range and Water. Applications are due to hiring.macdnet.org by January 27, 2016, 5:00 P.M.
 4. MACD December 17, 2015, issue of “The Montana Conservationist”
 5. Notice: Garfield County Conservation District is hiring a District Administrator/Project Coordinator. Contact 406-557-2740 ext. 100.
 6. USDA publication “Inside Agroforestry”
 7. Notice of Public Hearing. On January 14, 2016, 9:30 A.M., the Board of Environmental Review will hold a public hearing in Room 111, Metcalf Building, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana, to consider the proposed repeal rules pertaining to water pollution, radiological criteria, state and EPA coordination, pretreatment, definitions, enforcement actions for administrative penalties, purpose, definitions, enforcement procedures, and suspended penalties.
 8. McCone Conservation District January 2016 newsletter “Conservation News”
 9. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) December issue of “Forestry Notes”
 10. Letter from Army Corps of Engineers to Douglas Rehbein regarding an after-the-fact permit for discharge of fill material into Waters Adjacent to the Middle Fork Flathead River
 11. 310 Workshop, January 12, 2016, Dillon, MT; Search & Rescue Building
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12. January 6, 2016 issue of MACD newsletter "The Montana Conservationist"
13. DNRC Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant applications are due March 15, 2016. Contact Stephanie Hester, DNRC, 406-444-6691
14. 2016 Winter Grazing Seminar, February 2-3, 2016, Double Tree Hotel, Missoula. Contact Ben Montgomery, NRCS, 406-676-2841 Ext. 111
15. January 2016 Notes from Laurie Zeller, DNRC:
 - a. 2016 Mileage reimbursement is .54 cents per mile
 - b. Contact DNRC if interested in serving on the Resource Conservation Advisory Council.
 - c. January 14 – March 14 - filing dates for CD Supervisors whose terms expire 12/31/2016 or individual interested in running for the position
 - d. Sage Grouse Program can be found on-line at sagegrouse.mt.gov
 - e. 223 Grant application deadline is January 15.
16. Survey & letter from MACD re: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM).
17. Montana Water Coordination Council annual meeting, February 12, 2016, Helena. Contact 406-475-1420, mtwatersheds.org
18. Thank-you card from a landowner for weed spraying assistance through the Flathead County Weed Dept. last year.

FINANCIAL: The following bills were paid prior to this meeting, as they were due and there was no December business meeting:

1. CenturyLink \$293.31
2. MontanaSky Networks Inc. \$20.00
3. Philip H. Crissman \$437.50
4. Flathead Beacon \$528.00

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$45.00
2. Kouns Excavating \$1518.75
3. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1,545.56
4. MSU Dept. of Education \$2,500.00
5. Susan D. Hulslander, CPA \$2,042.00
6. Whitefish Lake Institute \$575.00

Mark Siderius made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chair –

Mark Siderius made a motion “to nominate Ronald Buentemeier as Chairman.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair –

Mark Siderius made a motion “to nominate Pete Woll as Vice-Chairman.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer –

Mark Siderius made a motion “to nominate Camisha Sawtelle as Secretary-Treasurer. Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE & CC AUTHORIZATIONS: Mark Siderius made a motion “to leave the signature and credit card authorizations as they are.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Flathead River Commission –

Pete Woll made a motion “to appoint Mark Siderius to the Flathead River Commission board.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

See 12/21/215 Flathead River Commission meeting minutes.

310:

DIXON, FL2015004, Whitefish River, violation: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve and send the letter to Dixon dated 1/11/2016, with change of signatory to the Chairman.” Mark Sideirus seconded. Motion carried unanimously

FH STOLTZE L&L, FL2015072E, Haskill Creek, notice of emergency: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to approve the notice of emergency.” Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HARDY, FL2015051, Stillwater River, bank stabilization/fill/debris removal: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to table pending further information.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

JACOBSON, FL2015073, Whale Creek, debris removal: Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to continue to table until the site is viewable.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUNK, FL2016001E, Mount Creek, notice of emergency: An on-site inspection was set for Tuesday, January 19, 9:00 A.M. at the site.

VARDELL, FL2015065C & FL2015042, Whitefish River, complaint: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “this is not a violation.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



NEW BUSINESS:

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS (BSWC) PROGRAM: Valerie Kurth introduced two new BSWC members: Sarah Bowman, who is to serve in the Flathead CD office, and James Dillon, the new Flathead River Steward. Valerie also updated the board on the funding for Sarah's position.

Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion "to cover the travel and lodging expenses for Sarah and Valerie to stop in Helena on their way to Bozeman for training in an amount not to exceed \$500." Camisha Sawtelle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to allow the BSWC person to use the district vehicle." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made motion "to approve James Dillon to use the district copier & internet access." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

KRAUSE CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING ASSESSMENT: Valerie Kurth reported a new solicitation was sent out to 8 firms. Two bids were received, reviewed and scored by the committee. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to accept the bid from Confluence Consulting Inc. for the Krause Creek planning grant project." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to approve the advertising contract with the Flathead Beacon for 2016." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED WORKSHOP ADVERTISING & HANDOUT: Kari Musgrove updated the board on possible additional advertising costs through the Flathead Beacon for the Weed Workshop. Discussion held. The board asked Kari to bring further information about local advertising to the January business meeting.

Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "for the Flathead Conservation District to pay half of the printing costs for the noxious weed brochure if other partners pay the additional half." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET (November 2015): Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion "to approve the November 2015 end-of-month budget report as presented." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 SALARY TABLES: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "the cost of living increases be made automatically according to the federal wage scale." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Personnel Policy will be updated and brought to the January business meeting for the board's review.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF MONTANA (SWCDM): Pete Woll asked supervisors to bring any comments they have regarding SWCDM by-laws and survey to the January business meeting.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- **EMAIL GUIDELINES** - Valerie Kurth will get further information from DNRC
- **2016 MILEAGE RATES**
- **FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT**
- **SUPERVISOR ELECTION INFORMATION**
- **WILDLAND HYDROLOGY SHORT COURSES**
- **FLATHEAD WATERSHED EDUCATION TRUNKS**
- **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS & ENVIROTHON**

The next business meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Woll made a motion “to adjourn.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

1/25/2016 Ronald Buentemeier Chairman
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

