

RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 295
SHERIDAN, MT 59749

MEETING MINUTES – November 2, 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	Jim Powell	Rick Sandru
Neil Barnosky	George Trischman	Shirley Galovic, District Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Audra Bell, Stewardship Director	Christina Smathers, Assistant Administrator	
John Wagoner, NRCS	Matt Jaeger, FWP	Ben Masters, Big Sky WS Corps

Approval of minutes of last meeting (Oct. 5, 2022), motion by George to approve as mailed, second by Neil, motion carried. Treasurer's Report for September 2022 – no report this month, will have prepared for December's meeting. Jeremy Miller and John Anderson were absent, motion by Rick to excuse, second by George, motion carried.

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

RV22-18 Cindy Restvedt – Daylight Creek, Virginia City – remove tree roots blocking water. Matt & Jeremy inspected on 11/2/2022, said that in spring the stream can be widened, but banks must be replenished with vegetation. Rick moved to approve with modifications, second by Jim, motion carried.

RV22-19 Charles Logie – Spring Park Creek - irrigation pond. Matt & Neil inspected on 11/2/2022, stream is not perennial, not within jurisdiction. Motion by Neil to declare Not A Project, second by George, motion carried.

TABLED: RV22-20 Rob Tipton – Mill Creek – headgate replacement. Matt & Neil inspected on 11/2/2022, talked to Rob, discussed moving channel, advised contacting R. E. Miller for advice and design. Motion by Rick to table and wait on design, second by Jim, motion carried.

RV22-21: 3 Rivers Communication – Ruby River – Bore Fiber Optic Cable. Matt waived inspection. Motioned by Neil to approve project, seconded by George, motion carried.

NRCS REPORT

John Wagoner, NRCS, reported EQIP & CSP application period closed October 28th. 15 applications across CSP Classic, CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative, South Tobacco Roots Conifer Encroachment TIP, East Tobacco Roots Riparian Health TIP, High Tunnel Initiative, and Sage Grouse Initiative. States that 2023 should be a good year to implement projects throughout the county. Clayton and Sarah started reaching out to landowners back in August with cold calls, emails, etc. We have more applications than usual as a result. Submitted two Targeted Implementation Plans for FY2024-2026 funding. 1. Fence replacement/retrofitting to wildlife friendly specifications in the upper Ruby. 2. Pollinator habitat establishment /invasive control – county wide (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 – submissions from Audra Bell and Ben Masters, Big Sky Watershed Corps member. Audra reported on the following projects: BLM Awards (Award finalized on Sept. 10th. Was asked if we would be interested in working on another agreement for 2024); WHIP (completed WHIP monitoring on Sept. 29th); Upper Ruby River Project – maintenance of phase 1 began Oct. 5th. Construction of phase 2 began Oct. 10th, on-site stakeholders, and partners meeting Oct. 19th; MT DEQ 319 Grant (met with Mark to go over 319 contract); Future Fisheries (met with Michelle McGee); Granite Creek Project, Great West has finalized plans for Granite Creek and are near completion on the Alder Gulch Design, (permits have been drafted, GW waiting on

information for the Bridge; will be reaching out to landowner to discuss use of matrix vs riprap in regards to isolation bank stabilization); Gideon Root Ditch Project (ARPA startup checklist was completed and was submitted to DNRC on October 24th); Wildlife Program (working to meet with stakeholders to update DEQ permit with Sanitarian); RVSA Film (Laurie Hedges completed his time here and is working on RVSA film, has already submitted two invoices). Ben Masters reported on the following projects: Duncan District Rd Bank Stabilization Project (county will provide willows); Kids River Resource Day (made and sent “Thank You” cards to presenters); Stream Monitoring (working on collecting our data loggers, completed some site maintenance to be ready for next season, started organizing last year’s data); Education & Outreach (authored Natural Resource News article on fall bird migration, wrote monthly Newsletter); Project Monitoring (completed annual monitoring on Quaking Aspen and Ramshorn, compiling/organizing data).

4. Carcass Management Program – received compost soil test “viable for dispersion in fallow soils”.
5. FWP-WHIP Grant – finalized most monitoring
6. Granite Cr. Preservation & Restoration Grant – RIT-22-8901 expires 12/31/2023
7. FY22 DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt – expires 12/31/2022.
8. FY23 DNRC Dist. Dev. Gt – application sent
9. Pollinator Grant – in progress, expires 12/31/2022
10. DEQ 319 Grant – RVHA, in progress
11. RV Strategic Alliance – next meeting scheduled for December 12, 2022 @ Alder Fire Hall, 10a-2p

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel – new employee – introduced Christina Smathers started October 17th

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. MACD Montana Conservationist – Oct/2022 – copies available (emailed)
2. MACD Convention – Helena – Nov. 15-17. Gary, Audra & Christina will be attending.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved and Signed,

Christina Smathers
Assistant Administrator

Gary Giem
Chairman