

Missoula Conservation District – October 12, 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); Josh Schroeder (Associate Supervisor); Radley Watkins (Staff); Bryan Vogt (Staff); Jackie Vitas (Staff)

Additional Attendees: John Hart (Senior Deputy County Attorney); Ladd Knotek (MT FWP); Leo Rosenthal (MT FWP); Travis Lemke (NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist); Madson Matthias (Assistant Planner, City of Missoula); Deb Fassnacht (Watershed Education Network); Adam Switalksi (MS-34-21); Bruce Anderson (MS-34-21); Hugh Sheehy (MS-35-21 & MS-26-18); Pauline Sanders (MS-36-21); Theresa Tuengel (MS-37-21); Eric Anderson (MS-28-20); William Rideg (MS-31-20)

Absent: Sid Wills (Supervisor); Bart Morris (Associate Supervisor)

Call Meeting to Order – 7:02 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 October 12, 2021 District meeting. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Minutes – Libby Maclay moved to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting minutes with the addition of one spelling correction on page 2 to change the word “illuded” to “alluded.” Tim Hall seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried. Maclay also cautioned staff to make sure the meeting minutes get to the Supervisors with plenty of time to review, and asked Supervisors to please review the minutes when they get them.

Treasurer's Report – Travis Greenwalt reported \$19,062.70 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' packets stating that for the last several weeks the staff has been focused on conducting field inventory work for FY2022 applicants and certifying existing practices already contracted in the previous funding cycles. Thus far FY2022 applications have been received for the Potomac Valley TIP (Forest Health), the Upper Ninemile TIP (Forest Health), the Organic SI, and the High Tunnel SI. The NRCS-MT deadline for receiving FY2022 program applications is on October 29th. The Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative will not be offered in FY2022.

Work will begin this fall on writing a TIP proposal for Lower Miller Creek (riparian restoration project). Work will continue with partners groups (Missoula City, Trout Unlimited, Missoula CD) on a potential PL566 proposal for improvements along 4 separate Clark Fork diversion points through Missoula proper and outside the city limits (downstream). On September 21, NRCS MT State Conservationist Tom Watson and Missoula Area ASCT – Melinda Gauthier, MSLA FO staff, TU, City of MSLA, landowner and Missoula CD met up at the Grass Valley French Ditch Irrigation Diversion site to discuss the PL566 funding process and NEPA requirements. Lemke will continue to meet with partner groups and gather information regarding the Clark Fork River diversion projects in the coming weeks/months. Lemke stated he will likely meet with the District in the coming weeks to discuss planning the Local Working Group meeting, which will likely be held in early December.

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

Watkins stated that there was nothing new to report on this application and that it continues to be tabled. The Board discussed whether to remove the application from the agenda given the amount of time the application has been tabled. Staff was directed to send a letter to the applicant requesting any new developments before action is taken to remove the application from the agenda.

MS-33-21 (Tabled 09/13/21, Re: CM-02-21) – Todd & Lisa Bender – Cooney Creek – Channel/Bank Restoration
Geocode: 04-2992-06-2-01-15-0000

Watkins reported there have been no new developments on this application that was tabled at last month's meeting pending a site inspection with the applicants. Watkins reminded the Board that the applicants have moved out of state but have stated their intent to notify him when they come back to visit relatives in the area.

MS-34-21 – Adam Switalski c/o CFC obo TNC and DNRC – Little Park Creek – Culvert/Ford/Fish Barrier
Geocode: 04-2093-26-1-01-04-0000 & 04-2093-25-1-01-01-0000

