

Missoula Conservation District – June 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Alternative Meeting Location – Virtual/Phone

Missoula Conservation District Attendees: Tim Hall (Chair); Libby Maclay (Vice-Chair); Travis Greenwalt (Treasurer); Paul Parson (Supervisor); Art Pencek (Supervisor); Bob Schroeder (Supervisor); Bart Morris (Associate Supervisor); Josh Schroeder (Associate Supervisor); Radley Watkins (Staff); Bryan Vogt (Staff); Jackie Vitas (Staff)

Additional Attendees: John Hart (Senior Deputy County Attorney); Leo Rosenthal (MT FWP); Travis Lemke (NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist); Jerry Marks (Missoula Co. Weed District & Extension); Heather Brighton (Lolo Watershed Group); Caryn Miske (Clearwater Resource Council); Wade Martini (MS-18-21); Sady Babcock (MS-19-21)

Absent: Sid Wills, Supervisor; Ladd Knotek (MT FWP)

Public Hearing on Permissive Mill Levy – Tim Hall called the public hearing to order at 7:01 pm. Radley Watkins read into record the public notice that was published in the Missoulian newspaper, “The Missoula Conservation District will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The purpose of the public hearing will be to review the Conservation District preliminary budget and to consider levying a permissive medical mill to cover increased health care costs in FY 2021/22.” No one provided any comments and staff confirmed that no comments were received at the office.

Tim Hall moved to adjourn the public hearing at 7:04 pm. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

Call Meeting to Order – 7:05 pm by Tim Hall

COVID-19 Meeting Procedures – Hall provided reminders of modified meeting procedures due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions noting that the virtual meeting was held to comply with local guidance and limitations on use of the normal meeting location. Hall provided guidance to the Board on how to vote during the virtual meeting and further requested that participants please mute/unmute themselves as needed, introduce themselves before speaking, and note if they are participating for a specific agenda item. Form 273, 310 Permit – Conservation District’s Decision and all other decision forms would need to be signed electronically 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 June 14, 2021 District meeting. Art Pencek seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

Minutes – The Board reviewed a grammatical error on page 3 of the May 10, 2021 Minutes.

Libby Maclay moved to correct the grammatical error and approve the May 10, 2021 Minutes. Tim Hall seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried – unanimous.

Treasurer's Report – Travis Greenwalt reported \$18,113.53 in the District's checking account.

Public Comment – None

NRCS Report – Travis Lemke, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, provided a written report that was included in the Supervisors' packet stating that the Missoula Field Office staff are continuing to work on contract development work for preapprovals for the Upper Ninemile TIP, the High Tunnel, Organic and Honey Bee Pollinator EQIP Special Initiatives, and Wildfire Adapted Missoula. Two new applications were received for the Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative (second signup period in May). Parker Olsen joined the staff on 6/7/21 as a summer Pathways Intern. Parker is currently attending school at Colorado State University. He will be assisting the office until August of 2021. Lemke stated that well over \$400,000 worth of contracting was awarded in Missoula County this year.

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

Hall reported there were no new developments regarding this application and that it would remain tabled.

MS-17-21 – Double Arrow Ranch Landowners Association – Trail Creek – Bridge Construction
Geocode: 04-2540-14-1-01-03-0000

Watkins reported on a new application for installation of bridge across Trail Creek that would replace three existing undersized culverts, restore fish passage and channel function, and ensure continued road access at this site. The three existing 36-inch diameter pipes will be upgraded with a 57-foot long x 16-foot wide steel bridge with corrugated steel deck. Approximately 120-feet of stream channel will be realigned just upstream and downstream of the road through the new bridge to match bankfull dimensions. Sod mats and fascines will be incorporated on the new bank. The Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited will oversee the restoration work. Watkins presented photos taken during the June 8, 2021 site inspection with Pencek, Knotek, and Greg Neudecker attending. Pencek reviewed his team member report, and Watkins displayed recommendations from Knotek's team member report for the Board's review.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-17-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications incorporating team member reports. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

- Project should be completed during base flow conditions between July 15 and November 1. This will minimize turbidity and impacts downstream, as well as improve success of revegetation.
- Dewatering: Site should be temporarily dewatered during construction to maximum extent possible to allow work in the dry. Primary dewatering would be accomplished through temporary tarping at upstream channel split and diverting water to left channel until project is completed. At completion of project, all tarping should be removed, with channel elevations and features restored to pre-

project condition. Note: Small tributary upstream of new bridge crossing, seepage, etc. likely will not allow complete dewatering.

