

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

MEETING MINUTES – August 4, 2021

The Monthly meeting for the Ruby Valley Conservation District was conducted on a Conference Call due to COVID-19 office closure. Four board members joined the call at 7:02pm and the meeting was called to order by Gary Giem, Chairman.

BOARD MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Gary Giem	George Trischman	Neil Barnosky
Jim Powell		Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Audra Bell, RVCD Stewardship Director	John Wagoner, NRCS
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Approval of minutes of last meeting (July 7), motion by George to approve as mailed, second by Neil, motion carried.
No Treasurer's Report for July 2021 due to office closure.

No Contributions Account spreadsheet due to office closure.

Excused absence: John Rick & Jeremy – motion by Jim to excuse all three, second by Neil, motion carried.

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 on status.

TABLED: RV21-18 Bob Siedensticker (REMiller) – Beaverhead River – headgate repair of rock already installed. Matt & Jim P. inspected 7/7/21. Not a rush, tabled for September 2021 meeting.

RV21-20 Charlie Rossitier - Mill Creek – Remove debris from irrigation structure with an excavator with a thumb. Matt & Neil inspected 7/30/21. Motion by George to approve with modifications on team report, Neil second, motion carried.

RV21-21 Tom Roberts – Mill Creek – remove concrete slabs from stream using excavator with thumb & replace with rock. Matt & Neil inspected 7/30/21. Motion by George to approve as proposed, second by Jim, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT

John Wagoner reported they received sage grouse initiative funds for conifer projects which now total 6000 acres this year. Tour of last years' contracts worked on at Todd Ranch and others in area. Field Office appraisal was OK. Engineering & vegetation practices, wetland monitoring for hear finished 7, some need fixing. FY 21 outreach for Ennis side. Rumors FSA drought programs possible, such as, hauling stock water and stock water wells for future.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Planning Board – David Laufenberg, MadCD – email with July meeting highlights, attached to agenda.
2. 310 Law MOA with Madison CD – Gary still working on it, talked to DNRC and Ann S.
3. Watershed – written submission from Audra Bell & London Bernier attached. Audra reviewed some highlights of her report. London had family in town and did not attend meeting.
4. Carcass Management Program – Wildlife Conservation Soc. – 90+ carcasses on site. Bud's contract extended to Dec. 31st.
5. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – in progress with 2021 modifications and increased funding of \$15,000
6. BLM California Creek Monitoring Grant – in progress
7. FWP-WHIP Grant – in progress, contracted with two bidders for 2021 season
8. Granite Cr. restoration – RDG has been funded! Pre site monitoring has begun on Granite Creek and Alder Gulch near the confluence. Restoration construction will begin in 2022 and the bridge construction by MTDOT will commence in 2023.
9. DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt #23G-20-3679 – in progress – exp. 12/31/21

10. 2022 Dist. Dev. Grant for \$10,000 approved, will expire 12/31/22.
11. Pollinator Grant – several FFA sites have been planted this summer, have sites in Twin Bridges and Sheridan at Jacksons Garden.
12. DEQ 319 planning grant – Pre-monitoring has begun on RVHA. Audra is working on creating the landowner agreement. RVCD will seek additional funding through the DEQ 319 funding to complete on the ground restoration work next year.
13. U. S. Forest Service Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Group – USFS Greenhorn Project area.
14. Strategic Alliance – Tour August 25th, next meeting scheduled for Sept. 13th @ Alder Comm. Ctr, 10a-2p

VI. NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – July 2021 – copies available (emailed)
2. Ruby Watershed Council Quarterly Mtg. – Oct 2021, TBD
3. 2021 RVCD Annual Banquet – Round Barn on Sept. 11, 2021. Caterer, Band & Bar confirmed

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

Jim Powell mentioned that there have been an abundance of rattlesnakes around the Twin Bridges area and wanted to warn everyone to be careful because they are in places they aren't normally observed.

With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Shirley Galovic
District Administrator

Gary Giem
Chairman