Watkins reported on a new application aimed at improving habitat conditions and preserving a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout in Little Park Creek, a tributary of Miller Creek. The project proposes to remove one culvert near the mouth of Little Park Creek located on DNRC land and replace another perched culvert located on adjacent property owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with a permanent ford that also serves as a fish barrier. Watkins displayed site location slides and photos of current conditions at the project site. Adam Switalski with the Clark Fork Coalition discussed all of the partners involved with the project and details of the proposed revegetation plan. Bruce Anderson with WGM Group discussed details of the updated ford and fish barrier noting specific dimensions in the plan and side view drawings. Anderson also clarified that the ford road crossing is designed to withstand a 100-year flow event. Art Pencek and Ladd Knotek reviewed their team member report from the official site inspection conducted on October 5, 2021. The need for additional streambank stabilization upstream of the fish barrier as noticed during the site inspection was discussed.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-34-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

- Up to 20 feet of streambank work upstream of the fish barrier is permitted to fortify the channel and will require re-vegetation with native plant species.
- Maintain District standards for vegetation survival rates (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)

MS-35-21 – Hugh F. Sheehy – Blixit Creek – Road Repair/Culvert Installation
Geocode: 04-2203-20-4-01-41-0000

Watkins reported on a new application to perform road repair and culvert installation on Blixit Creek. A site inspection was conducted on October 5, 2021 with Patrick Uthe and Art Pencek attending. Watkins reviewed Uthe's team member report stating that the project site is on an ephemeral channel, does not have fish concerns, and does not require a 310 Permit. Art Pencek reviewed his team member report with the same findings that proposed project site is not located on a perennial stream.

Art Pencek moved to declare Application No. MS-35-21 Not a Project since it is not located on a perennial stream. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

MS-36-21 – George Porter c/o Missoula Electric Coop obo Pauline & John Sanders – Bear Run Creek – Utility/Boring
Geocode: 04-2093-24-1-01-01-0000

Watkins reported on a new application to perform utility boring on Bear Run Creek. The site is associated with recently issued 310 Permit No. MS-29-21 for bridge construction. Watkins presented a site location slide, photo of the bridge site, and design plans from Missoula Electric Cooperative included with the application. The plans show the start of the bore pits at 50-feet from the banks of the creek and the bore depth being a minimum of 42-inches below the existing bottom of the streambed. A site inspection was conducted on October 5, 2021.

Art Pencek moved to declare Application No. MS-36-21 Not a Project so long as the project plans are followed as proposed in the permit application. Tim Hall seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

MS-37-21 – Theresa Tuengel obo Roy Neil Van Ostrand – Lolo Creek – Parking Pad
Geocode: 04-2091-35-3-08-02-0000

Watkins reported on a new application to create a gravel parking pad on a vacant lot currently listed for sale that sits between Lolo Creek and Highway 12 approximately 6 miles west of Lolo. Watkins presented site location slides showing the proximity of the parcel to Lolo Creek and Hwy 12. He also presented photos from a site visit he conducted on October 4, 2021 and a slide demonstrating that the entire parcel is located within the mapped 100-year floodplain. No official site inspection was conducted. While the location of the proposed parking pad is just beyond the 50-feet from the main channel of Lolo Creek, the riparian buffer often considered on the Creek, Watkins discussed site specific conditions, the presence of a side channel that if active could move the project within a riparian buffer the banks of Lolo Creek.

Tuengel introduced herself as the prospective buyer of the property and explained she and her husband simply want a site to park their truck and 43-foot RV so they can camp and learn to fly fish. She does not yet have permission from Montana Department of Transportation for creating access off of Hwy 12, but wanted to start by obtaining the 310 Permit for the parking pad. The Board discussed their historical knowledge of the site and expressed concerns having witnessed regular flooding and ice jams across this parcel.

Paul Parson moved to deny Application No. MS-37-21 based on site specific conditions making the proposed project susceptible to damage from repeated flooding and ice jams. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

MS-38-21 (Re: CM-06-21) – Bob Miller – Swan River – Bank/Streambank Stabilization
Geocode: 04-2992-18-2-01-13-0000

Watkins reported on a new application for streambank stabilization along the Swan River received in response to discussion that took place during a site visit to inspect Complaint No. CM-06-21. Prior to consideration of Application No. MS-38-21, the Board declared Complaint No. CM-06-21 a violation of the 310 Law (see agenda item CM-06-21 below for additional discussion).

