

MINUTES

Missoula Conservation District

February 12, 2018

Missoula Conservation District

February 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm

3550 Mullan Rd, Ste 106, Missoula, MT 59808

Missoula Conservation District Attendees:

Tim Hall, Supervisor & Chair
Libby Maclay, Supervisor & Vice Chair
Travis Greenwalt, Supervisor & Treasurer
Sidney Wills, Supervisor
Paul Parson, Supervisor
Art Pencek, Supervisor
Bart Morris, Associate Supervisor
Jen McBride, Staff
Monica Perez-Watkins, Staff
Brandi Bergreen, Big Sky Watershed
Corps Member

Additional Attendees:

John Bowe, NRCS
John Hart, Deputy County Attorney
Ladd Knotek, MT FWP
Ethan Mace (App. No. MS-34-17)
Deb Fassnacht (Watershed Edu. Network)
Heidi Sedivy (Watershed Edu. Network
Affiliate)
Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource
Council)
David Wallenburn
Hugh Sheehy (Blixit Creek Reservoir)
Barb Sheehy

Absent:

Bob Schroeder, Supervisor

Call Meeting to Order – 7:02 pm by Chair Tim Hall.

Minutes – Libby Maclay moved to approve the January 8, 2018 minutes as submitted. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

Treasurer's Report – Travis Greenwalt reported \$34,907.62 in the district checking account.

Public Comment – No public comment.

NRCS Report – District Conservationist John Bowe provided a verbal report. The report included information regarding the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Wetland Reserve Program, and Beginning Farmer and Rancher applications. Bowe discussed his outreach efforts, including attendance at a recent workshop for local Hmong farmers and his plans to attend a future farmers' market workshop.

Request for Funding

Watershed Education Network – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education Project – DNRC 223 Grant Sponsorship

Deb Fassnacht, Watershed Education Network (WEN) Director, and Heidi Sedivy, WEN AIS consultant, were in attendance to present their grant proposal and ask the district to sponsor a \$10,000.00 DNRC grant. Fassnacht discussed WEN's work and Sedivy discussed her background in AIS education. Sedivy is the lead instructor for WEN's AIS education curriculum, which she developed with a Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) high school teacher.

WEN is requesting the grant sponsorship to enable the expansion of an existing AIS education project into new high school classrooms. The grant would also assist with funds to host two community AIS education events. Fassnacht and Sedivy discussed MCPS teachers' enthusiasm for the curriculum and the importance of educating high school students on the threat and spread of AIS in Montana. The curriculum includes 8 lessons and meets next generation science and state common core standards. The 7th lesson is a public outreach project in which the

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students use the knowledge gained from the previous 6 lessons to craft a public outreach project that will reach the wider community.

Travis Greenwalt moved to sponsor WEN for a \$10,000.00 DNRC 223 Grant for the AIS education project. Paul Parson seconded the motion, motion passed – 5 in favor, Art Pencek abstained.

Hugh Sheehy - Blixit Creek Reservoir Repair - DNRC Irrigation Development Grant Sponsorship

Hugh Sheehy was in attendance to discuss the Blixit Creek Reservoir and its repair needs with the Board of Supervisors. The pipe within the dam is rusty, and the reservoir is currently inoperable. The reservoir has three separate water right holders, holds 92-square feet of water, and can irrigate 70-acres of land. Sheehy is the main water right holder on the reservoir and owns the land. Adjacent land is owned by the DNRC and Wills Cattle Company. Sheehy stated that the reservoir is also used by the DNRC for fighting fire.

The estimated cost to repair the reservoir, including survey work, is estimated to be greater than \$100,000.00. Sheehy asked the board to sponsor the DNRC Irrigation Development Grant to repair the reservoir, and said he would like to request the maximum amount the grant may fund (\$20,000.00). Initial engineering and planning work will be finalized by a local engineering firm, WGM Group, which has estimated initial work to cost \$5,400.00. WGM Group will be responsible for drafting the grant application and will apply for any potential stream permits, including a 310 permit. Sheehy was not certain where the remaining \$80,000.00 will come from, but suggested that he would have to cover it himself.

