



Missoula Conservation District
May 12th, 2025 5:30 p.m.
1075 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801 – with virtual option

Missoula Conservation District Attendees: Tim Hall (Chair), Libby Maclay (Vice-Chair), Travis Greenwalt (Treasurer), Robert Schroeder (Supervisor), Art Pencek* (Supervisor), Bart Morris* (Supervisor), Radley Watkins (Staff), Bryan Vogt (Staff), Sonja Skovlin (Staff)

Absent: Josh Schroeder (Associate Supervisor), Karen Williams (Associate Supervisor)

Additional Attendees: Travis Lemke* (NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist), John Hart (Senior Deputy County Attorney), Ethan Richards* (MS-15-25), Carrie Olson* (MS-14-25)

*Denotes virtual participation via Zoom

Call Meeting to Order – Chair Hall started the meeting at 5:35 pm.

April 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – Libby Maclay moved to approve the April 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor and the motion carried. (Supervisor Morris arrived at the meeting following this vote.)

Treasurer's Report – Travis Greenwalt presented the following account balances from the District's QuickBooks Balance Sheet dated May 8th, 2025, included in the Supervisors' meeting packets. Also included was the year-to-date Profit and Loss report and a Budget vs Actual Profit and Loss report, all dated May 9th, 2025.

First Security Bank – Checking	\$20,986.04
First Security Bank – Petty Checking	\$1,522.07
First Security Bank – Savings	\$58,554.13
DADCO Savings	\$206,553.88
Tax Mill Levy Account at County	\$368,628.17
Total Bank Accounts	\$656,244.29

Public Comment – No public comment was offered.

Reports

NRCS Report – Travis Lemke reported that all projects in Miller Creek will be funded this year. His team is focused on outreach and education, with several upcoming events. NRCS staffers presented at the May 1 soil health event at Farm Connect Montana. His staff will conduct a tour on the Primrose Farm and the H and H Farm that will feature veterans and veteran-owned operations. Lemke informed the Board, upon their inquiry, that the kinds of projects funded include converting surface water irrigation to ground water irrigation, additional exclosures, livestock watering facilities, and riparian planting. Watkins mentioned the DNRC grant MCD was awarded for work on Oxbow Cattle Company land, and that a DNRC grant application is currently being reviewed for a project



on Teece's property. The Board recommended that staff advertise opportunities to volunteer when planting will happen.

County Attorney Report – John Hart stated he had no report to offer.

Montana FWP – Ladd Knotek was absent; he did not provide a report.

DNRC Conservation District Bureau – Catey Bauer, CD Specialist for western Montana CDs, submitted a report that was included in the Supervisor's meeting packets.

MACD – Watkins reported that the deadline is approaching to submit a resolution that would first be considered at the annual Area 5 meeting and if approved there, would advance to the MACD for consideration at the annual convention. He reviewed that MCD has considered putting forth a resolution to implement consequences for any CD that does not comply with the established resolution process, especially as it relates to approaching the legislature about new laws pertaining to CDs. Lewis & Clark Co. CD is drafting a similar resolution, but their draft doesn't currently include any specific penalties.

The Board did not give specific direction on an approach to familiarize other area CDs with the resolution, but there was agreement that we should try to get Area 5 support. The Board directed Watkins to contact Becca Boslough-King to review the proposed resolution with her. The Board agreed to pursue the development of this resolution that includes consequences for CDs that don't follow the established resolution process.

Skovlin reported that she is assisting MACD in reviewing statewide scholarship applications. She has enjoyed this process of reading responses to scholarship application questions. There is a definite need for scholarships and interest from Missoula County students.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay stated that there hasn't been a meeting over the last month.

Dept. of Ecology and Extension/Weed District/GWMEC Building – Watkins reported that Carver Butterfield is working as a seasonal employee for the Montana Biocontrol Project. MCD has been working on cooperative workshops with MCDEE staff that Vogt will elaborate on later in the meeting.