- Channel modifications indicated on plan sheets should be limited to area within ~100 yards upstream and downstream of crossing (as indicated) – no heavy equipment access or work outside of this area. Exception is hand work associated with temporary water diversion at channel split.
- No placement of rock or rip rap outside of bridge abutments (as per plan set).
- All disturbed areas within riparian corridor in project site footprint shall be revegetated.
- Maintain District standards for vegetation survival rate (75% of planted vegetation must survive one year from initial planting; 50% of planted vegetation must be evidently viable two years from project completion date).
- Project engineer/permittee shall be onsite during implementation to ensure adherence to specifications.
- Missoula Conservation District and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks shall be notified when instream work begins.

MS-18-21 – Wade Martini – Mill Creek – Culvert
Geocode: 04-2533-29-2-01-03-0000

Watkins reported on a new application to install a 300-foot long by 10-foot wide driveway at a site on Mill Creek that includes a main culvert crossing and series of relief culverts to allow the landowners to access through a wetland to their existing homesite. Watkins presented photos taken during the June 8, 2021 site inspection with Pencek, Knotek, and Martini attending. Martini stated that he has exhausted all options to acquire an easement from neighbors to access the homesite. While there is an existing 10-foot wide bridge at the main creek crossing, the entire floodplain of Mill Creek is quite marshy at this location and often the only access is by foot in the summer and by snowmobile in the winter. Martini stated his goal is to keep the driveway as minimal as possible while allowing year-round vehicle access to the homesite, especially for emergency services. Martini stated he is currently working to obtain a USACE permit for the project. Pencek reviewed his team member report, and Watkins displayed recommendations from Knotek's team member report for the Board's review.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-18-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications incorporating team member reports. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

- On proposed access route, stream crossing recommendations include a squash culvert (e.g., ~54"x42") comparable to a 48" round pipe. Culvert should be counter-sunk into bed 4-6" to help minimize resulting rise in road and need for imported fill. Due to limited road width and fill height required, recommended culvert length was 18-20 ft. Size should be adjusted so that > 2 ft. of culvert extends past edge of road on ends. Follow additional pertinent BMPs.
- Up to 5 additional, smaller culvert installations may be required to effectively carry side channels across the width of the wetland along length of road. Recommended size of additional channels across the width of the wetland along the length of the road. Recommended size of additional culverts is **18-24" in diameter (round)** with similar length as larger (primary) crossing.
- No disturbance outside of immediate road alignment/fill.

- Also recommended: Place liner underneath road fill to minimize assimilation (sinking) into wet substrate. Without liner, fill and vehicles will likely sink into wetland road, will likely continuously rut.

MS-19-21 – NorthWestern Energy – Bitterroot River – Utility Boring
Geocode: N/A

Watkins reported on a new application from NorthWestern Energy to bore a 950-foot long, 6-inch diameter natural gas pipeline underneath the Bitterroot River at the Buckhouse Bridge on Highway 93 south of Missoula. Setback of the bore pits would be approximately 250-feet from the ordinary high-water mark on both sides of the river on the north side of the bridge. Watkins presented site location photos, design pictures from the application, and photos from a site visit he conducted on June 10, 2021. No formal site inspection was conducted. Sady Babcock explained that a hydraulic analysis was conducted, and the bore depth would be 15-feet feet under the center of the river based on scour analysis.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-19-21 Not A Project so long as the project plans are followed as proposed in the permit application. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

310 Complaints

CM-06-20 (Re: MS-31-20, AWM 11/09/20) – 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

Watkins reported that he contacted the Rideg's and they stated they are waiting on site conditions to dry out to start work under Permit No. MS-31-20 to resolve the violation.

