

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2020
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. Conference Room**

Attendees: Paul McKenzie, Bill Cabbage, John Phelps, Glenda Gehri, Andy Reed

John P. called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. The draft agenda was accepted and approved.

Bill C. made a motion, second by Glenda G. to accept the minutes of the 1/15/20 meeting. Passed unopposed.

New Business:

1.) Council Appointments

- John Phelps informed the group that the Flathead Conservation District had reappointed John P, Paul M, and Bill C for an additional 3yr term.
- **Paul M Made a motion that Glenda G. serve as Secretary, Bill C. as Vice Chair and John P. as Chair, Second by Bill C. Passed unopposed.**
- Positions and terms are as follows:

| Council Member | Position | Term Ends |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| John Phelps | Chair | December 31, 2022 |
| Glenda Gehri | Secretary | December 31, 2020 |
| Paul McKenzie | Stoltze Rep | December 31, 2022 |
| Joe Krezowski | At Large | December 31, 2020 |
| Bill Cabbage | Vice Chair - WSI Rep | December 31, 2022 |

2.) Winter Sports Inc Water Rights Amendment

- John P had done some research over the USFS reported request co keep the upper ponds full in the summertime as a firefighting resource. According to USFS rep Beth Gardner, there is no official request or requirement from the USFS for WSI to do so. (See attached notes) She did indicate this is a DNRC primary protection area, not a USFS protection area.
- Discussion that having the ponds, with some water in the summer is a community benefit for wildfire protection. Paul M related a couple of instances where fires on Stoltze land had benefited from having water on the mountain. Bill C. related multiple times where DNRC and USFS have dipped from the ponds for firefighting.
- It was agreed that there is some benefit to having water in the ponds. Normal ops is to fill the ponds in October. In low water years, both early fill schedule and firefighting needs are likely to occur, this is where the "MOU" or operating agreement between WSI and HBWC would kick in. Discussions of water needs and how to best meet the needs of WSI while considering the effects on Haskill creek would take place.
- John will draft a letter to WSI asking them to agree to additional communication and coordination as possible in low water years.

Old Business

3.) Reservoir Dam Management Plan

- John P provided an update.
 1. Intake Pipe extension into Whitefish Lake did not pan out. Would not solve the problems with the lake water, project on hold.
 2. Remote Telemetry, preliminary design done, but given the water treatment plant upgrades, the project is a lower priority and will be done at a later date.
 3. The treatment plan upgrade bids open on July 2nd. Work should start shortly thereafter. Project should provide better treatment efficiency, allowing use of more Lake water. Filter flush will now go into sanitary sewer, no need for dilution, less water use from Haskill.
 4. Wells south of town are still in consideration, but a lower priority given the plant upgrade projects.

4.) Whitefish Municipal Watershed Project USFS

- Andy Reed gave an update on implementation of WMW Stewi.
 1. Logging is complete.
 2. Post logging slash treatment will be completed summer 2020. Road obliteration to follow.
 3. Broadcast burning will take place when conditions allowed. Pile burning fall of 2020.
 4. Plans to plant trees both in logging units and post burn openings to augment species diversity and especially augment Whitebark Pine regeneration.

5.) Forest Plan Revision Update:

- One project decision (Taylor Hellroaring) has been signed under the new plan and will be a Good Neighbor Authority sale, sold and administered by Montana DNRC. A couple more projects are coming out. No active litigation yet.
- Kurt Steele is new Forest Supervisor, on board a couple of months.
- Andy Reed will serve as USFS rep for Tally Lake RD.

6.) Replacement of Culverts on Haskill Basin County Road:

- Discussion if some large rock on the downstream side of the culverts would be beneficial. Band Aid fix probably, maybe expensive.
- John P. will have informal discussion with John Muhlfeld to see if there is any benefit to this type of action.

7.) Public Comment:

- No public comment

8.) Motion to adjourn at 6:59 pm