Watershed Groups

MT Watershed Coordination Council Membership – Watkins displayed information from MWCC pertaining to the work they conducted over the past year. They sent the CD a request to become a member at a cost of \$250 annually. Supervisor Paul Parson spoke favorably of them. Watkins stated that MWCC dedicated nearly 20% of their funding to CDs. MCD would be able to post free ads. MWCC serves as a clearinghouse for many organizations and agencies.

Chair Hall moved that the Missoula CD join the MWCC for the \$250 annual membership fee. Robert Schroeder seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Supervisor Bart Morris did not vote as he had not yet arrived at the meeting.

Lower Grant Creek Project is moving forward - Watkins showed a site location slide of this project, located on Dale Frey's and Cory Miller's property. He mentioned that CFC has obtained funding for



lower Grant Creek from the DEQ 319 program after successfully completing the Watershed Restoration Plan for lower Grant Creek.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder was absent and had not submitted a report.

Water Quality District – Chair Hall reported that the WQD met and approved the annual operating budget.

District Committees – The Board remarked on the Finance Committee meeting soon to discuss the budget for FY26. Vogt reported that the Grants committee met to discuss potential changes to the program. They will meet again in June to review applications and the proposed FY26 program.

Missoula CD Employees – Written reports were included in the Supervisor's packets.

Other Reports

Legislative Updates – Watkins reported that Senate Bill 472 passed. With this legislation, the penalty for being in violation of the 310 Law would increase from \$500 per day to \$5,000 per day. SMZ projects would be exempt from penalties. Limits of penalties, restoration. Fines are not necessarily related to restoration.

Watkins provided a 2025 Legislative Session Recap put together by Clark Fork Coalition. He attended this legislative update by CFC on his own time. The recap report included legislation that CFC had identified as having either a positive or negative impact on watershed work in Montana.

New Business

Correspondence and Upcoming Events – Information was included in Supervisor Packets.

Site Inspections Scheduling – Watkins reported that the next site inspection with Ladd Knotek will occur on June 3rd.

Accident Plan for District Supervisors – Watkins presented the Occupational Accident and Business Travel policy information provided by our current insurance provider. Supervisors currently have some coverage. The Board requested that a representative from Rocky Mountain Insurance Services provide information at the June meeting, as they would like clarification of coverage under the current policy and what additional coverage this plan would provide.

Envirothon Report and National Competition Support – Watkins reported that Big Sky High School won the state competition, and other MCPS teams placed in the top 5 statewide for several events. He displayed a slide of the Missoula team results and showed a video that the Sentinel team created. MCD has supported the Missoula County team in the past if they won and went on to compete at the next level. The Board discussed supporting the winning team from Big Sky HS as they go on to compete in Alberta, Canada, and will revisit this intent once the coach submits expense details. Watkins mentioned that the Grants Committee discussed acknowledgement for the two teachers/coaches. Chair Hall stated that these teachers do not receive financial support from the



school for coaching the Envirothon Teams in the same way an athletic coach would be compensated and suggested MCD do something for the teachers to recognize their volunteer time. Paul Parson moved to give each of the two MCPS Envirothon coaches a \$150 Visa gift card as an acknowledgement for coaching the local teams and to publish a press release with MCPS Envirothon team results. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Programs

Grants Program

MCD Grants – Vogt reported that he walked the length of the Moy riparian fence and found that it met the specifications of the CEG. He reported that the Grants Committee discussed having final reports from all projects shared with the Board. Vogt stated that they discussed consolidating grant offerings for the upcoming FY26 season.

Outside Grants

DNRC Pollinator Grant – Vogt reported that, through a competitive process, the DNRC selected the Missoula County Bee City USA Pollinator Pathways Project to receive funding, and that he expects to receive the grant contract soon.