The board discussed the reservoir and previous permit applications to work on the dam.

Art Pencek moved to sponsor Hugh Sheehy for a \$20,000.00 DNRC Irrigation Development Grant to assist with the cost to repair the Blixit Creek Reservoir. Libby Maclay seconded the motion, motion passed – 5 in favor, Sidney Wills recused himself.

Clearwater Resource Council – Adopt-A-Stream Program – Missoula CD Funding

Joann Wallenburn, Clearwater Resource Council (CRC) Aquatics Program Director, presented on the organization's aquatic programs, including the Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) Program, over PowerPoint. CRC's aquatic programs rely on citizen scientists to carry out stream monitoring work in the Seeley Lake area. AAS Program volunteers collect water samples during spring runoff. The samples are then analyzed for total nitrogen, total phosphorous, total suspended solids, turbidity, and stream flow. Wallenburn said that 9 of the 14 streams CRC plans to monitor in 2018 are fire affected, which she said will allow the CRC to monitor the effect of the disturbance. The results are made public and have been used for Seeley Lake sewer management, classroom learning, and monitoring purposes, including identifying early indicators of blue green algal blooms, among other uses.

Wallenburn said the program was funded almost completely by federal grant funds in previous years. However, due to recent federal budget cuts, such funding has not been disbursed for 2018. She asked the board to fund the first six weeks of the monitoring season, which will cost approximately \$4,500.00. She believes the additional funding will be received to cover the latter half of the season.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the program and potential uses of the collected data. Ladd Knotek voiced his support for the program, stating that it gets the community involved and aware of the importance of water quality. He suggested that the program was also an important factor in getting the community to develop a sewer plan.

Travis Greenwalt moved to provide Clearwater Resource Council with \$4,500.00 to fund the first 6 weeks of the 2018 Adopt-A-Stream Program. Paul Parson seconded the motion, motion passed – 5 in favor, Art Pencek abstained.

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Art Pencek spoke to the rest of the board about his decision to abstain from the votes to sponsor and fund the Watershed Education Network and Clearwater Resource Council projects. He stated that while he supports WEN as an educational effort, he does not support the use of public funds for projects that he does not believe have a clear objective or for projects that propose to collect data without what he believes to be an identifiable purpose.

New 310 Permit Applications

MS-34-17 – Susan and Ethan Mace – Unnamed Creek – Riparian Thinning, Debris Jams, and Ford and Diversion Improvements (Geocode: 04209411101060000)

McBride reviewed the Mace project. An action was not made on the application at the December and January meetings because the district was waiting to carry out a site inspection. McBride reviewed images from the February 7, 2018 site inspection, attended by McBride, Knotek, Paul Parson, and Ethan Mace. Parson, Knotek, and Mace read their team member reports. Both Parson and Knotek recommended approval, but voiced concerns over setting a riparian thinning precedent in the area. Mace's team member report included modifications to his original application based upon on-site discussions at the site inspection.

Travis Greenwalt moved to accept Application No. MS-34-17 as a project for review and to approve it with modifications in the team member reports. Tim Hall seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

The project to conduct multiple practices in the riparian area is approved with modifications incorporating the following:

- Remove riparian vegetation by hand
- Leave the root structures of dead and decadent vegetation intact
- Complete instream work with ford during base flow
- Incorporate modifications as outlined in applicant's team member report (Form 272)
- Otherwise proceed with the project as proposed in Application No. MS-34-17

MS-03-18 – Lyle and Kim Grenager – John Creek – Culvert Replacement (Geocode: 04197401301010001)

McBride informed the board that Kim Grenager brought the application to the district but was uncertain as to whether she would get to replacing the culvert this year. McBride said a site inspection can be conducted following snowmelt and in the meantime Grenager may withdraw the application.

MS-04-18 – Scott King – Petty Creek – Existing Bridge (RE: CM-10-17; Geocode: 04219613401040000)

McBride reminded the board that this application originated as a complaint. Parson, Knotek, and McBride attended the February 7, 2018 site inspection with Scott King. Parson stated that King's bridge lies approximately 6-inches above the creek's ordinary high-water mark and that water will likely rise above the bridge during a high flow event. Parson and Knotek discussed their on-site conversation with King and his willingness to raise increase freeboard of the bridge without raising the approaches.