CM-02-21 – Deborah and Andrew Carstensen – Cooney Creek – Point of Diversion
Geocode: 04-2992-06-2-01-13-0000

Watkins reported receiving an anonymous complaint involving a skid steer observed constructing a dam across Cooney Creek to divert water into an irrigation headgate. A complaint letter was sent to the landowners, Deborah and Andrew Carstensen, where the complaint was reported on May 13, 2021. Watkins stated that the Carstensen's contacted him and informed him that they were aware of the work but that it was conducted by a neighbor who they had not given permission to access the property nor construct the diversion dam. The Carstensen's have been cooperative and would like the matter resolved as the diversion is causing flooding of their road. Watkins reported he has written a letter to the individual identified by the Carstensen's as having conducted the work. That individual has left a message for Watkins requesting to speak over the phone, and Watkins will be contacting him in the immediate future.

Watkins presented photos of current conditions taken during a June 8, 2021 site inspection with Pencek, Rosenthal, and A. Carstensen attending. Pencek reported that the work he observed was a violation of the 310 Law, especially since it was done without a valid permit. Rosenthal added that a fish screen would be needed on the diversion since Cooney Creek has one of the only Westlope Cutthroat Trout populations in

the area. The Board discussed additional requirements necessary to make the irrigation diversion legal, including adding a flow measuring device, additional work at the headgate to ensure long term bank stability, and revegetation of the disturbed areas. Since the landowners have stated they are not responsible for the work, the Board discussed requiring the headgate to be kept closed until a fish screen and flow meter are installed in addition to resolving the work conducted without a 310 permit.

Art Pencek moved to make Complaint No. CM-02-21 a violation of the 310 Law and directed staff to work to determine who conducted the activities on Cooney Creek without a valid permit. Tim Hall seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Existing Violations

CM-08-19 (Re: MS-32-20, AWM 03/08/2021) – James Schlinger – Barber Creek – Excavation on Creek and Banks

Geocode: 04-2992-19-1-01-11-0000

Watkins stated that Schlinger notified him that work under Permit No. MS-32-20 has been completed. Watkins has requested pictures of the completed work and may schedule a site visit if needed.

CM-02-20 (Re: MS-32-20, AWM 03/08/2021) – James Schlinger – Barber Creek – Bridge & Road Work

Geocode: 04-2992-19-1-01-11-0000

See CM-08-19 above for an update.

CM-09-20 (Re: MS-04-21, AWM 02/08/21) – Carl Graumann – Clark Fork River – Vegetation Removal

Geocode: 04-2200-17-2-01-12-0000

Watkins reported no new updates. Completion of work under Permit No. MS-04-21 is anticipated this fall.

310 Inquiries & Issues

Fish Pond on La Valle Creek – Watkins reported being contacted on whether a 310 permit was required to dredge and restock an existing fish pond located on an intermittent tributary of La Valle Creek. Knotek advised him that there will be a fish stocking permit for the pond and that it is not located on a drainage. Knotek considers to be in 310 Law jurisdiction. Watkins will advise the landowner of the determination.

Glacier Creek Flooding – Watkins reported that he, Pencek, and Rosenthal revisited the site of recently issued Permit No. MS-09-21 on Glacier Creek, which allowed for placement of temporary rip-rap to protect the landowner's only access into the property. The permitted work had not been implemented and a recent high flow event has now eroded the bank of Glacier Creek right up to the edge of the landowner's access road. Watkins presented photos from the June 8, 2021 site visit showing the extent of the recent bank erosion, and Rosenthal shared pictures he took immediately following the flooding event in this area. Following this event, Glacier Creek overtopped the bridge on Styler Drive and nearly taken out a bridge abutment. The county had since repaired the damage on Styler Drive. The Board discussed how they issued MS-09-21 to prevent this type of streambed loss on the landowner's property and that the window to

implement such temporary measures had passed. The Board directed Watkins to contact the permit holder and notify him that they will no longer allow for the placement of rip-rap under MS-09-21, but that the permit requirements to submit a long-term bank stabilization plan and new 310 application no later than July 6, 2021 remain in effect. Additionally, the Board discussed how they would not entertain work under an Emergency Notice next spring in lieu of a new 310 Application being submitted and approved.