Soil Health/Equipment Program – Vogt reported that staff participated in the Farm Connect Montana's Farmer's Tool Library Expo. The no-till drill was displayed and the rental program discussed. MCD also tabled there. Several in attendance took wildflower seeds home.

Vogt reported that several Missoula and Ravalli County residents have rented the drill since the last week of March. He pointed out how important the check-in program is, as recently when the City of Missoula returned the drill, their staff pointed out overlooked cracks on a frame cross member. Vogt displayed pictures of the drill and trailer damage requiring repairs. A local shop welded the cracks and rentals continued. He pointed out another needed repair to the trailer and will have that addressed.

Pollinator Program/MTNSN: Vogt reported that he and Skovlin had tabled at the Phlox Fest on April 26th and provided wildflower seed packets to over 50 individuals. He informed the Board that he had attended and spoke at MCDEE's ReWild Your Yard workshop on May 3rd, promoting MCD programs and announcing the Benefits of Native Plant Landscaping Micro-Workshop on May 31st. Vogt stated that he and Marirose Kuhlman presented on the Missoula Co. Bee City USA program and the pollinator pathway project at the City of Missoula's Climate, Conservation, and Parks Committee meeting.

Vogt reported that public volunteer events began on April 23rd and that they take place every Wednesday from 9am – noon at the DRNC Nursery. Skovlin has been advertising these opportunities through social media and mass email messages, as well as on tack boards in the GWMEC.

Other New Business – Robert Schroeder asked about interest in putting the new MCD ChatGPT that Josh Schroeder developed as a link on the MCD website. Watkins reported that he has worked



with Josh on putting this on the website and has asked AI how to embed it on the website. He suggested that the CD might need to put forth funding to work with a website developer to successfully get a link like this on the website. The Board expressed support for exploring these technologies further, with some members raising questions about cost-effectiveness, data privacy, and the need for proper training and monitoring.

R. Schroeder remarked that he would like to have Board meetings recorded and have the draft minutes generated by AI. Watkins expressed support and stated that staff would still review and format the minutes.

Other Old Business – Chair Hall reported that the state of Montana is beginning to use the 310 permit mapping system Gilly, which DNRC will pay for. CDs are gradually onboarding. The Board discussed the possibility of digitizing and geo-referencing their historical records and mentioned that outside help might be necessary to do that.

310 Emergency Notices - No emergency notices were presented.

Existing 310 Permits

MS-13-24 – Allen and Theodora McKee – Clark Fork River – Streambank Restoration

Geocode: 04-2199-24-3-04-01-0000

Watkins showed site location slide and photos from recent visit. The Board discussed the request from Allen and Theodora McKee for a one-year extension for the existing permit, and that the 50-foot no mow buffer to be reduced. The Board reiterated the importance of riparian vegetation in this flood-prone area, especially given the potential for the channel to become more active in the future. The Board also noted the presence of buried cars on the property that need to be addressed during the restoration work.

Robert Schroeder moved to approve a one-year extension to 310 Permit No. MS-13-24; all other permit requirements remain unchanged. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

APO Applications – No APO applications were presented.

310 Permit Applications

MS-09-24 – Todd Randall obo Matthew Cole – Rattlesnake Creek – Channel/Bank Projects

Geocode: 04-2200-11-2-05-08-0000

Travis Greenwalt moved to remove Application No. MS-09-24 from the agenda for consideration as it has been withdrawn by the applicant. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-37-24 – BNSF Railway c/o Mike Rahl – Blackfoot River – Improvement to Existing Structure

Geocode: N/A



While having no bearing on the 310 permit application, the Board learned about an agreement between BNSF and various agencies to delay project implementation until fall due to concerns over recreation use and fisheries concerns.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-37-24 a project for review under the 310 Law; approve with modifications incorporating recommendations from team member reports (willow placement, new revegetation plan, road decommissioning, vegetation survivability); and waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Robert Schroeder seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-12-25 – Malcolm Miller obo R&L Trust – Rattlesnake Creek – Tree Removal

Geocode: 04-2200-14-2-33-06-0000

Watkins showed a site location slide and photos from the site inspection. The Board reviewed the tree removal project proposal on Rattlesnake Creek, where two trees leaning towards a fence will be cut to 20-foot snags to maintain wildlife habitat while addressing safety concerns. They discussed the parcel attribute in that it straddles the creek; the trees in question are on the opposite side of the bank from the owner's house. The owner is having the trees removed so that they don't fall into the neighbor's fence.