The board discussed spring run-off and the Petty Creek bridges. The Board of Supervisors tabled the application until a site inspection can occur during spring run-off.

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MS-05-18 – Bonnie Anderson and Hillary Selvin – Bitterroot River – Noxious Weed Removal (RE: MS-38-16; Geocode: 04219934102010000)

McBride told the board that she has not visited Bonnie Anderson and Hillary Selvin's property on the Bitterroot River since they last spot sprayed weeds for 2016 Permit No. MS-38-16. McBride said this application is the same as the previous application and recommends that the board approve with the same requirements as the previous permit.

Tim Hall moved to accept Application No. MS-05-18 as a project for review and to approve it as proposed. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

The district asks Anderson and Selvin to continue to monitor the site for vegetative regeneration and to submit a new permit application annually until the weed treatment is complete. The district may require a revegetation plan following successful weed treatment.

Complaints

CM-07-17 – Meredith Hampton – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal (Geocode: 04220026201020000)

At the previous meeting, the board agreed to fine Meredith Hampton \$50.00 and to have the county attorney's office handle the correspondence. McBride reported that Hampton submitted the \$50.00 fine to the district office.

Art Pencek moved to close Complaint No. CM-07-17, as Hampton paid the assessed fine. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

CM-10-17 – Scott King – Petty Creek – Non-Permitted Bridge (Geocode: 04219613401040000)

The complaint is tabled pending a site visit for permit application no. MS-04-18 during spring run-off. See MS-04-18 for discussion.

CM-11-17 – Joyce Robbins – Petty Creek – Non-Permitted Bridge (Geocode: 04219624101040000)

McBride reviewed her past communications with Joyce Robbins regarding the district's request that Robbins or her selected representative submit a 310 application to remove or modify the stream crossings on her property. McBride recommended that the board give Robbins a deadline to submit the application. The Board of Supervisors directed staff to instruct Robbins to apply no later than March 5, 2018.

CM-12-17 – Steve McAfee – Clark Fork River – Road Work (RE: MS-33-17; Geocode: 04232403101080000)

At the previous district meeting, McBride reported that Steve McAfee had questions regarding revegetation. Staff sent McAfee revegetation recommendations, but he is uncertain of the location of the revegetation area and is currently out of town. McBride will assist McAfee in identifying the revegetation area when he returns.

310 Inquiries/Issues – McBride showed the board images of the Clinton Irrigation District canal wasteway, which is located approximately 500-feet from the Clark Fork River and drains into the river. McBride told the board that the irrigation district is planning to rehabilitate the wasteway structure. She asked the board if the district will take jurisdiction in the wasteway and if the irrigation district needs to submit a 310 application for the proposed work. The Board of Supervisors agreed an application should be submitted so that the location and project may be reviewed for potential impacts to the river.

McBride showed the board images of a property located on a side channel of Rattlesnake Creek that she visited the afternoon of the meeting. The landowner of 4045 Fox Farm Road is remodeling the house that sits close to the streambank. The images indicated that streambank vegetation was removed, and equipment was recently used in the riparian buffer, as the images showed tired tracks on the bank. The contractor on-site told McBride that all work

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was occurring on an existing foundation and the city approved the necessary permits to carry out the work on the property.

While on-site, McBride also observed a cottonwood tree on the bank that had a cut in its base. She told the contractor that, since the tree had already been cut and may now pose a threat to surrounding properties, a 310 notice of emergency may be submitted to the district office to remove the tree.

McBride asked the contractor to halt all work until she spoke with the board. The Board of Supervisors instructed staff to assign this issue a complaint number and directed staff to instruct the contractor to cease and desist all work between the creek and the western wall of the home. The contractor must also submit a 310 Application to mitigate impacts to the streambank and a 310 Emergency Application if the tree is removed prior to board review.