The proposed project calls for implementing a plan for streambed repairs based on suggestions from Missoula CD and MT FWP officials, including removing the gravel and crossing placed in the side channel of the Swan River, repair of the gravel bed on the island where the substrate was excavated to get the gravel, and placement of a large log and replanting with willows along the streambank at the location of the stream crossing. Rosenthal and the Board discussed some concerns over the ambiguity and lack of specific details included in the application, but agreed that the proposed course of action was appropriate to resolve the 310 Violation. Watkins stated that the applicants wanted to make a good faith effort by submitting the application and wish to conduct the proposed project this year before next season's high flows.

Art Pencek moved to make Application No. MS-38-21 a project for review under the 310 Law and to approve the project with modifications. Travis Greenwalt seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

- Remove all gravel material you deposited in the side channel and return the channel to natural grade.
- Return all gravel to the original place it was excavated and regrade that area to original grade.
- Place a log and/or rocks at the excavated bank to preclude motorized vehicles from entering the channel there.
- Revegetating the disturbed area with dormant willow sprigs and re-seed with native seed mix such as Lolo Seed mix.
- Maintain District standards for vegetation survival (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)

310 Permit Extension Requests

MS-28-20 – Roger Weinmann obo Don Childers – Lolo Creek – Bank Stabilization
Geocode: 04-2092-34-4-01-18-0000 & 04-2092-34-2-02-01-0000

Eric Anderson, engineer with WGM Group, provided a brief overview of the project implementation to date showing photos of work completed during Phase I last fall and Phase II this year. The remaining work includes installation of a willow mat and revegetation of the upper bank. To ensure maximum survival, they wish to wait until native willows have gone fully dormant before collecting them, likely during the first week in November. The existing permit has an expiration date of October 13, 2021, so they are requesting an extension to complete this work.

Bob Schroeder moved to approve a time extension for Permit No. MS-28-20 with a revised expiration date of June 1, 2022. Paul Parson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

MS-31-20 – Mark Rideg obo William Rideg – Spring Creek – Reroute Channel/Headgate/Culvert
Geocode: 04-2427-07-1-01-01-0000 & 04-2427-07-1-02-08-0000

Watkins presented a site location photo and reminded the Board this permit was issued for the landowners to resolve Complaint No. CM-06-20. William Rideg stated that personal matters have prevented the implementation of the project. The permit has an expiration date of November 9, 2021. Rideg requested a 6-month time extension on the permit in order to complete the work.

Tim Hall moved to approve a 6-month extension for Permit No. MS-31-20 with the condition that no additional time extensions will be granted for this permit. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

310 Permit Follow-up

MS-26-18 – Hugh Sheehy – Blixit Creek – Dam Improvements
Geocode: 04-2427-07-1-01-01-0000 & 04-2427-07-1-02-08-0000

Watkins reported on being notified of the project's completion as an original condition of the permit for the purpose of conducting a post implementation site inspection. An official site inspection was conducted on October 5, 2021 with Watkins, Art Pencek, and Patrick Uthe attending. Construction of the dam was completed, but a lack of vegetation was noticed on a small part of the dam that had slumped following construction. Pencek noted that the area in question is clay soil so a seeding may be hard to establish. He recommended requiring the applicant submit a picture no later than July 4, 2022 showing the success of the seeding at this location. The Board directed staff to send the applicant a letter requiring reseeding with a native seed mix and submitting photos demonstrating the success of the revegetation no later than July 4, 2022.

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

See MS-31-20 above for additional discussion.

CM-06-21 (Re: MS-38-21) – Robert & Ann Miller – Swan River – Tree Removal/Equipment in Stream
Geocode: 04-2992-18-2-01-13-0000

Watkins reported on an anonymous complaint received regarding the cutting of a live tree along the banks of the Swan River and observation of heavy equipment tracks within the bed of the Swan River. Watkins presented site location slides and photos from a site visit he conducted on September 27, 2021 and an official site conducted on October 5, 2021 with Watkins, Art Pencek, Leo Rosenthal, and Bob Miller, the property owner and alleged violator, attending. Photos demonstrated that a fallen tree had been removed from the Swan River channel, that wheeled and tracked equipment had been operated within the active channel of the Swan River, and that river gravel and substrate had been excavated from an island within the Swan River to create a crossing across a side channel as a means to access the river bed with equipment.