Reports

County Attorney – John Hart stated he had nothing new to report.

Montana FWP - Ladd Knotek was absent and had not provided a report. Leo Rosenthal reported on new interpretations of FWP fish removal authority resulting in the potential need for all such projects to go through Commission approval. The matter will be discussed at the June 24, 2021 Commission meeting.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay reported that there had been no meeting, but she did receive notice that a long-time RC&D leader had recently passed away leaving that spot open.

Watershed Groups – Heather Brighton with Lolo Watershed Group (LWG) reported working with Trout Unlimited on a planning grant for a campground up Highway 12 and conversations she’s had with FEMA regarding potential funding for the Zens Kimerly bridge. Unfortunately, the FEMA funding can’t be used for lack of landowner maintenance. Brighton reported engaging the Lolo Community Council, and she informed the Board of a LWG speaker series planned in June. Watkins displayed the notice showing speaker dates and topics. Watkins also stated he has informed both the Clark Fork Coalition and Blackfoot Challenge that they have a standing place on the District meeting agenda under Watershed Groups to present updates.

District Committees – Tim Hall reported that the Grants Committee met last week to discuss specific funding requests and the proposed relaunch of the District’s Grants Program. The Budget Committee will be meeting soon to discuss a proposed FY 2022 Budget. The Personnel Committee also needs to set up a meeting time to complete Watkins’ 6-month review.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder reported that Watkins gave a presentation on the 310 Law to the Consolidated Planning Board recently and did a great job. It was an opportunity for education as few on the Planning Board had any knowledge about the 310 Law or how the District functions.

Missoula CD Employees – Written employee reports were provided in the Supervisors’ packets.

Jackie Vitas - Administrative Assistant – May 10, 2021 – June 14, 2021

Office Operations: Received and sorted agency mail daily and followed up on District business correspondence. Attended May 10, 2021 virtual District meeting and took notes. Drafted May meeting minutes. Drafted agenda for June 14, 2021 meeting and posted May 2021 meeting minutes to District website. Added deadline dates to website calendar and posted Agenda. Researched, quoted, and ordered stickers for Pollinator Initiative seed packets. Placed order and organized order of office supplies from Staples. Registered for table at the June 19th, Clark Fork Farmer’s Market. Revised the film poster for June 24th “The Pollinator” film presentation. Uploaded Wildflower Seed species to the MCD website, as well as

counted and organized seed packets. Submitted official notice regarding Permissive Mill Levy Hearing to Missoulian. Created spreadsheet and records in Salesforce for landowners along Rattlesnake Creek and West Fork Petty Creek. Attended the groundbreaking for new location at Missoula Fairgrounds. Ordered new magnet name tags for Rad and Jackie, from AlphaGraphics.

Stream Permit Processing: Completed and sent out decision letters and Form 273 permits to applicants from the January 11, 2021 meeting. Updated PowerPoint presentation for June 14, 2021 virtual meeting. Added June 14, 2021 agenda to website. Updated 310 Spreadsheet with new 310 applications. Created files for 3 new 310 applications. Created file for 1 new complaint. Updated Box and Salesforce with 310 applications information, as well as complaint. 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 Knotek and Rosenthal. Created site inspection schedule and folders for June 8, 2021. Updated the "Current 310 Permits" list on MCD Website. Drafted new letter to send to 310 Applicants to advise that application is complete and has begun processing.