In the images of work at 4045 Fox Farm Road, the board viewed the upstream and downstream properties. The images showed evidence of encroachment in the riparian buffer, through either vegetation removal or structure placement, on both properties. The board instructed McBride to contact both neighbors about the 310 Law and notify them of a 310 complaint for impacts to the banks of Rattlesnake Creek.

Reports

County Attorney – No report.

Montana FWP – Knotek reported that he met with North Powell Conservation District and developers of a proposed Seeley Lake subdivision. The proposed subdivision is to be located along Trail Creek on the Missoula – Powell County border in Powell County. In January 2018, Missoula Conservation District wrote a letter to North Powell Conservation District, the Powell County Commissioners, and the Powell County Planning Board, along with sending a copy to the Missoula County Commissioners. The letter stated guidelines and standards that Missoula Conservation District would require for a similarly proposed subdivision adjacent to Trail Creek in Missoula County.

Knotek thanked Missoula Conservation District for writing the letter as it may have helped efforts to work with the developers to protect the stream. The developers appeared open to modifying subdivision plans and Powell County Conservation District will review the 310 Permit Application in May 2018.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay said the last Bitter Root RC&D meeting was canceled.

District Committees – Chair Tim Hall informed the rest of the board that the Long-Range Planning Committee recently met with McBride. The new long-range plan, once it is written, will have a different format than previous plans. Hall reported on two additional district committees that will meet soon: The Budget Committee will meet to review the FY 2018 budget and the Personnel Committee will meet regarding the departure of the Conservation and Communications Coordinator.

Missoula Conservation District Employees

Jen McBride – Resource Conservationist – January 9 – February 12, 2018

310 Administration Reviewed 310 and correspondence letters following the January district meeting. Looked into possible complaint along Lolo Creek and O'Brien Creek and contacted individuals to ensure knowledge of the 310 law and what kind of work may impact the creek. Corresponded regarding various 310 projects, complaints, and inquiries including projects on an unnamed creek, Petty Creek, Houle Creek, the Clearwater River and the Clark Fork River. Attended 310 site inspections with Ladd Knotek & Paul Parson. Prepared 310 reports and photos for

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the February meeting. Corresponded with Missoula County Attorney, Fish Wildlife & Parks, and other representatives regarding 310 projects and 310 inquires, issues, complaints as needed. Provided photos to Monica and reviewed District Meeting PowerPoint. Corresponded with DRNC staff regarding updates to the 310 Database and attended a 310 meeting in Helena.

Conservation Planning: Reviewed Cost-Share approval letters and contracts. Corresponded and met with 2018 Cost-Share recipients regarding contracts and project plans as needed. Due to the rain and snowmelt at lower elevations, I was able to conduct follow-ups on two 2017 Cost-Share projects. Answered questions regarding Missoula CD grant programs as needed. Applied for a DNRC Fire Mitigation Grant for landowners impacted by the Lolo Peak Fire. Worked with NRCS on technical information regarding forestry, post-fire mitigation, and stock water tanks. Worked with FSA to ensure no overlap in grant programs. Corresponded with Weed District staff regarding plans for Brandi Bergreen's service. Met with Bergreen regarding project plans including creating a pollinator seed mix and creating a user-friendly experience for the no-till drill. Attended the Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference. Checked in with Monica Perez-Watkins as needed regarding upcoming events or planning.

Office Administration: Followed up and corresponded with contacts as needed following the last district meeting. Corresponded regarding two different partial federal government shutdowns and prepared physical and electronic files and phones in case of not being able to access the building. Met with Tim Hall and Travis Greenwalt regarding the Long-Range plan for the district. Completed Linc Pass update and securities certification required for partnership with the NRCS. Addressed issues with my computer and proper function with the NRCS network as they arose. Corresponded with IT regarding Windows 10 updates. Corresponded with MACD, DNRC, & DOR staff regarding the mill levy. Completed recording of modified MACD Convention presentation on mill levies with Elena Evans. Answered questions from other districts regarding mill levies. Met with Perez-Watkins and Bergreen as needed regarding weekly accomplishments, priorities, and plans for coming weeks. Reviewed district newsletter. Submitted timesheets to the county and entered time into QuickBooks as appropriate. Worked on reports, clean up, and office function as time allowed. Worked with Perez-Watkins on District meeting preparations.

