

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

MEETING MINUTES – February 6, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Neil Barnosky, Vice Chairman, at 7:16 p.m. at the NRCS Conference Room, Sheridan, Montana.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neil Barnosky	George Trischman	
Jim Powell	Jeremy Miller	John Anderson

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Wagoner, NRCS	Kim Johnston	Dale Olson
David Stout	Cheri Ford	Aaron Paulson
Claudia Macfarlane		

Approval of the minutes of last meeting (Jan. 2), motion by John to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried. Treasurer's Report for December 2018, motion by Jeremy to approve, second by John, motion carried.

Excused absences: Gary & Rick – motion by Jeremy to excuse Gary & Rick, second by Jim, motion carried.

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

RV18-13 Butch Frediani, Granite Creek Ranch – Browns Gulch – construct dam for irrigation & recreation pond. Matt & John inspected 4/4/2018. Tabled

RV19-01 SRI River Holdings (Jaime Wood) – Cox Slough – replace collapsed bridge. Matt & Jim inspected 2/5/19. Motion by John to approve as proposed, second by George, motion carried. Jeremy recused himself.

RV19-02 Turner Enterprises Inc. (Aaron Paulson) – Cream Creek – install pivot wheel bridge. Matt & Jeremy inspected 2/5/19. Motion by George to approve as proposed, second by Jeremy, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: John Wagoner, NRCS, written submission attached. Highlights: Targeted Implementation Plan; conifer expansion; Long Range Plan: describe natural resource problems for the county; conduct Local Working Group meetings; Dillon Local Working Group meeting March 13.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Planning Board – no report
2. Watershed – written submission from David & Claudia.
3. Carcass Management Program – Wildlife Conservation Society – 2019 carcass program in progress again. Jeremy – try to get an agenda/meeting about carcass composting site; move forward with permitting with DEQ about Sheridan site; try to bring county commissioners to meeting.
4. BLM California Creek Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – in progress
5. DEQ 319 Grant – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – in progress
6. 223 Grant – Ramshorn Creek – (David) – revegetation – in progress, extended to 7/31/19
7. DNRC Watershed Management Grant (WMG-18-0037) – (David) – final report sent 12/18/18
8. DNRC Drought Resiliency Grant (WM-RVCD-167) – in progress
9. Upper Ruby Weed Mgmt. Co-op, FWP-WHIP Grant, approved for full funding, FWP finished payment structure and submitted. Should have instructions to us soon. RVCD will need to pay vendors and be reimbursed by FWP. FWP will be reimbursed by US Fish & Wildlife Svc.
10. RITP GT#RITP-18-0143 – Granite Creek restoration, survey & design – extended to 9/30/19
11. FWP #18-641 Ruby Watershed Low Stream-Flow Water Mgmt. & Resiliency Dev. – in progress
12. DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt #23G-19-3602 (David) – in progress
13. WS Stewardship & Capacity Building WGM-19-0066 – in progress

14. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – USFS in process on Greenhorn Project area. New Forest Service Supervisor – Cheri A. Ford: Set Backs – additional cultural surveys for NEPA/SHPO; relisting for grizzly; might see a decision at end of 2019; In the case of prescribed burning range readiness determines when grazing can begin again.
15. Strategic Alliance – next meeting, February 11, 2019, Moraine Center, 10a-2p

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dale Olson, USFS – discuss letter to RVCD. USFS Recreation Specialist doesn't expect that trail braiding will lead to a standard exceedance. Bridges are a bit wider than normal. Pasture going back into rotation this year (2019). If there is a concern, talk about a solution with grazing permittees before non-compliance.
2. Jeremy Oath of Office – Sheridan Urban Supervisor – postponed
3. Discuss support letter to Congressional delegation for CSKT Water Compact. Motion by John to send letter on behalf of RVCD. Neil & George suggested update of previous letter. Jeremy second John's motion, motion carried. John Anderson - send letter to Board.
4. Discuss Kids River Resource Day (Claudia) – postponed
5. Introduce Kim Johnston, People & Carnivores, works with people in communities; here to support RVCD on projects; carcass program support; Hunting season question: hunting bears may address bolder behaviors; tool that can be useful; won't solve everything.
6. Discuss support for Invasive Species Action Network grant – motion by George to support wader cleaning station program, second by Jim, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – Feb. 2019 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Mtg. – Feb. TBD, Moraine Center?, 6:00pm

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public.

With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 9:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

David D. Stout
Watershed Stewardship Director

Neil Barnosky
Vice Chairman