Art Pencek moved to declare Complaint CM-06-21 a violation of the 310 Law as activity had been initiated on a perennial flowing stream without a valid permit. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Existing Violations

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 stated there was no new update to provide but that he would follow up with the applicant in order to provide an update at next month's meeting.

CM-02-21 (Re: MS-33-21, Tabled 9/13/21) – Deborah & Andrew Carstensen– Cooney Creek –
Channel/Bank Restoration
Geocode: 04-2992-06-2-01-15-0000

Watkins reminded the Board that this violation relates to the tabled 310 Permit Application No. MS-33-21 discussed earlier in the meeting.

CM-05-21 – Double Arrow Ranch Landowners Association c/o Greg Neudecker – Drew Creek – Fill
Stream
Geocode: 04-2541-07-2-02-07-0000

Watkins stated there were no updates regarding this violation. He has been in communication with the new DARLOA President now that Greg Neudecker has stepped down as a Board member. A 310 Permit Application has not yet been submitted to resolve the violation.

310 Inquiries & Issues

Watkins reported he had recently been out to Gilbert Creek on Valley of the Moon Ranch to assist with a fish salvage and observe the progress of the channel alteration project permitted under MS-08-21. Based on discussions with Ron Pierce, there will be an anticipated 310 Permit modification in order to relocate irrigation pumps associated with the project and a new 310 Permit Application for the construction of a second bridge across Gilbert Creek.

Reports

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

Montana FWP – Ladd Knotek reported that Jim Thill had picked up the stringers to construct his bridge on Bear Run Creek. Knotek stated there is another known issue with a county road culvert on Little Park Creek that he will work with the county to resolve. No other Montana FWP reports were provided.

Bitter Root RC&D – Libby Maclay stated there was nothing to report.

Weed District/Extensions – No one was in attendance and no report was provided.

Watershed Groups – Watkins presented an update received from Heather Brighton stating that Lolo Watershed Group (LWG) is currently interviewing applicants for the approved Big Sky Watershed Corp position. LWG is also conducting some informal strategic planning sessions and looking to add new board members.

Deb Fassnacht from Watershed Education Network (WEN) provided an update on Stream Team and their activities in the Rattlesnake Creek area, including the recent discovery of a channel spanning beaver dam near the walking bridge. Fassnacht also stated that WEN will be meeting with the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group in the immediate future to work on future collaboration efforts.

Watkins reported that with permission from the Grants Committee, he sent two letters of support this past month for grants that both WEN and LWG were applying for.

Planning Board Update – Josh Schroeder reported that he attended a meeting on October 5, 2021 where staff presented updates to the Growth Policy. Tim Hall mentioned that arrangements were still being made to have CAPS staff present the proposed County Zoning Codes to the Missoula CD Board. Madson Matthias, assistant planner with the City of Missoula, introduced herself and stated she was interested in learning more about the Missoula CD.

Water Quality District – No one was in attendance and no report was provided.

District Committees – Watkins reported that the Personnel Committee will need to set dates for Vitas's 6-month review and annual reviews for both Watkins and Vogt. Watkins reported on issues related to tire maintenance on the District's Toyota 4-Runner. Watkins inquired if matters pertaining the 4-Runner maintenance should go through the Equipment Committee to which there was general consensus and agreement.

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

Jackie Vitas - Administrative Assistant

Office Operations: Received and sorted agency mail daily and followed up on District business correspondence. Attended September 13th District meeting and took notes. Drafted September meeting minutes. Drafted agenda for October 12, 2021 meeting and posted August 2021 meeting minutes to District website. Added deadline dates to website calendar and posted Agenda. Created several posts for the MCD social media pages, as well as updating the social media calendar with potential content for the next six months. Attended NACD Webinar on "How to Record Videos", as well as a follow-up field visit with Tim Hall and Rad Watkins. Created a media contact spreadsheet for MCD Grants press release and future press releases.