Professional Development: Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference

Monica Perez-Watkins – Conservation & Communications Coordinator – January 9 – February 12, 2018

General Coordination: Scanned and made copies of new 310 applications; sent to FWP. Prepared 310 forms for site inspection and meeting. Scheduled 2 site inspections; created directions sheet. Wrote weekly list of tasks completed and ongoing, submitted to McBride. Met weekly with McBride and Bergreen to discuss tasks completed/ongoing and meeting items. Completed and submitted DNRC 310 permit survey.

Communications and Outreach: Drafted and reviewed district meeting minutes and meeting agenda. Posted agenda in office and on website; sent to agency reps and county. Sent pre-meeting packets to board. Created meeting PowerPoint, packets for board, note-taker for staff. Compiled correspondence. Drafted 310 decision/follow-up letters (MS-01-18, MS-02-18); sent to applicants and FWP. Posted approved Dec. 11, 2017 meeting minutes on website and sent to county. Drafted MS-33-17 revegetation letter. Review additional items as needed. Assisted callers and walk-ins as needed. Noted 310 calls and inquiries in shared doc. Directed inquiries on issues outside of CD realm to appropriate agencies. Forwarded various emails of potential interest to board and applicable items to applicable committees. Updated no-till drill flyer. *Website:* created/updated homepage sliders, pages, posts. Condensed supervisor bio; resent. *Newsletter:* Finished newsletter, published online, and created Issuu digital version. Finished newsletter postcard; edited mailing list and sent to The Directory. Updated subscriber pop-up on website. Created and edited MailChimp list; created newsletter and new subscriber emails. *WMGA Conference and community talk:* various correspondence; updated poster; outreach - emailed and submitted event info to listservs, event sites, and news sites. Assisted with set-up. *Grants:* Maintained grant tracking spreadsheets. Drafted CD-applicant grant contract. Wrote cost share (CS) 2017 payout letters; calculated reimbursements. Updated master spreadsheet with 2017 payouts. Sort CS 2018 lists, wrote CS 2018 letters, wrote contracts/calculated amounts, and prepped for mailing. Created CS 2018 tracking spreadsheet. Wrote RPG-04-17 letter and contract. Reviewed grant info, updated. Various DNRC/MCD grant correspondence.

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Financial Management: Prepared claims and checks to be signed at meeting. Mailed checks and sent claims to county following meeting. Updated supervisor hours/mileage as needed. Entered claims and checks into QuickBooks Online (QBO). Updated petty checking, checking, and savings accounts in QBO. Reconciled bank statements, county reports, and D.A. Davidson change in investment value in QBO. Completed and submitted Montana State Fund Payroll Report. Entered FY18 budget into QBO. Reviewed budget and drafted adjusted FY18 budget.

Administrative Duties: Sent post-meeting mail (e.g., grant info, letters, checks). Maintained and updated 310 master lists. Wrote employee report. Prepared/restored conference room for meeting/dinner. Transcribed meeting notes for minutes. Scanned meeting pack and notes. Maintained and organized files. Prepared/copied items for mailing. Sorted and distributed office mail. Followed-up on election filing for supervisors. Began Word doc of website for McBride. Packed/unloaded items for conference and government shutdown – also transferred online files and secured alternative meeting location. Calls/online research re: office cleanout. Errands to bank, post office, DoubleTree, Target, Best Buy, The Directory. Completed required USDA Information Securities Awareness Test.

Professional Development: Attended 2018 Western MT Grazing & Ag Conference and assoc. community talk.

