

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – February 1, 2017

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman, at 7:10 p.m. at the NRCS Conference Room, Sheridan, Montana.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Trischman	Jim Powell	
Rick Sandru	Gary Giem	Jeremy Miller

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dan Durham, NRCS	Rebecca Ramsey, Ruby Watershed Coordinator
David D. Stout, Restoration Projects Coordinator	Matt Jaeger, FWP

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (January 4), motion by Rick to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for January 2017 will be distributed at the March meeting

Excused absences: John Anderson, Neil Barnosky – motion by Rick to excuse absences, second by George, motion carried.

310 BUSINESS: NEW APPLICATIONS
 REVIEW - - DECISION
 SIGN 273
 SET UP INSPECTIONS
 INSPECTION COMPLETE

RV16-09 Alan Carroll – Hells Canyon Creek – install diversion structure. Shirley mailed Ron Spoon final NRCS design in December. Table until Ron approves.

RV16-31 Hart Baitis – East Fork Rochester Creek – install diversion to facilitate mining operation. Has been inspected, approved at January 4 meeting contingent upon receipt by RVCD of Final Plan of Operations with BLM comments. Waiting on receipt of Final Plan.

RV17-01 Trailsend Ranch (Clint Campbell) – unnamed tributary to Schoolhouse Slough - install culvert – Board agreed this was a project that needed to be inspected. Inspection to take place March 1, time TBD.

RV 17-02 Lonny Shaw – Jacob's Slough – replace headgate – Inspection waived due to Board familiarity with structure and location. Rick moved to approve project as presented, second by Jim, motion carried.

Complaints – Carma Sinerius filed two complaints on Alder Creek by Nevada City – Matt & Jeremy inspected 1/4/17. The areas of complaint are snow covered and will need to be re-inspected when the snow recedes. Carma sent additional photos in January of an excavator working in what appeared to be a riparian area, but the Board determined that they could not conclude if the excavator was actually in the creek by the photos.

NRCS REPORT:

Dan Durham reported on local snow levels. Currently our area is approximately 70% of average. The data collection sites indicate that the snowpack is inconsistent around the region, all below average, and that the recent storm did not deliver snow on the mountains as much as the snow on the valley floors. Pete Allhands is interested in measuring snow course data at the Notch, which is an important site that represents our area's conditions. The Ruby Reservoir looks to be in good shape, with exceptionally thick ice, and good fishing. Dan and Les are moving forward with the Clear Creek Project, and WRP easement on the Ruby Habitat Foundation properties and working with adjacent landowners to make sure they are informed, and offering opportunity for involvement. David Stout is working with them on the project to potentially apply for RCPP funding to address the needs of this project, and the larger watershed. Dan has two USFS books that came out about biocontrol methods for knapweed and toadflax that are very educational, thorough, and available for you to check out – talk to Dan. Rick is interested in implementing a biocontrol plan for the Upper Ruby (which is called for in the weed management plan). Biocontrol for houndstongue is still unavailable in the USA.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Planning Board – no report
2. Watershed – Rebecca’s report – written submission attached. Rebecca reported on Banquet details: The Round Barn at Twin Bridges is confirmed, Band confirmed as Wylie & the Wild West, Kate Arpin confirmed to do graphic design for posters/tickets, request for catering and bar bids will be published in next week's Madisonian. She reported that at the last RWC meeting, Dave McAdoo was voted to be the new chairman, Donna McDonald as the vice chair, and Frank Colwell as the executive member at large. The RWC will be targeting the third Wednesday of the month for business meetings, informational speakers, or events (though those dates will likely vary) in order to try to engage the council members and the community more.
3. David’s report – written submission attached.
4. Carcass Composting – Board recommended moving forward with county site in Alder as Dale has been non responsive. Rebecca attended a partners meeting yesterday to strategize and will be on the 2/21 commissioner's agenda to discuss, looking to get the permitting in place and get wheels turning to have site ready 10/1.
5. Alder Gulch Phase I Improvements (VC Kids Pond) – RDGP – final report in progress
6. RDGP Grant for Flood Hazard (Channel Migration) Mapping of Missouri Headwaters streams – in progress
7. HB223 Grant – Channel Migration Mapping – report submitted, payment received
8. DNRC District Development Grant – report submitted, payment requested.
9. HB223 Grant – Smith Slough Fisheries Enhancement Project – contracted – grant has been extended to 12/31/17.
10. 2016/2017 RAC Grant submitted, partial funding received, revised budget submitted, awaiting contract.
11. DEQ 319 Grant – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – in progress
12. DEQ 319 Letter Agreement – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – in progress
13. DNRC Watershed Mgmt Grant – (David) – in progress
14. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – keep attending – Greenhorn Project will be reviewed in Ennis on Thursday, February 16th, at 5 p.m. at the Madison Public Library, 210 East Main Street.
15. Strategic Alliance – charter has been adopted and was attached to Rebecca's report that she sent out electronically.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MACD dues: Motion by George to pay full amount, second by Jeremy, motion carried
2. Oath of office to be conducted in March

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – February 2017 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Mtg., - Wednesday, February 15, 5:30p potluck, 6:00pm Mtg., Philanthropy Bldg.
3. MCD/RVCD Banquet – Saturday, April 22, 5:30pm, The Round Barn at Twin Bridges
4. 2017 MACD Convention will be in Glasgow

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public. No comments from public.
With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Rebecca Ramsey
Ruby Watershed Coordinator

Gary Giem
Chairman