

**Missoula Conservation District – March 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm**  
**Alternate Meeting Location – Virtual/Phone**

**Missoula Conservation District Attendees:** Tim Hall, Chair; Libby Maclay, Vice Chair; Travis Greenwalt, Treasurer; Paul Parson, Supervisor; Bob Schroeder, Supervisor; Art Pencek, Supervisor; Bart Morris, Associate Supervisor; Radley Watkins, Staff; Bryan Vogt, Staff; Barb Kreis, Staff

**Additional Attendees:** John Hart, Senior Deputy County Attorney; Ladd Knotek, MT FWP; Leo Rosenthal, MT FWP; Patrick Uthe, MT FWP; Travis Lemke, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist; Heather Brighton, Lolo Watershed Group; Cory Miller (MS-06-21); Mark Cheff (MS-05-21); Adam Switalski (MS-07-21); Matthias Scheiblehner (MS-07-21); Eliza Gillilan, Big Sky Watershed Member; Melissa Maggio, MT Biocontrol Project Coordinator; Jen McBride, Public

**Absent:** Sidney Wills, Supervisor; Josh Schroeder, Associate Supervisor

**Call Meeting to Order** – 7:04 pm by Tim Hall.

**COVID-19 Meeting Procedures** – Hall provided reminders due to COVID-19. Hall noted that the virtual meeting was held to comply with local guidance pertaining to social distancing and provided guidance to the Board on how to vote while meeting virtually. Hall further requested that participants please mute/unmute themselves as needed, introduce themselves before speaking, and note if they are participating for a specific item on the agenda. Form 273, 310 Permit - Conservation District's Decision and all other decision forms would need to be electronically signed on behalf of the Board, per advisement from John Hart, Senior Deputy County Attorney.

Tim Hall moved to authorize the modification of normal procedures to allow for electronic signatures on all decision forms for the March 8, 2021 District Meeting. Paul Parson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

**Minutes** – Libby Maclay moved to approve the February 8, 2021 Minutes as presented. Paul Parson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried—unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report** – As Travis Greenwalt had not yet joined the meeting, Barb Kreis reported the amount of \$19,466.19 in the District checking account.

**Public Comment** – None

**NRCS Report** – Travis Lemke, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, reported the March 1st ranking deadline for both CSP and EQIP has been extended. The staff continues to move forward with resource assessments and compiling contract documents for 2021 CSP and EQIP applicants. The latest guidance regarding the COVID Workplace Safety Plan is as follows:

On Friday, February 26th, FPAC leaders met with the Office of the Secretary (OSEC) to discuss staffing of FPAC (NRCS, FSA, RMA) facilities regarding the new USDA COVID Workplace Safety Plan. Based on guidance from the White House and OSEC, the following changes are effective immediately:

The previous Office Phases have been rescinded and all FPAC facilities must meet the requirements below:

- Maximum telework is strongly encouraged to the extent possible.
- All FPAC facilities are required to maintain staffing at 25% of employees or less. This includes facilities that were previously in the former Phases 2 and 3.
- If agencies in FPAC facilities occupy physically separate office spaces, divided by walls and doors, each agency may maintain up to 25% staffing. Unlike the previous guidance, this means 25% for the entire facility or agency office.
- If a Service Center or State Office is a single space, then agencies (including RD) must coordinate staffing levels to remain within the up to 25% rule. Offices may also adjust schedules and stagger shifts to accommodate the staff needed to accomplish operational missions.

Visitors are not permitted until additional guidance can be approved. Customers should be provided service via phone and internet as was previously done in the former Phases 0 and 1. Phase 2 and 3 signage should be replaced with signs that indicate that the facility is not accepting visitors. If an exception must be made and the facility needs to admit visitors to provide service to equipment or the facility exemptions are authorized, you must adjust office occupancy to remain at 25% or below and adjust staff numbers to accommodate the visitors. All other provisions of the USDA Workplace Safety Plan must be followed.