Brandi Bergreen - Big Sky Watershed Corps Member - January 8 - February 12, 2018

Watershed Education and Outreach:

Began organizing and researching for several projects to be completed with the Conservation District this spring, as well as developed timelines for each project completion. Projects will include producing educational materials to aid landowner's in the use of the no-till drill, such as an operations and calibration guide to be posted inside the seed box lids, short instructional online video to aid landowners in use, calibration and troubleshooting of common issues, an optional survey will also be developed to find how the drill is being used throughout the season. Began researching and developing the Pollinator Initiative Program and compiling possible plant species to include in the seed mix. Communicated with Lake County Conservation District to utilize information and resources from their Pollinator Initiative. Distributed flyers for the Grazing & Agriculture conference to local businesses, stores and local Ag suppliers in Lolo, Evaro, Frenchtown and Missoula as well as the university campus. Completed draft of user and calibration guide for seed-box lids. Corresponded with Equipment Committee on no-till-drill program. Worked on ranking criteria for Weed District Grant that Missoula CD matches.

District Business Assistance:

Regularly met with McBride and Perez-Watkins for staff meetings. Accompanied McBride on a visit to a property on Balsam Root Road in Lolo to assess a 310 complaint on January 9th. Accompanied McBride to follow-up site visits for cost-share program.

Professional Development:

Attended Big Sky Watershed Corps orientation in Bozeman. Attended Dr. Fred Provenza's community talk on UM Campus. *Out sick 3-days during conference.

Other – No additional reports.

New Business

Correspondence – Monica Perez-Watkins had several items of correspondence for the board. First, she informed the board that the district received a donation acknowledgment from Montana State University (MSU). The letter thanked the district for the December 2017 donation of \$200.00 for the MSU College of Agriculture in honor of alumnus Sidney Wills' 45th year on the Missoula Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Second, Perez-Watkins reported on a DNRC aquatic invasive species grant up to \$15,000 available for government entities and subdivisions within the state. The deadline for the grant application is March 15, 2018. Third, she told the board that the district received a membership request from the National Association of Conservation Districts for any amount above \$1.00. The board declined to send a membership donation. Fourth, Perez-Watkins said that Area 5 Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) representative Jim Simpson would like to gauge Area 5 district

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interest in hosting the 2019 MACD annual convention, especially since it has been held east of the divide since 2016. The board noted that Missoula Conservation District hosted the annual meeting in Missoula in 2015, along with the 2017 Area 5 meeting, and suggested Kalispell or Polson for future convention locations. Finally, Perez-Watkins told the board about the DNRC Water Resources Division's upcoming Montana Water Summit in Helena.

McBride had one additional item of correspondence for the board. She said the district received a 2018 MACD dues request in the amount of \$17,580.01 and explained how MACD calculates district invoices based on county taxable valuations. McBride adjusted the dues amount based on the district's adjusted mill levy income.

Tim Hall moved to pay the adjusted amount of \$16,620.24 to MACD for 2018 membership. Art Pencek seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

MACD Strategic Planning Survey – Due Feb. 18 – The Board of Supervisors received the survey in their pre-meeting packets. McBride told the board that MACD hopes districts will respond as a whole, but noted that the 13-question survey would likely take 30-45 minutes to complete. Chair Tim Hall said he will answer the survey with McBride on behalf of the district.

Other New Business – No additional new business.

Old Business

Equipment Program – Perez-Watkins informed the board that the district received \$310.00 from the host of the no-till drill. The payment reflects the sum of two rentals, 3-days total, minus the host's take of \$70.00 per rental for rental transactions and drill maintenance during the last quarter. McBride said the Long-Range Planning Committee discussed the equipment program and the district may alter the host agreement in the future.

310 Committee Meeting – Helena, Jan. 18 – McBride went to the DNRC meeting and provided a brief report to the board. She discussed items reviewed at the meeting, including a 310 Application mapping system and the potential for some conservation districts to begin charging for 310 Applications to make up for reduced state funding. She also said the DNRC is requesting comments/suggestions. McBride suggested changing the name of the 310 Application from "Joint Application" to "General Stream Permitting Application," in an effort to reduce public confusion. Art Pencek suggested a decision tree be added to the instructions. The Board also discussed the preference that the 310 Application is not changed. McBride will submit the suggestions to the DNRC.

Area V Supervisor Forum – Thursday, March 29, 2018 - The board received a draft agenda for the forum in their meeting packets and discussed a supervisor's attendance. Libby Maclay may attend the forum.

