

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – April 6, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Ruby Valley Conservation District was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheridan Town Hall, 103 East Hamilton St., Sheridan, Montana.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Giem	Rick Sandru	Jeremy Miller
Neil Barnosky	George Trischman	Jim Powell
John Anderson		Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Audra Bell, RVCD Stewardship Director Assistant	Kayla Mehlhoff, Administrative
John Wagoner, NRCS	Ben Masters, BSWC Member
Ryan Keltz	Jim Olsen, FWP
Matt Jaeger, FWP	Rich Eberline

Approval of minutes of last meeting (March 2, 2022), motion by John to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports for March 2022, motion to approve by George, second by Neil, motion carried.

Contributions Account spreadsheet updates thru April 1, 2022

310 BUSINESS: NEW APPLICATIONS

REVIEW - - DECISION

SET UP INSPECTIONS

INSPECTION COMPLETE

TABLED: Complaint #RV2020-02 Ramshorn Creek tributary. Complaint to USACE, WO their decision. USACE will send out a notice when they finalize their decision. Matt will check with Mr. Dietrich (406-694-3147) on status.

#RV2022-03 Dietrich culvert. Motion by Neil to declare it not a project, second by Rick, motion carried.

#RV2022-04 Trailsend Stinking Water Slough. To install a pump site on the slough. Work to be completed by Pivots Plus. Inspected 4/6/22 by Jim and Matt. Recommendation is that armoring shouldn't encroach on active channel. Motion to approve by Jeremy, second by Rick, motion carried.

POTENTIAL VIOLATION: Possible equipment used on Indian Creek to remove debris at headgate. Inspected 4/6/22 by Matt and Jim. Emergency permit will be filed for debris removal. Maintenance permit will be filed for future rock-stacking required to divert water from the main channel to irrigation headgate by hand.

Recommendation made by Matt to only stack rocks as high as needed to divert water.

FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN: Matt Jaeger & Jim Olsen

Last year the commission implemented regulations on the Big Hole and Beaverhead River harvests. This came about after low brown trout numbers in the Melrose reach. Last legislative session tasked FWP to update a fish management plan every four years. They are requesting input and a letter of support for the proposed fish management plan. FWP is proposing to conduct a tag study in the next four years to partition mortality of trout. Motion by Rick to approve writing a letter of support to commission or governor, second by Jeremy, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: John Wagoner

There will be five projects this year (2 regarding fencing, 3 regarding conifer work) for a total of approximately \$500,000 worth of projects. HEL compliance flights will be conducted in the next month for three or four landowners. Will email memorandum and civil rights for partners checklist. Motion by Rick to Table vote on these two documents until next meeting, second by Gary, motion carried. MACD is also hosting a local working group meeting at 1pm at the Ennis Library on April 26th. The public is invited to attend, input requested.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning Board – David Laufenberg, MadCD – copy of email report attached
2. 310 Boundary MOA with Madison CD updates
3. Watershed- written submission from Audra Bell and Ben Masters, BSWC member (attached)
4. Banquet Planning Update- Invite your friends! written submission from Kayla Mehlhoff
5. Carcass Management Program – Site is operational still, please tell your friends. LLB Grant approved- \$12,000 for 2022-2023
6. WHIP in Upper Ruby- Opportunity to have three different contracts on the project this summer to cover more ground since it will be a short season before fires start. No comment from the Board, will wait to receive all bids.
7. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – \$46,000 add'l funding for 2022
8. Pollinator Grant – no activity in winter.
9. Granite Cr. Preservation & Restoration Grant- RIT-22-8901 expires 12/31/2023
10. FY22 DNRC Dis. Dev. Gt- expires 12/31/2022
11. FWP Future Fisheries grant was submitted, approved, and accepted with scope of work completed. \$46,309 for engineering designs and implementation.
12. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for April 11, 2022 @ Alder Comm. Ctr, 10a-2p
13. BSWC Member- Ben is helping host a volunteer workday, Friday April 8th. He will be following up with a potential FWP speaker for the summer WSS in the next week.
14. Gallatin CD is applying for MT Conservation District Bureau funding for multi-CD pollinator projects. Motion by John to approve our participation in the grant for additional funding, second by George, motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Business debit card for the RVCD- Motion by Rick to approve getting a debit card for business expenses, second by George, motion carried.
2. Notary License renewal for Shirley- Motion by George to approval renewal expense, second by John, motion carried.
3. Administrative Grant FY23- Motion by Rick to approve applying for grant, second by Jeremy, motion carried.
4. Watershed Management Grant FY23- Motion by Rick to approve applying for grant, second by George, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – April 2022 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Quarterly Mtg. – May. 2022
3. RVCD Annual Banquet April 23rd at the Round Barn in Twin Bridges

“OPEN MICROPHONE” - Other comments from the public. None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Kayla Mehlhoff
Administrative Assistant

Gary Giem
Chairman