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Reporting, and Recordkeeping: Emailed May claims form to Jacque Harris. Prepared Profit/Loss and Balance reports for June 14, 2021 meeting. Entered May claims into QuickBooks. Reconciled May bank statements. Reconciled DA Davidson May statement. Completed bills claims form for June 14, 2021 meeting. Entered deposits and checks into QuickBooks. Followed up with First Security Bank regarding debit card for Vogt and Vitas.

*1 Holiday (Memorial Day)

Bryan Vogt - Program Specialist

Program Assistance: Attended and took notes at the May 10th Board meeting held via Zoom. Assisted Vitas, as requested, with preparation of Form 273s and 310 decision letters, submission of monthly claims, QuickBooks account reconciliations, updating website calendar, and preparation of June meeting packets. Drafted May meeting minutes. Provided Watkins background on certified property valuation and mill levy limitation forms in preparation for FY 2022 Budget development. Provided Watkins background and notes on prior staff website development. Provided brief MCD website training to Vitas. Participated in MACD Employees Organization virtual meeting on management of CD grant programs. Drafted grant agreement between MCD and UM Firewise Garden group. Provided feedback to CRC staff on their Pollinator Project proposal and 223 proposal for Water Quality Monitoring. Organized and participated in Grants Committee meeting to review current proposals, 223 sponsorship request, and proposed relaunch of MCD Grants Program. With Watkins, met with partners to organize/coordinate Pollinator Week activities including tabling at CF Market (6/19), tabling at Out to Lunch event (6/23), and two showings of The Pollinators film at The Roxy (6/24). Coordinated rescheduled film showings with The Roxy Theater. Worked on drafting educational materials and cooperator agreement for pollinator seed packet recipients. Provided staff direction on packaging pollinator seed and development of poster for The Pollinators film showings.

Technical Assignments: Continued management of the no-till drill rental program, including 3 inquiries and 4 rentals, including one to the MCPS Vocational Agriculture program. Processed and filed post rental paperwork. Replaced worn hydraulic hose fitting and one of three broken torsion springs on the drill's planting closer wheels. Unbound chains on the planting disks. Provide feedback to Solano RCD in California regarding their inquiry on MCD's drill trailer.

Communication and Outreach: Corresponded with CRC regarding their Pollinator Project grant proposal and 223 Water Quality Monitoring grant proposal. Corresponded with UM Firewise Garden group on development and finalization of grant agreement. Had brief discussion with MCPS Agriculture teacher on

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future partnering opportunities with MCD. With Watkins, met with City of Missoula staff regarding the City's interest in potentially requesting an MCD Legacy Grant to assist their efforts to purchase and retire the Flynn-Lowney Ditch.

*1 Holiday – Memorial Day

Radley Watkins - Resource Conservationist

Office Administration: Finalized April 10th Board meeting packets and prepared for the virtual June 14th District Board meeting. Followed up on actions taken at meeting and reviewed/edited/approved draft meeting minutes. Reconciled expenses in QuickBooks. Reviewed and submitted staff timesheets to County payroll. Worked with Vitas to get nametags for myself and Vitas. Attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rocky Mountain Exploration Center and worked with Healthy Acres Healthy Communities Foundation campaign managers to help promote the Missoula Conservation District as a partner in the new building development. Researched permissive mill levy for increased health benefits for staff. Worked with Vitas to advertise the June 14th Public Hearing regarding mill levy increase. Reached out to Committees about upcoming Meeting times. Began working on FY22 budget.

310 Law Administration: Wrote all 310-decision letters from May 10th District meeting. Processed incoming 310 applications and answered 310 related phone questions. Processed an anonymous 310-violation complaint for an illegal installation of a headgate on Cooney Creek. Visited potential 310-related site visits. Conducted 310-site inspections with Knotek, and Supervisor Pencek for culvert project on Mill Creek, and a bridge project on Trail Creek. Conducted 310-violation site with Supervisor Pencek, where we met Rosenthal and landowners. Visited 310 Buckhouse Bridge utility boring project site on my own. Attended June 1st Missoula County Commissioner's CMZ meeting with Chairman Hall and Water Quality District. Prepared for May 10th District meeting.

