

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

MEETING MINUTES – May 3, 2017

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. at the NRCS Conference Room, Sheridan, Montana.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Giem	George Trischman	
John Anderson	Neil Barnosky	Shirley Galovic, Dist. Admin.

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Rebecca Ramsey, Ruby Watershed Coordinator	
David D. Stout, Stewardship Director	Repr. Ray Shaw

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (April 5), motion by John to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports for March 2017 and April 2017, motion by George to approve, second by John, motion carried.

Excused absences: Motion by John to excuse Jim Powell, Jeremy Miller & Rick Sandru, second by Neil, motion carried.

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

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. Still waiting on receipt of Final Plan. BLM had public comment period on permit that closed 4/10/17.

RV17-08 Central City LLC (Butch Frediani) – Alder Gulch Creek – Nevada City – bridges for 4 wheeler property access. Matt & John & Jeremy to inspect 4/5/17. Tabled for design.

Emergency RV17-09 Three Creeks Water Co. (Frank Hardy) – Wisconsin Creek – clean out above diversion structure. Have before and after pictures. Matt inspect reviewed the photos and recommended approval with modifications of (1) need to re-seed any bare or disturbed ground with an appropriate native seed mix and (2) verify that all excavated material was hauled to an upland site such that it cannot wash back into the stream.

RV17-10 The Nature Conservancy (Nathan Korb) – Snowcrest Ranch – Robb Creek – riparian restoration, willow/brush planting. Matt would like to inspect. Shirley to set up inspection.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Dan Durham was unable to attend but asked Rebecca to show everyone the Snotel information that at this time is reporting most local snow levels are at about 100%. The Local Working Group survey requested at our Banquet had 127 respondents with weeds being the No. 1 resource concern. Dan would like to review this information with the Board at the June meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Planning Board – no report.
2. Watershed – Rebecca's report – written report submitted online, at meeting and attached. Highlights – Rebecca reviewed our Banquet with the Madison CD. It was an amazing success. This is the first time in 33 years that the event was sold out! We did show a profit of approximately \$2500-3000 but all final expenses haven't been received. It is probably a good time to raise our price next year especially if we have the same venue at the Round Barn. She would also like to tentatively set the date for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of April, 2018 unless that is Easter weekend.

3. David's report – written submission attached. Highlights – David reviewed his progress on monitoring (sites all installed); conifer projects with BLM funding; California Creek (no Legislative funding but BLM funding); Warm Springs (requested info. from FS – they should have that info. because provided by riders); Ramshorn Creek (coming together nicely – Sigler & Army Corps very amicable); applying for Watershed Management Grant in July and a pre-proposal to USDA.
4. Carcass Composting – moving forward on County-owned site in Alder
5. Alder Gulch Phase I Improvements (VC Kids Pond) – RDGP – submitted final report
6. RDGP Grant for Flood Hazard (Channel Migration) Mapping of Missouri Headwaters streams – in progress, contract extended to December 31, 2017 to allow for Big Hole mapping due to budget excess.
7. DNRC District Development Grant – new grant approved for nearly \$10K, contract signed & submitted
8. HB223 Grant – Smith Slough Fisheries Enhancement Project – contracted – grant has been extended to 12/31/17. 310 permit approved.
9. 2016/2017 RAC Grant submitted, partial funding received, revised budget submitted
10. DEQ 319 Grant – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – in progress
11. DEQ 319 Letter Agreement – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – in progress
12. DNRC Watershed Mgmt Grant – (David) – in progress
13. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – USFS in process of NEPA on Greenhorn Project area. Next meeting May 4 at 5:00pm in the Moraine Center, Sheridan
14. Strategic Alliance – next meeting May 4, 10a-2p, Bethany Hall, Sheridan (cancelled). Field Tour - May 9, meet at 8:00am Alder Community Center

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. RVCD Liability Insurance discussion – Gary will follow up with agent for price (approx. \$1100/yr), state requirements for general liability, etc.
2. Preliminary financial report on Banquet was discussed.
3. Bridger Plant Material Center donation of \$25. Motion by John to pay, second by Neil, motion carried.
4. Ray Shaw would like RVCD to get the ball rolling to set up a show and tell about the Zebra Mussel invasive species to prevent them from invading our waterways. Would like the information relayed to communities near waterways all around southwest Montana including Twin Bridges, Dillon, Lima, Horse Prairie, Clark Canyon, West Yellowstone, Ennis, etc. Rebecca will start by calling Ray Beck to see what needs to be done to bring this information to SW Montana.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – March 2017 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Mtg. – TBD
3. Conservation Film Celebration – June 8 – Torch Theater, Virginia City 5:30pm (postponed to Sept. TBD)
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife Speaker Series/Welcome to the Neighborhood Party, Wed., June 21, 5:30pm, The Round Barn at Twin Bridges
5. 2017 MACD Convention will be in Bozeman in November

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public. No comments from public.  
With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Shirley Galovic  
District Administrator

Gary Giem  
Chairman