Stream Permit Processing: Completed and sent out decision letters and Form 273 permits to applicants from the September 13, 2021 meeting. Updated PowerPoint presentation for October 12, 2021 virtual meeting. Added October 12, 2021 agenda to website. Updated 310 Spreadsheet with 4 new 310 applications and 1 new complaint. Created physical files for 4 new 310 applications. Created physical files for 1 new complaint. Updated Box and Salesforce with 310 applications information, as well as complaints. Emailed virtual meeting information to all potential attendees. 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 MTFWP (Knotek, Uthke, and Rosenthal), as well as Todd Kleitz. Updated the "Current 310 Permits" list on MCD Website.

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Reporting, and Recordkeeping: Emailed September claims form to Jacque Harris. Prepared Profit/Loss and Balance reports for October 12, 2021 meeting. Entered September claims into QuickBooks. Reconciled September bank statements. Reconciled DA Davidson September statement. Completed bill claims form for October 12, 2021 meeting. Entered deposits and checks into QuickBooks.

**1 Holiday – Columbus Day, 12 hours Sick Leave*

Bryan Vogt - Program Specialist

Program Assistance: Attended and took notes at the September 13th Board meeting held via Zoom. Edited draft of the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes prepared by Vitas. As requested, assisted Watkins and Vitas with office fiscal management, 310 permitting, Supervisor elections, and Salesforce/Box matters. Forwarded Samantha Tappenbeck's (Flathead CD) Nutrient Workgroup Survey email to Supervisors. Updated website with revised October meeting date. Corresponded with Melissa Maggio on the status/progress of reprinting the statewide Biocontrol Guide as it relates the timeframes of DNRC Education Mini-Grant 23G-23-3702. Corresponded with Heather Brighton (Lolo Watershed Group) regarding the Boards' decision to provide \$2,150 of support towards their Big Sky Watershed Corps member. Corresponded with Tracy Campbell (City Stormwater) regarding the Boards' decision to award a \$5,000 Public Partnering Cost-Share grant to support a Big Sky Watershed Corps member in partnership with Missoula City Stormwater Utility. Began drafting and updating a District Master Grant Tracking spreadsheet. Drafted application and preapplication forms for four new District Grant Programs. Corresponded with Lake Co CD regarding potential pollinator wildflower seed mix for next year. Participated in a brief all office meeting with Tom Watson, NRCS State Conservationist. Participated in an all employees/partners virtual meeting regarding COVID office updates.

Technical Assignments: Continued management of the no-till drill rental program, including 2 inquiry calls and 1 rescheduled fall reservation. Conducted maintenance check on drill to assess condition of tires and readiness for fall rentals. Provided additional technical assistance to Jenny Tollefson with Five Valleys Land Trust regarding a pollinator seeding project at their Rock Creek conservation property. With NRCS Field Office staff, conducted site visit to Alberton area landowner to provide onsite technical assistance and discuss potential CD programs. Participated in field-based training on Forestry Assessment provided by Missoula NRCS Area office.

Communication and Outreach: With Watkins participated in meeting with Travis Lemke (NRCS) and Tracy Campbell (City Stormwater) on potential partnering opportunities related to major irrigation diversions and infrastructure projects in the Missoula to Frenchtown river corridor. Participated in the monthly MACD EO Roundtable training on employee and Supervisor policies. Participated in a virtual MACD Soil Health Discussion meeting. With Watkins, participated in virtual meeting with Watershed Education Network staff on partnering efforts and their ability to qualify for potential District grant funding. Updated District website, particularly information relating to new District Grants Program. Corresponded with Missoula Co. Weed District staff regarding possibilities to partner on a public pollinator park project in Missoula.