Lemke stated there is currently one spot allocated for the CD at the office during a standard workweek. Additional CD employees are able to work in the office as well when the scheduling permits. Lemke stated a schedule would be sent out this week for coordination and staggering of staff for all areas.

### **310 Permit Applications**

**MS-30-20 – (Tabled 11/09/20)** Marie Ann Zens Kimerly – Lolo Creek – Bank Stabilization  
Geocode: 04-2091-33-3-01-04-0000

Heather Brighton, Lolo Watershed Group (LWG) Coordinator, reported she is still trying to find funding to address the scour area above the bridge. She met on site with consultants in January to discuss the possibility of drawing up a design to move along the 310 Permit application. Costs for the design and any implementation can't be taken out of current DEQ funding that focuses on the downstream restoration project so other funding sources (possibly through DNRC or FEMA) are being explored to address the scour problems upstream of the bridge.

**MS-32-20 – (Tabled 12/14/20)** James Schlinger – Barber Creek – Bridge and Stream Manipulation  
Geocode: 04-2992-19-1-01-11-0000

Watkins reminded the Board that more detail on the bridge design had been requested at the February 8, 2021 District meeting. Watkins discussed the new bridge design received from Schlinger for the Board's consideration. The new design did not specifically show the height of the planned bridge above the streambank. Discussion focused on how to get the project plans to depict what was discussed onsite during previous site inspections. There was agreement that the bridge should have six inches (6") of freeboard between the bottom of the bridge and the bank-full water level.

Bob Schroeder moved to make Application No. MS-32-20 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications. Paul Parson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

- All restored/planted vegetation shall maintain the District's standards for vegetation survival – no less than 75% survival after 1 year of the project completion date, and no less than 50% survival after 2 years of the project completion date
- The bridge shall have six inches (6") of freeboard between the bank-full water level and the bottom most structure of the bridge

**MS-05-21** – Mark Cheff – Twin Creek – Culvert Installation  
Geocode: 04-2328-35-1-01-02-0000

Watkins reported this is a new application for a culvert stream crossing on an unnamed tributary of the East Fork of Twin Creek. A site inspection was conducted March 3, 2021 with Tim Hall, Patrick Uthe, and Watkins attending. Watkins showed locator slides and photos from the site inspection. Cheff stated the proposal is to create a crossing that will allow access to the west side of the property without having to create a large switch back and cut from the existing road. This crossing will limit vehicle activity to one controlled point along the creek. A 60" diameter corrugated metal culvert will be installed into the main channel with an 18" diameter metal culvert installed into an existing historic channel to accommodate high flow years. The stream channel is approximately 24" wide in this location. The two roads on either side of the creek are about on grade but may need 8-10' of fill dirt across the riparian area over the culvert. Native material sourced on site will be used for fill. Any disturbed areas will be reseeded and revegetated. Uthe confirmed that the proposal is adequate to protect the resource and accommodate flows. Uthe suggested countersinking the culvert at least 10% (6") to allow substrate to accumulate within the culvert for streambed simulation.

Tim Hall moved to make Application No. MS-05-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications incorporating team member reports. Art Pencek seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

- Countersink culvert 6 inches
- Culvert installation can occur in the wet. No need to construct bypass channel and dewater work area
- Seed/revegetate exposed roadfill and crossing

**MS-06-21** – Cory Miller obo Tom & Chris McCall – O'Keefe Creek – Repair existing irrigation diversion & install pump case and screen  
Geocode: 04-2325-20-2-02-03-0000

Watkins reported this is a new application and a site inspection was conducted March 3, 2021 with Tim Hall, Ladd Knotek, and Watkins attending. Watkins showed locator slides and photos from the site inspection. Miller stated this project is to divert water for irrigation purposes associated with an existing water right. Large rock will be placed within the channel at the location of an old diversion structure to slow water and divert it to a catchment pond outside of the channel without fully damming the creek. A cement case will be placed in the pond, with a pump on top and a vertical pipe that will draw water from the case. Excess water from the pond will flow through an overflow channel back into O'Keefe Creek. Any disturbed areas will be reseeded. Knotek stated this section of the creek is intermittent with limited fish use. Knotek and Hall reviewed their team member reports. The existing 8" (eight inches) diameter diversion pipe to the off-channel pond may remain. If new pipe installation is needed, the diameter of new diversion pipe to off-channel pond should not exceed 6" (six inches) so most of the water stays in the channel at base flow.