Program Management: Met with Vogt to keep updated on the Drill Rental Program. Attended regional connectivity meeting. Participated in MACD Employees Organization virtual meeting on management of CD grant programs. Worked with Vogt to assess CRC's Pollinator Project proposal and 223 proposal for Water Quality Monitoring. Met with City of Missoula Public Works and Vogt to discuss potential MCD Legacy Grant to purchase Flynn-Lowney Ditch. Worked with Vogt to update grants programs and create a quick view spreadsheet. Took updated grants program proposal to the Grants Committee to review, as well as discuss the current requests. Reached out to Weed District, the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium, and the Healthy Acres Healthy Communities Foundation to invite them to participate in MCD sponsored Pollinator Week. Worked with Pollinator Week partners to develop activities including tabling at CF Market (6/19), tabling at Out to Lunch event (6/23), and tabling at the MCD's two showings of The Pollinators film at The Roxy (6/24). Met with Mike Steinberg, Executive Director of Roxy, to negotiate second showing of The Pollinators film with theater and review the site used for tabling. Directed staff on messaging and creating the Pollinator Week poster and determine seed packet distribution. Conducted Zoom partner meeting for Pollinator Week (Vogt added MPG Ranch and NWF). Reached out Rich Janssen Jr., Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Natural Resources Department about meeting and discussing ways to support each other's needs. Reached out to Karin Riley, Research Ecologist with the USFS to arrange a time to discuss the latest in fire ecology research and the MCD using this research in firewise advocacy.

*1 Holiday – Memorial Day, 5 hours Sick Leave

Other Reports – Bob Schroeder reported he has a two-day FWP Future Fisheries Citizen Review Panel meeting starting tomorrow. The funding request for the Hellgate Ditch removal has ranked relatively high.

New Business

Correspondence – Watkins reported that the Montana Youth Range Camp had been cancelled due to the low number of registrations received this year.

Permissive Mill Levy – Watkins presented information regarding how a permissive mill levy would be calculated and provided examples of leveraged amounts based on the proposed increase of 0.07 mills and the current average property values in Missoula County (i.e., \$0.38 for an assessed property value of \$420,000). Watkins explained that these funds would be dedicated to covering increased employee health care benefit expenses that are not covered in the District's regular mill levy budget. There is currently an \$350 per month per employee (total of \$12,600 annually) shortfall to bring health coverage compensation up to competitive rates within similar job markets in our area. Watkins explained the permissive mill levy can be adjusted annually, if needed, and an annual public hearing, such as the one held this evening (June 14, 2021) is required as long as the mill increase is needed, regardless if the amount is changed or not.

Tim Hall moved for the District to proceed with requesting a permissive mill levy to cover the \$350 per month per employee (total of \$12,600). Art Pencek seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

July Meeting – in person/hybrid option – Hall led discussions regarding the possibility of holding in-person Board meetings starting in July 2021 since the county's COVID-19 recommendations now allow for them or perhaps offering some variation of a hybrid meeting (i.e., in-person and virtual option). Watkins reported that his understanding is that under current federal guidance, District meetings can now be held at the Missoula USDA Service Center after 5pm. Watkins will inquire if masks and social distancing protocols are still required. Montana Association of Conservation Districts is providing the District an Owl digital camera to accommodate a hybrid meeting with the hope that a virtual option will maintain high levels of participation from individuals further out in the county or those that are still hesitant to attend in-person events. The Board expressed support of holding in-person Board meetings with reasonable options for participating virtually starting with the July 12, 2021 Board meeting.