**1 Holiday – Columbus Day; 1 day Vacation Leave; 6.5 hours Sick Leave*

Radley Watkins - Resource Conservationist

Office Administration: Coordinated the September 13th District Board meeting. Followed up on actions taken at the meeting and reviewed/edited/approved draft meeting minutes. Reviewed and submitted staff timesheets to County payroll. Worked with Vitas to make sure we are prepared for Supervisor elections. Conducted weekly staff meetings. Reviewed and submitted staff timesheets to County payroll. Worked with payroll to correct staff timesheet/pay issues.

310 Law Administration: Wrote all 310-decision letters from September 13th District meeting. Processed five incoming 310 applications. Dealt with a 310 anonymous complaint on the Swan River. Discussed permit extensions with Weinmann and Rideg. Discussed board directed follow up with Michael Day, P.E., Senior Project Engineer for WGM Group on the Sheehy project from 2018. Communicated with Malcom Miller from Treasure State Tree Service regarding planting for Grant Creek 310. Discussed 310 campaign with two local Realtors. Conducted 310 site visits with Supervisor Pencek and FWP biologists. Fielded several 310 inquiries that did not result in permit applications. Visited Scott Tucker's Valley of the Moon 310 project with Ron Pierce and help/monitored fish relocation. Corresponded with Todd Kietz (County Floodplain) and Tracy Campbell (City Stormwater) regarding several potential 310 issues.

Program Management: Corresponded with Heather Brighton (Lolo Watershed Group) regarding a letter of support for a Montana Watershed Council grant. Participated in virtual meeting with Watershed Education Network staff on partnering efforts and their ability to qualify for potential District grant funding. Corresponded with Deb Fassnacht (WEN) regarding a letter of support for a Montana Watershed Council grant and development of a Rattlesnake protection group. Participated in Missoula Regional Connectivity group. Corresponded with Tracy Campbell (City Stormwater) regarding the successful allocation of a Big Sky Watershed Corps member in partnership with MCD. Worked with Vogt to relaunch several of the new District grant programs. Corresponded with Missoula City Parks and Lake Co CD regarding potential pollinator wildflower seed mix for next year. Attended onsite meeting with Weed District and MPG Ranch to discuss placement of public education pollinator garden. Participated in field-based training on Forestry Assessment provided by Missoula NRCS Area office. Worked with NRCS and Oxbow Cattle Co. staff to conduct a vegetation assessment. Communicated with Valley of the Moon Ranch regarding no-till drill rental program. Participated in meeting with Travis Lemke (NRCS) and Tracy Campbell (City Stormwater), Rob Roberts (Trout Unlimited) on potential partnering opportunities related to major irrigation diversions and infrastructure projects in the Missoula to Frenchtown river corridor. Participated in Grass Valley Ditch field visit with Chairman Hall, Morgan Valliant (Missoula Parks and Recreation), local landowners, and NRCS staff. Participated in the monthly MACD EO Roundtable training on employee and Supervisor policies.

**1 Holiday – Columbus Day; 2.5 hours Sick Leave*

Other Reports – None at this time.

New Business

Correspondence – Watkins stated there was no Correspondence to report on this month.

National Association of Conservation Districts Dues – Watkins reported on attending the virtual Area V MACD meeting last month and hearing from an NACD representative on the benefits of joining the national association. New this year is the opportunity for CD staff and Supervisors to access group health insurance if they pay full \$775 membership dues. Watkins voiced his support of paying annual dues and becoming active participants in NACD.

310 Admin Rule Changes – Watkins proposed the idea of requiring landowner's signature on future 310 Permit Applications. However, current state law and Missoula CD Administrative Rules do not include this requirement. Watkins would like to send the Board the current 310 Administrative Rules so Supervisors can review them to consider this proposed amendment and any other updates that Supervisors would like to implement.

Programs

Grants Program:

MCD Grants

Vogt reported that staff will be working on award letters and contracts with Lolo Watershed Group and Missoula Storm Water Division for their respective Big Sky Watershed Corps member support awards.