Tim Hall moved to make Application No. MS-06-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications. Paul Parson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

- Existing 8” (eight inches) diversion pipe to off-channel may remain. If new pipe installation is needed, the diameter of new diversion pipe to off-channel pond should not exceed 6” (six inches)
- Height of small dam to divert water should not exceed 6” (six inches) to ensure upstream aquatic organism passage
- Active channel, banks and riparian vegetation should not need to be disturbed other than minor activity associated with the two items above and the work in the existing off-channel pond
- Pump should be elevated with base above floodplain

**MS-07-21** – Watershed Consulting obo Ami Vitale & Mathias Scheiblehner – Rattlesnake Creek – Bank Stabilization

Geocode: 04-2200-11-3-05-40-0000

Watkins showed slides identifying the site and showing the proposed planting plan. Adam Switalski, consultant, stated this is a bank stabilization project for a streambank with low to moderate stability issues utilizing plantings. The streambank ranges from 8 feet to 14 feet above the creek bed and is slightly undercut and slowly collapsing due to erosion from the stream and from surface erosion resulting from overland flow. The project includes planting 100 small alders just above the high-water mark and 50 additional shrubs along the length of the bank. This work is a proactive attempt to fortify the riparian zone. Watkins asked the applicant where the water would come from for the drip system. Mathias Scheiblehner stated they have rights from the irrigation ditch where they will take the water. Watkins stated was no site inspection was conducted due to familiarity with the site and because it is a hand planting project. The Board discussed whether a 310 Permit was needed since the implementation will all be conducted by hand.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-07-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project as proposed. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

**MS-08-21** – Ron Pierce obo Scott Tucker – Gilbert Creek – Bridge Construction/Channel Alteration/Irrigation Structure

Geocode: 04-1978-27-1-01-01-0000

Watkins reported this 310 Application was not received in time for the March site inspection deadline, but a visit will be conducted prior to the April 12, 2021 District meeting. The Board postponed taking any action on the application at this time.

### **310 Complaints**

**CM-06-20 (Re: MS-31-20 AWM)**– Mark and Cassandra Rideg and William Rideg – Spring Creek – Dam Building/Maintenance

Geocode: 04-2427-07-1-01-01-0000 and 04-2427-07-1-02-08-0000

Hall reminded the Board that CM-06-20 will remain on the agenda until work has been completed and approved under 310 Permit MS-31-20.

**CM-01-21 – Tana Doyle – Lolo Creek – Vegetation Removal Riparian Buffer**  
Geocode: 04-2092-35-4-08-12-0000

Watkins reported receiving multiple calls regarding downed trees and unauthorized activity at night on or near this parcel near Lolo Creek. Watkins visited the site and discovered some trees that had fallen naturally but did not observe any that were cut. There was some evidence of cut branches, wood chips from chain saw use, and some dogwood cuttings bundled together. Otherwise, he observed the stream and riparian area to be in good condition. Callers had expressed concerns that the downed trees may cause flooding issues at this corner of Lewis and Clark Drive as this area has historically flooded, but they were not necessarily concerned with potential 310 violations. Watkins wrote a letter to Doyle documenting everything he found and suggesting the landowner may research trespassing laws regarding the activity. The Board discussed that any of the observed activity did not seem to be caused by the landowner.