#JoinTheBuzz campaign – Watkins reported having multiple conversations with Jean Jenkins with the Healthy Acres Foundation since the May 14, 2021 Rocky Mountain Exploration Center groundbreaking event at the fairgrounds. Watkins stated he learned that the Healthy Acres Foundation was set up many years ago to support the Weed District & Extension, even prior to the building fundraising effort. Jerry Marks, Missoula County Extension Department Head, reported that there were at least 200 people in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony and efforts currently are on raising the remaining \$1.2 million in building funds necessary to meet the \$5 million required of the Healthy Acres Foundation and Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium. Marks stated that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners has approved a mill levy increase, and the City of Missoula recently approved a permit for the building.

Marks described current efforts to promote the #JoinTheBuzz campaign and stated it will be important to be in more frequent communication with MCD as progress on the building continues. Marks added he hopes there will be multiple opportunities for Healthy Acres Foundation and MCD to partner on public education endeavors in the future. Watkins showed a #JoinTheBuzz promotional video that includes the

Missoula Conservation District as a partner. Watkins stated he would like the Board to consider donating the proceeds from the MCD's upcoming film showings of "The Pollinators" to the Healthy Acres Foundation and #JoinTheBuzz campaign for use in the outside gardens.

Tim Hall moved to donate the proceeds from the film showings of "The Pollinators" to the Healthy Acres Foundation to be used for establishing outside gardens at the new fairgrounds building. Art Pencek seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Flynn-Lowney Ditch Purchase – Hall reported on the City of Missoula's effort to raise funding to purchase the Flynn-Lowney Ditch and convert the remaining surface water rights to ground water from wells. This would allow the City to retire multiple culvert crossings as they prepare for the Mullan Build project and associated road building efforts. Watkins presented slides showing the location of the ditch and associated road crossings. The City needs to raise \$1 million prior to the end of the calendar year for this purchase to move forward. They currently have around \$780,000 and are seeking funds for the remaining \$220,000. Staff from the City of Missoula have approached District staff about the possibility of applying for a Legacy Grant to put towards the ditch purchase. This Legacy Grant inquiry was discussed by the Grants Committee at their June 10th meeting, and the Committee decided it would be most appropriate to assist the City with Legacy Grant funds if a future project aimed at restoring the riparian areas at the retired Flynn-Lowney Ditch diversion site is developed. Watkins stated he would contact the City staff and inform them that the Board does not feel a Legacy Grant proposal assisting in the Flynn-Lowney Ditch purchase would be supported.

Strategic Planning Session – Watkins reported on his desire to meet with the Board outside of a regular monthly meeting to discuss long-term goals to assist in developing a District Strategic Plan. The Board discussed that with recent staff turnover and changes brought about by COVID-19, such an effort would be worthwhile. A fall meeting was suggested along with setting a deadline for developing the Strategic Plan.

Other New Business – Nothing to report

Old Business

Stakeholders:

MSU Extension/Weed District – New Building Groundbreaking – See #JoinTheBuzz campaign above for additional discussion.

Programs

District Grant Programs:

District Grants

MT Biocontrol Project support request – Vogt reviewed the request from the Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project for annual program support and reported that the Grants Committee recommended providing \$500 to this request.

Tim Hall moved to provide the Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project a \$500 program support grant award. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Riparian Mini-Grant 01-21 Healy – Vogt reviewed the grant application from last month and reported that the Grants Committee recommended providing Healy support for this effort but would like staff to work with him on developing a more defined plan that ensures weed control and planting success before a grant is awarded. Staff will contact Healy on developing a plan to bring back for the Board's review. No further action was taken on this proposal.

CRC Pollinator Project Funding Request – Vogt reported that the Grants Committee reviewed an updated proposal from Clearwater Resource Council for this project, but the Committee does not recommend approval of the proposal for a grant award at this time. Reasons for the Committee's decision included:

- Plots for pollinator garden(s) need to be secured, not pending, and have irrigation to ensure success
- Proposal would be stronger with letters of support from local businesses/community groups
- Committee would like to see pledged commitment from community groups (e.g., school or scout group) to demonstrate long-term success of project.
- Committee felt MCD could be a partner, but not the financial catalyst to get the project off the ground.