The Board discussed that across the creek, by the house, the applicant has been clearing vegetation up to the edge of the creek, and decided to include language in the permit approval letter to encourage the landowners to cease vegetation clearing, and reach out to the CD for help.

As there was a question to whether property is in MCD boundary or in city 310 jurisdiction, it was agreed that Watkins would research this and follow up with the Board.

Both Robert Schroeder and Ladd Knotek recommended in their TMRs that the application be approved with modifications.

Robert Schroeder moved to make Application No. MS-12-25 a project for review under the 310 Law; to approve the project with modifications incorporating recommendations from team member reports and to waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-13-25 – Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited – Clearwater River – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2331-04-2-01-03-0000

Chair Hall introduced the project proposal. Watkins displayed a site location slide, photos from the site inspection, and site plans from the application. The applicant proposes to step down the existing point of diversion to allow for better migration of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Ladd Knotek and Robert Schroeder both noted in their TMRs that the project should be approved with the modification that the instream work should be conducted during July.

Robert Schroeder moved to make Application No. MS-13-25 a project for review under the 310 Law, to approve the project with modifications incorporating recommendations from team member reports and to waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried. Paul Parson abstained.

MS-14-25 – Missoula Youth Homes and Partnership for Children – Clark Fork River – Sewer/Water Connection

Geocode: 04-2200-19-3-09-01-0000



Chair Hall introduced the project. Watkins showed a site location slide. The area in question is the driveway where it crosses an old oxbow channel of the CFR. The channel carries little if any flow except in extreme high flow or flooding events. Watkins reviewed photos included with the permit application. No site inspection was conducted.

Carrie Olson, an engineer for the project, stated that it includes boring, and that they submitted a floodplain permit application that is currently being reviewed. She noted that the set back of bore pits are outside of the floodplain boundary.

Robert Schroeder moved to declare Application No. MS-14-25 not a project for review under the 310 Law as the bore pits are situated outside of the floodplain and District's 310 jurisdiction at this location. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

MS-15-25 – I Know Jack LLC/Colton Dunlap obo Ethan Richards – Swamp Creek – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2540-01-2-02-05-0000

Chair Hall introduced the application. The applicant would like to extend an existing culvert to accommodate moving a house across the creek. Watkins presented a site location slide, and photos of the project site from the site inspection. Robert Schroeder noted in his TMR that the existing culvert is sufficient in size and that the applicant will put a collar on the existing culvert to extend it by 10 feet. He recommended that the collar be placed on the upstream side of the existing culvert due to site conditions. Both he and Ladd Knotek recommended approving the project with modifications.

Paul Parson moved to make Application No. MS-15-25 a project for review under the 310 Law, to approve the project with modifications incorporating recommendations from team member reports, and to waive the 30-day waiting period following the Board's decision. Art Pencek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

310 Complaints

CM-02-25 –Lawrence and Frances Daly – Rattlesnake Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2200-11-3-06-11-0000

Chair Hall introduced the complaint. Watkins displayed a site location slide and photos from the site inspection as well as photos showing a neighbor's riparian area. The site in question is in an active side channel.