Tim Hall moved to dismiss Complaint No. CM-01-21. Art Pencek seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

**Existing Violations**

**CM-08-19 (Re: CM-02-20, Violation & MS-04-20, Denied) – James Schlinger – Barber Creek – Excavation on Creek and Banks**  
Geocode: 04-2992-19-1-01-11-0000

Hall stated CM-08-19 will remain on the agenda until work has been completed and approved under newly issued 310 Permit MS-32-20.

**CM-02-20 (Re: CM-08-19, Violation & MS-04-20, Denied) – James Schlinger – Barber Creek – Bridge & Road Work**  
Geocode: 04-2992-19-1-01-11-0000

Hall stated CM-02-20 will remain on the agenda until work has been completed and approved under newly issued 310 Permit MS-32-20.

**CM-09-20 – (Re: MS-04-21) – Carl Graumann – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal**  
Geocode: 04-2200-17-2-01-12-0000

Hall stated CM-09-20 will remain on the agenda until work has been completed and approved under 310 Permit MS-04-21.

**310 Inquiries & Issues**

Creighton Subdivision – Watkins reported visiting this undeveloped parcel being proposed as a subdivision at the end of Walker Road off of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Part of the land fronts the Clark Fork River in a floodplain area. Pencek recommended any development within 100’ of the river needs a 310 Application submitted for review to determine if Missoula CD has jurisdiction. Watkins stated this would be good to suggest including in plat language, however, all 310 Applications would be judged on site specific conditions.

Big Flat Road – Watkins reported on conversation he and Vogt had with a consultant on a project being

developed along an area of the Clark Fork River that has lost 90 feet of streambank. The consultant discussed using a buried revetment (pre-emptive rip rap) as a potential solution. The channel migration map prepared by the consultant shows where the river is likely to erode further as it continues to migrate. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed implementation measure (i.e., buried revetment or pre-emptive rip rap) and how the 310 Law should apply to this form of preemptive bank protection.

Watershed Education Network (WEN) Watkins reported being invited by Deb Fassnacht, WEN Executive Director, to provide 310 Law technical assistance on a property owned by the Aspire Charter School next to the Clark Fork River.

## Reports

County Attorney – John Hart discussed the Creighton Subdivision topic in terms of different county office’s process for reviewing development proposals, particularly Community & Planning Services (CAPS), as the District’s 310 Permitting process and requirements aren’t well known by these offices. Hart requested the District coordinate with him on communicating with county offices regarding subdivision development issues, adding it would be beneficial for them to receive training on the 310 Law.

Montana FWP – Ladd Knotek reported working with the City of Missoula regarding vegetation maintenance on US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) certified levees along the north bank of the Clark Fork River in areas outside of the District’s 310 Law jurisdiction. USACE promotes removal of trees and shrubs with stems greater than 4" in diameter. Prior practices included complete cutting of all woody species on levees, which impacts river riparian function and contradicts direction from other permitting entities including Missoula CD. Tracy Campbell, City of Missoula, is working to balance required vegetation clearing by removing larger trees (primarily black cottonwood), while retaining and promoting willow, dogwood, and other native shrubs that provide riparian functions and which are allowed under USACE requirements. Leo Rosenthal stated he had nothing to report.

Bitterroot RC&D – Libby Maclay reviewed a written report of RC&D activities that was included in Supervisors’ meeting packet. No meetings have been held over the past 2 or 3 years as an executive committee has been formed that has been making all the decisions for the organization.

District Committees – Hall reported the Personnel Committee is working on recruiting a new Administrative Assistant pending Kreis’s vacancy that will begin March 29, 2021.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder submitted the following written report on the Sxwtpqyen Master Plan (Mullan Area Master Plan) as he was unable to attend. As part of the master plan a rehabilitated and protected Grant Creek is being envisioned. Green infrastructure, progressive stormwater management, riparian buffers and other protections are included in the plan. West Slope Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Clark Fork Coalition, Friends of Grant Creek and Five Valleys Audubon are requesting that a working group be established to focus on Grant Creek restoration and other natural resources in the master plan footprint. This working group would be a sub-group of the Implementation Committee. The Planning Board recently heard a presentation from the Missoula Connect project team on the recommended scenarios of future transportation projects for the Missoula Area. Three scenarios were proposed:

- **New Connections** focused on expanding the roadway network and creating new routes for all modes. The scenario included larger projects like complete street reconstruction, roadway extensions, and new trails and bridges.

