

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 295  
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – October 5, 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 NRCS Conference Room, 402 South Main St., Sheridan, Montana.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|  |                  |                               |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Audra Bell, Stewardship Director, on speaker phone |                  |                               |
| John Wagoner, NRCS                                 | Matt Jaeger, FWP | Ben Masters, Big Sky WS Corps |

Approval of minutes of last meeting (Sept. 7, 2022), motion by John to approve as mailed, second by George, motion carried. Treasurer's Report for September 2022 – no report this month, will have prepared for November meeting. No excused absences.

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

TABLED: Complaint #RV2020-02 Ramshorn Creek tributary. Complaint to USACE, WO their decision. RV21-11 Ruby Valley Hydroelectric Auth. – Ruby River – request for one-year extension and permission to proceed immediately. Matt & Jeremy inspected Phase I of this project 10/5/22 and suggested some modifications. Motion by Rick to approve request for one-year extension to June 2, 2023, with modifications from 10/5/22 Phase I inspection, second by Jeremy, motion carried. RV22-18 Cindy Restvedt – Daylight Creek, Virginia City – remove tree roots blocking water. Set up to inspect 11/2/22.

**NRCS REPORT**

John Wagoner, NRCS, reported October 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of government fiscal year. 7 contracts with 7 landowners; 12-1300 acres contracted conifer removal; 3 acre cover crop/pollinator plot by Pony; 3 applications for 2023 to date; 6 new contracts for 2023; completed 6020 acres brush management; 6000 new acres brush management 2023; Inflation Reduction Act for 2023 increased \$4 million to \$8 million for NRCS (doubled); back burner projects now funded – Upper Ruby re-do of sheep pens; NRCS hiring 4000 more people nationwide; administrative work here – full or parttime whatever work for John, GS-5, all benefits; EQIP application deadline Oct. 28, 2022; met with Local Work Group on Madison side (Audra also attended).

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Planning Board – no report
2. 310 Law MOA with Madison CD – Gary still working on resolution of the RVCD eastern boundary line.
3. Watershed – submission from Ben Masters, Big Sky Watershed Corps member: Duncan District Road Bank Stabilization Project - awarded contract to R E Miller & Sons; Kids River Resource Day was Sept. 22 at Ruby Habitat Foundation very successful; Stream Monitoring – all monitors out by end of October, then start data organizing; prepared Natural Resource News article, RVCD Monthly Newsletter; project monitoring on WHIP, California Creek, Ramshorn Creek and Quaking Aspen Creek.
4. Carcass Management Program – working on using compost locally. Sanitarian supports 100%. Need Board of Health and County Commissions to make a decision.
5. BLM Monitoring Grant #L17AC00338 (Ruby WS Restoration) – expired 9/30/22
6. FWP-WHIP Grant – contractors completed spraying, invoices submitted – waiting on FWP reimbursement
7. Granite Cr. Preservation & Restoration Grant – RIT-22-8901 expires 12/31/2023

8. FY22 DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt – expires 12/31/2022. Motion by Jeremy to approve preparing application due 10/15/22 for FY23 DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt. for \$10,000, second by Rick, motion carried.
9. Pollinator Grant – in progress, expires 12/31/2022
10. DEQ 319 Grant – RVHA, in progress
11. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for October 10, 2022 @ Alder Fire Hall, 10a-2p

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrative grant application submitted- received funds
2. Job Descriptions – Audra suggested a shortened version of descriptions for quick reference plus removal of yellow highlighted section referring to “phone calls” on Stewardship Director. Gary wants to add to all descriptions “The position should be to assist where needed to complete the required tasks.” Gary also mentioned the legislative bill for additional funding for CDs that has a Senate sponsor but needs a House sponsor. Board decided to table discussion on all the job descriptions for the November meeting.
3. Personnel – new employee – Gary, John, Neil & Jeremy interviewed Christina Larue Smathers for the prior to meeting. They asked that she provide us with three references, that will be asked if she is a fast learner. Motion by John to hire Christina as Administrative Assistant, depending on information from references, on a 90-day probationary basis, second by George, motion carried. John expressed concern that there be a concerted effort to train her.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – Sept/2022 – copies available (emailed)
2. MACD Area 6 Meeting – September 30<sup>th</sup> – Gallatin CD (Gary, Shirley, Audra & Ben attended)
3. MACD Convention – Helena – Nov. 16-19 – Area 6 assisting; auction/raffle item – need ideas

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Shirley Galovic  
District Administrator

Gary Giem  
Chairman