Paul Parson moved to declare Complaint No. CM-02-25 a Violation of the 310 Law due to activity initiated on a perennial flowing stream without a valid permit and require there be no further vegetation removal or mowing within a 10-ft buffer from the high-water mark of the side channel of Rattlesnake Creek, or any chemical treatment, in order to resolve the violation; site to be reassessed in one year to determine compliance with this condition. Bart Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

CM-04-25 – Stan Hendrickson – Lolo Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2092-33-1-01-06-0000



Watkins requested action on this complaint be tabled since he will be conducting a site visit on May 13th to assess what activities might have taken place and to visit with the alleged violator.

Travis Greenwalt moved to table any action on Complaint No. CM-04-25 until the June 9th, 2025 meeting. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion carried.

Existing Violations Needing Action

CM-01-24 – Glen and Rhonda Brownlee – Donovan Creek – Crossings/Roads

Geocode: 04-2095-08-3-01-05-0000

Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

Existing Violations Pending Follow-up Inspection

CM-03-23 (Re: MS-17-23) – Tyler and Tracy Deeds – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2540-14-2-02-05-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-10-23 – Patricia Coolidge – Clearwater River – Construction in a Riparian Area

Geocode: 04-2540-10-1-02-05-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-14-23 – Joan Mulligan – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2095-21-2-02-01-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-05-23 (Re: MS-41-23) – David and Lori Rath –Lolo Creek – Stream Excavation

Geocode: 04-1972-05-1-01-03-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-03-24 – Nathan Woronik – Clearwater River – Vegetation Removal and Heavy Equipment Operation

Geocode: 04-2540-10-3-01-13-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-05-24 – Gary and April Yetter – Lolo Creek – Vegetation Removal and Unpermitted Dock

Geocode: 04-1974-02-1-02-01-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-08-24 – Northwestern Energy – West Fork Twin Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2328-35-1-01-01-0000 - Nothing new to report. The Board took no action.

CM-01-25 –Redmond Revocable Trust – Rattlesnake Creek – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2200-11-3-06-12-0000

CM-03-25 – Charles and Mary Erickson – Clark Fork River – Unpermitted Berming

Geocode: 04-2201-27-2-03-03-0000

310 Inquiries & Issues – Bart Morris inquired if anyone from NW Energy contacted MCD about their work on a new transmission line in the Bitterroot and cutting down large cottonwoods to the ground? Watkins responded that no one has contacted the office. Morris commented that it appears that crews are taking down all vegetation under power lines and near power lines within the ROW. He suggested that this work appears to be done from remote assessment. Watkins suggested inviting a NW Energy project manager to next meeting to provide an update on their work.



Watkins reported on the Maddie Gould property next to the Remount Station up Ninemile Creek. He stated that she had contacted him about Issac Creek coming out of a reservoir, as she wants to install a culvert. Watkins displayed photos of the site in question. The Board discussed whether Issac Creek connects with Ninemile Creek. The Board generally agreed that this would not be a project.

Watkins reported that the Big Flat Irrigation Ditch contacted staff to inform them that the ditch company is conducting annual maintenance on their diversion, which is located on the Bitterroot River near Superior Hardwoods.

Watkins reported on an issue on the Clark Fork River on Andy Scheible's property. He displayed photos from a recent site visit for reference. The Board discussed whether there was any historic knowledge of this site. The Board directed staff to remind Roy Handley to get an APO or permit for the irrigation diversion.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Tim Hall moved to pay the May bills and claims and to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Paul Parson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the motion passed. Chair Hall reminded Supervisors of the special Board Meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

The next regular Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 9th, 2025, at 5:30 pm** in the Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center, 1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT, 59801. A virtual option will also be offered.

Voting Record – CD Supervisor	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Tim Hall	13	-	-
Libby Maclay	13	-	-
Travis Greenwalt	13	-	-
Paul Parson	12	-	1
Art Pencek	13	-	-
Robert Schroeder	13	-	-
Bart Morris	12	-	-

Timothy Hall

6.9.2025

Minutes Approved by

Sonja Skoulin

Date

6/4/2025

Minutes prepared by

Date