- **Enhanced Connections** focused on maintaining and improving the existing transportation network rather than creating new routes or additional vehicular capacity. It included smaller key connection projects, such as closing trail gaps, establishing greenways, and completing intersection improvements.
- **Regional Equity** focused on projects that specifically advance the objective of creating a more equitable region. Projects included lower-cost improvements, like neighborhood greenways and shared-use paths, that could reduce reliance on private vehicles and facilitate greater connectivity within neighborhoods

The recommended scenario is a blended scenario combining elements from Enhanced Connections and Regional Equity with an overall goal of connecting existing neighborhoods and key destinations, supporting inward growth to reduce development pressure in rural areas and advance regional equity through lower cost transportation options. This option also recognizes the fiscal constraints (\$180 M) and prioritizes projects based on their role in the overall network, parallel facilities, and team input.

Missoula CD Employees – Kreis gave her resignation as her last day with Missoula CD will be March 26, 2021. She is going to work for Missoula NRCS Area Office as their new administrative assistant.

### ***Barb Kreis - Administrative Assistant***

Office Operations: Received and sorted agency mail daily and followed up on District business correspondence. Attended February 8, 2021 virtual District meeting and took notes. Drafted February meeting minutes. Drafted agenda for March 8, 2021 meeting and posted January meeting minutes to District website. Added deadline dates to website calendar and posted Agenda. Updated Facebook page for Missoula Conservation District. Created spreadsheet with checklists/How to do directions for new Admin Assistant/Staff. Updated accounts/password sheet. Updated building phone list.

Stream Permit Processing: Completed and sent out decision letters and Form 273 permits to applicants from the February 8, 2021 meeting. Updated PowerPoint presentation for March 8, 2021 virtual meeting. Added March 8, 2021 agenda to website. Updated 310 Spreadsheet with new 310 applications. Created files for 4 new 310 applications and 1 complaint. Updated Box and Salesforce with 310 applications and complaint information. Emailed Zoom logon information to all meeting participants. Created, emailed, and mailed meeting packet for supervisors and partners. Updated agenda and site inspection deadlines on CD website calendar. Forwarded new 310 applications to FWP reps. Created site inspection schedule and folders for March 3, 2021.

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Reporting, and Recordkeeping: Emailed January claims form to Jacque Harris. Prepared Profit/Loss and Balance reports for March 8, 2021 meeting. Entered February claims into QuickBooks. Reconciled February bank statements. Reconciled DA Davidson February statement. Completed bills claims form for March 8, 2021 meeting. Entered deposits and checks into QuickBooks.

*\*1 Holiday (President's Day)*

### ***Bryan Vogt - Program Specialist***

Program Assistance: Attended and took notes at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Worked with UM student group on final edits to Pollinator Grant proposal. Prepared materials for submittal to DNRC including HB223 grant proposal (Fairgrounds Greenhouse), Pollinator Grant proposal (UM Firewise Garden), and final report for DNRC Education Mini-Grant (2020 Flagship Program Outdoor Camp); coordinated with Kreis to obtain signatures and mail these documents. Assisted Watkins, as requested, with District Operations and 310 Administration questions, including history of projects on Gilbert Creek/Valley of the Moon Ranch. With Watkins, participated in a virtual meeting with Molly Davidson of Morrison-Maierle on 310 Inquiry on the Clark Fork River that I'd advised on in October 2020. Continued work on development of proposed 2021 grants program changes. Extensive discussion with Watkins on prior DNRC Environmental Contingency Grant meetings and correspondence. Updated 2021 work plan for Watkins'

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review. Participated in Montana Watershed Coordination Council virtual annual meeting. Assisted with review and editing of the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Assisted Watkins with posting of Administrative Assistant job announcement. Participated in online/virtual QuickBooks training hosted by the MACD Employee's Organization.

