

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

MEETING MINUTES – May 4, 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	John Anderson
Neil Barnosky	George Trischman	Jim Powell
		Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Audra Bell, RVCD Stewardship Director	Kayla Mehlhoff, Admin. Assistant
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Approval of minutes of last meeting (April 6, 2022), motion by John to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried. Treasurer's Reports for March 2022 (corrected) and April 2022, motion to approve both by George, second by Neil, motion carried.

Approval to excuse absence of board member Jeremy Miller, motion by George, second by John, motion carried.  
Contributions Account spreadsheet updates thru April 22, 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.

RV22-05 EMERGENCY Bradley Livestock- Indian Creek- debris removal. Matt & Jim P. inspected 4/6/22. Motion by Rick to approve emergency 310 as completed, second by George, motion carried.

RV22-M01 MAINTENANCE Agreement- Bradley Livestock- Indian Creek - rock diversion structure. Matt & Jim P. inspected 4/6/22. Motion by Rick to approve Maintenance Agreement as proposed, second by Neil, motion carried.

RV22-06 Rick Sandru- Jefferson River- place concrete blocks for temporary diversion as done in the previous years. Motion to waive inspection and approve as proposed by George, second by John, motion carried.

RV22-07 Rick Sandru- Jefferson River- place large rocks for temporary diversion and remove gravel to restore flow to the irrigation channel as done in previous years. Motion by George to waive inspection and approve as proposed, second by John, motion carried.

**NRCS REPORT:** John Wagoner

John was unable to attend the meeting. Written submission submitted to the board for review.

NRCS offices are back to 100% staffing, guidance is coming for CD board meetings that occur during business hours.

Madison CD held a Local Working Group on 4/26. 15 individuals were in attendance. Some subjects discussed included invasive species, stream health, riparian function, wildlife migration routes, and soil health.

CRP- Grasslands Signup is open.

MOA with USDA in need of review.

**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)

Motion by George to give Board support to Audra to apply for DNRC grant for Sandru Ranch project, second by Jim, motion carried. Rick recused himself.

4. Banquet was a success! \$3,654.30 in the green this year. Kayla spent a total of 76 hours – time well spent!
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.
7. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – \$46,000 add'l funding for 2022
8. Pollinator Grant – included in Audra's report
9. DEQ 319 planning grant – Pre-monitoring has begun on RVHA
10. Granite Cr. Preservation & Restoration Grant- RIT-22-8901 expires 12/31/2023
11. FY22 DNRC Dis. Dev. Gt- expires 12/31/2022
12. FWP Future Fisheries grant on RVHA project was submitted, approved, and accepted with scope of work completed. \$46,309 for engineering designs and implementation.
13. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for May 9, 2022 @ Alder Comm. Ctr, 10a-2p
14. BSWC Member- Ben is helping host a volunteer work day Friday April 8th. He will be following up with a potential FWP speaker for the summer WSS in the next week.
15. Gallatin CD is applying for CDB 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. Review NRCS partner checklist and MOU.  
Motion by Rick to approve continuing the Memorandum of Understanding with USDA, NRCS, DNRC & RVCD, second by George, motion carried.  
NRCS Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist reviewed by Board. At the April 6th meeting, John Wagoner was present to discuss with the Board what signing the checklist entails so that the Board would make an informed decision. Motion by Jim for the Board to not sign the Partners Checklist, however for the Board to continue considering any project that is submitted for on the ground conservation purposes regardless of applicant's background/race/creed/gender, second by John, motion carried.
2. Administrative grant application submitted- awaiting review
3. Water Management Grant application submitted- awaiting award
4. Request for approval for Landscape Catalyst Fund Grant application for RVSA funding  
Motion by George to approve application for the Landscape Catalyst Fund Grant, second by Neil, motion carried.  
Information on the grant will be emailed to the Board.
5. Sheridan Main Street Improvement Team- membership (\$10) or flower pot sponsorship (\$40)  
Motion by John to approve membership and flower pot sponsorship for the "SMSIT" for a total of \$50, second by Jim, motion carried.
6. MACD yearly dues for RVCD, need approval to pay- \$1,222.59  
Motion by Rick to pay the MACD yearly dues for RVCD, second by George, motion carried.
7. MWCC annual membership for RVCD, needs approval- \$100/yr  
Motion by Rick to approve payment of MWCC annual membership for RVCD, second by John, motion carried.
8. Opportunity to attend Future West Capacity Training in V.C. May 19- need approval \$40/person  
Motion by George to approve registrations for Audra and Kayla, second by Jim, motion carried.
9. Request for approval to submit to Red Ants Pants Community Event Grant to go towards the RVCD Wildlife Speaker Series Event in June.  
Motion by George to apply by May 13 deadline to Red Ants Pants Grant, second by Jim, motion carried.
10. Request for approval by the Board to allow the activation of online banking for the RVCD.  
Motion by John to approve online banking, second by Rick, motion carried.
11. Request for approval by the Board to add Kayla Mehlhoff as a signee to the Ruby Valley Conservation District Checking Account \*\*\*\*\*715 and Savings Account \*\*\*\*\*819.  
Motion by George to add Kayla to the RVCD checking and savings accounts as a signee, second by John, motion carried.
12. Request for approval by the Board to set a \$1,000 debit limit on new RVCD bank debit card.  
Motion by Rick to approve debit card limit at \$1,000, second by Jim, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – April 2022 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Quarterly Mtg. – May. 2022

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Kayla Mehlhoff  
District Assistant Administrator

Gary Giem  
Chairman