2018 Election Filing – Supervisors Art Pencek, Sidney Wills, and Bob Schroeder have supervisor terms ending on December 31, 2018. They must file election forms with the county elections office by March 12, 2018, in order to remain on the district board. Perez-Watkins said Schroeder mailed his form to the elections office and Pencek and Wills each received a blank form.

Grant Programs

Cost-Share – McBride reported that she has not yet received information from the DNRC on the Fire Mitigation Grant, which the district applied for on behalf of the cost-share applicants affected by the Lolo Peak Fire. She stated that the DNRC may receive additional wildfire recovery funds.

Additional Sponsorship and Grant Requests

The Flagship Program – Perez-Watkins informed the board that The Flagship Program, a free afterschool and summer program for Missoula County Public School (MCPS) students, requests a \$500.00 Education Mini Grant and district sponsorship of a \$500.00 DNRC Education Mini Grant. Grants would fund Flagship’s annual Outdoor Conservation Week summer program for local middle school students. Perez-Watkins spoke of Flagship’s expansion to all MCPS middle schools and the program’s reduced state funding. The district funded and sponsored the program in 2016 and 2017. Perez-Watkins told the board that the organization’s program manager is willing to attend the March meeting to request funding and sponsorship in-person. The board said the program manager does not need to attend the March 2018 meeting.

Paul Parson moved to provide The Flagship Program a \$500.00 Education Mini Grant for Outdoor Conservation Week. Tim Hall seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

Paul Parson moved to sponsor The Flagship Program for a \$500.00 DNRC Education Mini Grant for Outdoor Conservation Week. Tim Hall seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

Envirothon – Perez-Watkins informed the board that the Big Sky High School Envirothon coach and student team members would like to request 2018 sponsorship from the district at the March 12, 2018 meeting. The representatives will share their experience with Envirothon and request funding for 4-5 Missoula Envirothon teams. In 2017, the district provided \$3,055 for registration and lodging costs for 5 Missoula teams. The 2018 Montana Envirothon competition will be held April 23-24 in Lewistown.

Other – No additional grant information.

Events

Western Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference – Thursday through Friday, Jan. 25-26, 2018 – Staff reported on the conference and pre-conference talk featuring the conference keynote, Dr. Fred Provenza. Provenza spoke on numerous topics related to the connections between herbivores and their environment. Additional conference topics included soil health, wildlife conflict management, and irrigated pastures, among others. Next year’s conference may include a child education room to allow more parents to attend.

Other – No additional old business.

Payment of Bills – Art Pencek moved to pay the bills. Tim Hall seconded the motion, motion passed – unanimous.

Warrants:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Verizon – District cell phone | |
| Ck # 2401 | \$ 69.35 |
| First Interstate Bank – District vehicle gas card | |
| Ck # 2402 | \$ 40.00 |
| Charter Spectrum – Internet | |
| Ck # 2403 | \$ 59.99 |
| Quarter PI Inc DBA The Directory – Postcard postage and handling | |
| Ck # 2404 | \$ 873.20 |
| AlphaGraphics – Printing guidebook and postcards | |
| Ck # 2405 | \$ 3,007.34 |

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Soil and Water Conservation Districts of MT – Website hosting
Ck # 2406 \$ 26.00
Montana State Fund - Insurance
Ck # 2407 \$ 430.13
Brandi Bergreen – BSWC mileage
Ck # 2408 \$ 40.44
Monica Perez-Watkins – Staff mileage
Ck # 2409 \$ 22.83
MT Assoc. of Conservation Districts - Membership
Ck # 2410 \$ 16,620.24

Total: \$ 21,189.52

| Voting Record – CD Supervisor | FOR | RECUSE | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Tim Hall | 12 | | |
| Libby Maclay | 12 | | |
| Art Pencek | 10 | | 2 |
| Travis Greenwalt | 12 | | |
| Sidney Wills | 11 | 1 | |
| Paul Parson | 12 | | |
| Bob Schroeder | | Absent | |

Adjournment – Art Pencek moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Hall seconded the motion - motion passed, unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

The next meeting of Missoula Conservation District will be held on March 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Missoula Conservation District conference room, 3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, Montana 59808.