Technical Assignments: Hosted virtual Equipment Committee meeting to discuss upcoming 2021 no-till drill rental season and review the need for any program changes. Took one new reservation for the no-till drill.

Communication and Outreach: Participated in call with Heidi Sedivy, Project Coordinator, at Clearwater Resource Council regarding their interest in a DNRC Pollinator Grant sponsorship. With Watkins, participated in virtual meeting with Naomi Alhadeff, Senior Coordinator for Montana Education Programs, with the National Wildlife Federation on pollinator program partnering opportunities. Forwarded information on the 3/8–3/9 virtual Soil Health Innovations Conference and the 2/23 virtual Grazing to Improve Soil Health presentation to the Board. Posted updates to upcoming events on the District's Opportunities webpage. With Watkins, participated in a virtual meeting with Melissa Maggio (Project Coordinator) and Eliza Gillilan (BSWC member) to discuss their request for funding support of the Montana Biocontrol Project. Correspondence with teachers on supporting this year's Envirothon teams. Posted Administrative Assistant job announcement on MCD website.

*\*1 Holiday (President's Day); ½ Day Vacation*

### ***Radley Watkins - Resource Conservationist***

Office Administration: Met with Kreis and Vogt weekly to review tasks, and office affairs. Reviewed and edited office minutes from March 2020 meeting. Reviewed timesheets shared them with the county and entered all staff hours into QuickBooks. Participated in a multi-partner (MTD, Missoula County Parks and Rec., FWP, and several NGOs) Connectivity Group meeting discussing vital wildlife corridors in Missoula County. Met with Karen Knudsen and Jeb Whiteley of the Clark Fork Coalition to discuss ways the CD can work with them to conserve river-related resources. Met with Chairman Hall, and members of Missoula Valley Water Quality District (Travis Ross and Elena Evans) regarding the public release of the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers Channel Migration Mapping report that the CD and WQD co-funded. Attended the second of a three-part series on how to market conservation districts, hosted by MACD Education Committee, and spoke to coordinator Dave Martin about making Missoula CD a pilot project of the techniques taught in the series. Had 3-month review with Personnel Committee and discuss Kreis resignation. Met with Chairman Hall, Jerry Marks and Bryce Christiaens from the Missoula Weed District regarding inter-local agreement for the new building office space. Met with Kate Wilson, DNRC, regarding Governors appointment of a conservation district representative to the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission. Applied for the CD representative position on the UCCC (with Employee Committees permission). Reached out to and spoke with Travis Lemke, NRCS, regarding how the CD can participate more coordinated efforts with NRCS and how the CD can help engage the Local Working Group. Participated in online/virtual QuickBooks training hosted by the MACD. Participated in a NRCS partnership meeting regarding reduction in staff numbers in office space. Worked with Vogt to post the Admin Assistant job announcement. Spoke to Chairman Hall weekly to report updates and ask questions regarding management of the CD.

310 Law Administration: Worked with Jim Schlinger to add detail to his bridge design for his 310-permit site plan for work on Barber Creek. Submitted a draft of leases language to Supervisor Pencek for DNRC leased land to help avoid 310 permit violation of tenants. With an invitation from Tim Worley, Community and Planning Services, attended subdivision site visit for subdivision being proposed that includes the south bank of the Clark Fork in Orchard Homes. Met with Deb Fassnacht, WEN, and educator and landowner from the Aspire Middle and High School to conduct a 310 site visit on the portion of land the school owns across from MaClay Flats on the Clark Fork River. on Communicated with Attorney Hart about changing

form letters to reflect fact that NAP letters refer to permit holders when no permit has been issued. Spoke to Corey Miller, 310 applicant, about project design on O'Keefe Creek, and helped get him in touch with Elena Evans of the WQD to establish a stream gauge close to the site. Conducted 310 site visits on O'Keefe Creek in Missoula and unnamed creek off East Twin Creek in Bonner.