Caryn Miske, CRC Executive Director, stated that she had no questions but added that CRC will continue to develop this project and come back at a later time with additional information and set plot locations. No further action was taken on this proposal.

DNRC Sponsored Grants

HB223 Sponsorship request – CRC Lakes Monitoring Project – Vogt reported that the Grants Committee reviewed an updated proposal from Clearwater Resource Council for this project and the Committee supports sponsorship and submission of this proposal for the next cycle that has a July, 16, 2021 deadline.

Travis Greenwalt moved to sponsor and submit the HB223 proposal for this project to DNRC for the next cycle and to allow staff to continue finalizing the proposal with Clearwater Resource Council. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Revised MCD Grant Program – Vogt presented the overview table that was also provided in Supervisors' meeting packets and explained that the intent is for all financial support from the District to go through one of the new grant programs rather than awarding direct sponsorships as had sometimes been done in the past. Each new or revised grant offering would also have uniform application, ranking, and reporting criteria. The Grants Committee reviewed details of the proposed program changes at their June 10, 2021 Committee meeting and offered general approval of the changes. The Budget Committee still needs to review and approve annual program amounts. Board updates will be provided as the program is refined.

Equipment Program – Vogt reported there had been 4 drill rentals since last month and a total of 12 so far for 2021. This already exceeds the 7 total rentals in 2020 during spring and fall combined. Vogt will be

creating a list of maintenance and repairs that have been conducted or that are still needed for the Equipment Committee to review. Hall noted that this program has far exceeded initial expectations.

Pollinator Program – Pollinator Seed Packets – Vogt reported that approximately half of the Area V Pollinator Seed mix received from Lake County CD has been packaged into 10 ft² and 100 ft² packets to be offered to the public at upcoming National Pollinator Week events. A cooperator form is being developed for seed packet recipients in order to monitor the success of the plantings and increase buy-in from those taking seeds.

National Pollinator Week events – Vogt reported that the District has the following events scheduled: June 19th tabling at the Clark Fork Market, June 23rd tabling at Out to Lunch in Caras Park, and two showings of “The Pollinators” film at The Roxy on June 24th that includes tabling with partner in The Roxy Garden. Vogt displayed the film event poster that was included in the Supervisors’ meeting packets.

Payment of Bills

Tim Hall moved to pay the bills. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Petty Checking Account

Date	Description	Charge
5/11/21	AlphaGraphics – Name badges (Watkins & Vitas)	\$ 43.20
5/18/21	RDO Equipment – Jack for No-Till Drill	\$ 26.74
6/1/21	Amazon.com – Seed Packets	\$ 31.10
6/9/21	Staples – Computer Keyboards (Watkins & Vitas)	\$ 47.92
6/10/21	Staples – Office Pens & Folders	\$ 27.10
6/10/21	Big Bear Sign Co. – Pollinator Stickers	\$ 100.00
	TOTAL	\$ 276.06

Checking Account

Date	Description	Charge
5/20/21	Square Inc. – No-Till Drill Charge Fee	\$.10
	TOTAL	\$ 0.10

Tax Mill Levy Account (Warrants/Claims)

Date	Description	Charge
5/11/21	Verizon	\$ 105.04
5/11/21	Charter Communications	\$ 119.99
5/11/21	First Interstate Bank Card (Gas Card)	\$ 79.66
5/11/21	Truex (No-Till Drill Supplies)	\$ 94.00
	TOTAL	\$ 398.69

Adjournment

Tim Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Voting Record – CD Supervisor	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Tim Hall	13	-	-
Libby Maclay	13	-	-
Travis Greenwalt	13	-	-
Paul Parson	13	-	-
Art Pencek	13	-	-
Bob Schroeder*	9	-	-
Sidney Wills - absent	-	-	-

* Supervisor B. Schroeder left the meeting at 8:40 pm and did not vote on items related to Grant Programs, Payment of Bills, or Adjournment.

The next Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm** in the USDA Service Center conference room at 3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106, Missoula, MT 59808.

APPROVED