Program Management: Met with Vogt and Equipment Committee to get approval for changes that we will be implementing for the No-Till-Drill in 2021. Met with Vogt to go over re-launch of grant program. Assigned Vogt to finish draft proposal of programs by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Met with Vogt and Naomi Alhadeff, Senior Coordinator for Montana Education Programs, with the National Wildlife Federation on pollinator program. Spoke with Autumn Coleman and Marry Hendrix from DNRC regarding Joe Purcell's DNRC Environmental Contingency Grant. Met with Vogt and consultant Molly R. Davidson, Senior Water Resources Engineer, Morrison-Maierle to discuss bank stabilization on Big Flats Rd stretch of the Clark Fork River.

*\*1 Holiday (President's Day)*

Other Reports – Heather Brighton, Lolo Watershed Group, reported that she is working with their Big Sky Watershed Corp member on a revegetation project at the newly implemented Lolo Ditch fish screen site.

## **New Business**

### **Correspondence:**

Fire in the Crown of the Continent – Watkins informed the Board of the virtual forum being held March 22 – 26, 2021. Board feedback was that it was not a priority for staff to attend.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission CD Representative – Watkins reported that the UCCC, which was created to enhance aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention efforts, is currently seeking interested members of CDs to serve on the commission. Due to his prior AIS work, Watkins put in an application to serve on the commission. Appointments are made by the Governor.

Channel Migration Zone – Watkins reported that a draft report of the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers Channel Migration Mapping project is ready for review and will be presented by the consultants via Zoom on April 19, 2021 at 7 p.m. Supervisors are encouraged to participate.

Other New Business – Watkins reported he was invited by Deb Fassnacht with WEN to help judge the RISE Challenge Big Sky kid's competition.

## **Old Business**

### **Stakeholders:**

DNRC State Lands – Lease Sites – Watkins reported that he and Pencek are still drafting language for DNRC's review pertaining to state lands offered for lease or sale.

MSU Extension/Weed District – Nothing to report

## **Programs**

### **District Grant Programs:**

### **District Grants**

Envirothon – Vogt reported that the Missoula Future Farmers of America (FFA) is requesting a total of \$1,074 (\$200 for registration and \$874 for lodging) to send two teams to Envirothon this year from April 19-20, 2021 in Lewistown, MT. The deadline to submit registration forms for the Envirothon is March 15, 2021. The FFA submitted a proposal with a budget showing over \$3,302 in matching funds.

Bob Schroeder moved to support the request of \$ 1,074.00 for Envirothon registration and lodging. Tim Hall seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

### **DNRC Sponsored Grants**

Weed District – Montana Biocontrol Field Guide – Melissa Maggio, Montana Biocontrol Project Coordinator, reported on their request for funding/mini grant assistance from the Missoula CD to help print up to 4,000 copies of the updated Montana Biocontrol Field Guide. She and Eliza Gillilan, Big Sky Watershed Corp member, have been working to update the 2009 guide so that it is more user-friendly and readily utilized by weed managers across the state. Maggio explained that while the Biocontrol Project is housed collectively with the Missoula County Weed District, they do not receive tax funding and rely on soft funding (i.e., grants and donations) to operate. She also explained that they are unable to charge for the guides due to provisions in some of their cooperative agreements. Vogt reported they are requesting sponsorship for a DNRC Education Mini-Grant proposal for \$500 with an additional \$500 funding request through a Missoula CD Education Mini-Grant. He reviewed a copy the request letter and draft DNRC Education Mini-Grant proposal received from Maggio. The proposal budget included \$12,500 in secured and pending match from other sources. The deadline to apply for the DNRC mini grant is April 7, 2021.

Art Pencek moved to approve the DNRC Education Mini Grant sponsorship request for \$500.00 and to allow staff to work with the sponsored applicant on final edits to the proposal prior to its submission. Tim Hall seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

Tim Hall stated the Grants Committee will review the request for \$500 Missoula CD Education Mini-Grant prior to April 12, 2021 District meeting.

Purcell – Environmental Contingency Grant – Watkins reported on correspondence he had with both Mary Hendrix and Autumn Coleman of DNRC regarding an Environmental Contingency Grant request from Joe Purcell of Lolo, MT. Mr. Purcell had submitted the grant to DNRC without going through the Conservation District as the applicant, which is the required process. Purcell was asking for \$25,000 to help finish cleaning up his property from the 2017 wildfires. Vogt reported this is the same grant program that was discussed at the October 13, 2020 and November 9, 2020 District meetings at which time the Board decided not to develop an application. Watkins reported that on March 2, 2021, Autumn Coleman forwarded a scanned copy of a memo from DNRC to the Governor’s office dated September 28, 2020 recommending the release of funds for the current Environmental Contingency Grant. This memo was included in the Supervisors’ meeting packet. In her 3/2/2021 email, Coleman stated that she did not think that the Environmental Contingency Grant opportunity had been shared on the web, but probably sent out via email to districts. The Board discussed whether or not to pursue support of the Purcell proposal that he submitted to DNRC. Watkins stated he will follow up with Mr. Purcell to provide guidance on the required grant process and to gain more information on Purcell’s need for the grant funds.

**Equipment Program** – Vogt reported there was an Equipment Committee meeting held on February 11<sup>th</sup>

to prepare for 2021 No-Till Drill rental season. Currently there are rentals booked through most of April. Bob Schroeder researched Department of Transportation trailer requirements and 8 ft. 6 inches is as wide as the trailer can be without special requirements. There was also discussion of researching modifications to the trailer’s ramp to facilitate easier loading and unloading of the drill.

**Pollinator Program** – Vogt reported the Missoula CD would be receiving an additional one acre worth of seed mix from the Lake County CD. In 2020, NRCS assisted Missoula CD by distributing pollinator seed packets to local landowners with larger areas to plant. Heidi Fleury with Lake County CD has asked whether Missoula CD will still be using the \$150 from the LCCD’s grant to show The Pollinators film at The Roxy Theater. Vogt stated he and Watkins will come up with a plan on how to distribute seed to landowners this year and that they would request the \$150 from LCCD if it is at all possible to host a showing of The Pollinators this year.

**Other Old Business** – Nothing to report

**Payment of Bills**

Tim Hall moved to pay the bills. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

**Petty Checking Account**

Date	Description	Charge
03/01/21	Zoom – Monthly charges for Watkins & Vogt	\$ 31.10
02/23/21	Alpha Graphics – 2 car magnets	\$ 73.90
02/22/21	National Center for Appropriate Technology – Vogt Registration	\$ 75.00
02/16/21	USPS – 3 grant mailings to DNRC	\$ 15.60
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 195.60</b>

**Checking Account**

Date	Description	Charge
02/12/21	Bitterroot RC&D 2021 Sponsorship	\$ 300.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>

**Tax Mill Levy Account (Warrants/Claims)**

Date	Description	Charge
02/09/21	Verizon	\$ 105.02
02/09/21	Charter Communications	\$ 99.99
03/08/21	MT State Fund 2 of 3 installment and payroll report	\$ 464.33
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 669.34</b>

**Adjournment**

Tim Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 pm. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

Minutes  
 Missoula Conservation District  
 March 8, 2021

Voting Record – CD Supervisor	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Tim Hall	11	-	-
Libby Maclay	11	-	-
Travis Greenwalt*	8	-	-
Paul Parson	11	-	-
Art Pencek	11	-	-
Bob Schroeder	11	-	-
Sidney Wills	11	-	-

\*Supervisor Greenwalt joined the meeting at 7:24pm following the votes on COVID-19 Meeting Procedures, Minutes, and MS-06-21.

The next Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom teleconference.

APPROVED