Sponsored Grants

Vogt reported that the District is still waiting to receive the grant contract for the recently awarded DNRC 223 Grant for the CRC Priority Water Quality Monitoring Project. As soon that is received, the grant contract will be developed between Missoula CD and Clearwater Resource Council.

Revised MCD Grant Program – Vogt reported that as of October 1 a request for proposals went out for four new grant programs: the Education Cost Share Grant, the Education Mini Grant, the Operations Mini Grant, and the Continuing Education Cost Share Grant. Information on grant availability and how to apply had been posted on the District website as well as sent to local media outlets via a press release. The application deadline is October 15, 2021. The Grants Committee may need to meet to review grant applications received. Staff will continue working on the roll out of additional CD Grants not yet advertised.

Equipment Program – Vogt reported there have been no drill rentals since last month. There is one rental scheduled for the first week of November, and he expects fall reservations to pick up any time. A replacement tire has been ordered for the no-till drill for one that continues to experience a slow leak.

Pollinator Program – Vogt reported that he and Watkins have met with the staff from the Weed District, County Parks, and MPG Ranch to look at possible locations for a pollinator garden and education site to be located on a county park. Additionally, Missoula CD has agreed to purchase another acre-worth of pollinator habitat seed mix from Lake County CD for the upcoming 2022 program, estimated at \$360.

Other New Business:

MACD Convention – Vogt reported that the 2021 MACD Convention is currently scheduled for November 16-19, 2021 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. The MACD Board will announce soon whether the convention will be held in-person or virtually. The deadline for early bird registration for the in-person event, if held, is October 31, 2021, which is prior to the next Board meeting. Bob Schroeder and Libby Maclay requested to be registered for the meeting if it is held in-person. The Board discussed whether staff should attend the in-person convention, if held.

Tim Hall moved to give the Resource Conservationist discretion on determining whether staff will attend the 2021 MACD Convention, if held in-person, and to make all the necessary arrangement in terms of

registration and lodging. Libby Maclay seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Old Business

Other Old Business:

Smurfit Stone Community Advisory Group – The Board discussed a recent newspaper article regarding the cleanup of the Smurfit Stone site now being taken up by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. There was discussion as to whether the Missoula CD Board should go on record as being an involved permitting agency. It was acknowledged that if the site does receive EPA Superfund designation, federal policy will likely supersede all local agency involvement.

Tim Hall moved to write a letter noticing the Missoula Conservation District as a commenting agency on matters regarding the proposed cleanup of the Smurfit Stone site. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

District Strategic Planning Workshop – Watkins stated he is still working towards sending the Board a questionnaire as discussed at last month's meeting to direct the District's Strategic Planning efforts.

MACD Strategic Planning – Watkins reported that the deadline to reply to the MACD Strategic Planning survey is October 15th. So far, he has only received feedback from one Supervisor.

Payment of Bills and Claims

Tim Hall moved to pay the bills and Supervisor claims. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Petty Checking Account

Date	Description	Charge
9/16/21	Box – Annual Service Fee	\$450.00
9/16/21	USPS – Stamps	\$58.00
9/23/21	Parking Meter	\$2.00
9/27/21	Staples – Copy Paper and General Supplies	\$67.97
10/1/21	Zoom – Monthly Fee for Vogt & Watkins	\$31.10
10/12/21	Splash Car Wash – 4Runner	\$12.59
	TOTAL	\$621.66

Checking Account

Date	Description	Charge
	No activity last month	
	TOTAL	

Tax Mill Levy Account (Warrants/Claims)

Date	Description	Charge
9/27/21	Verizon Wireless – cell phones	\$105.02
9/27/21	Charter Spectrum – internet	\$109.99
9/27/21	First Interstate Bank MasterCard – gas card	\$83.72
	TOTAL	\$298.73

Adjournment

Tim Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Bob Schroeder seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor – motion carried.

Voting Record – CD Supervisor	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Tim Hall	14	-	-
Libby Maclay	14	-	-
Travis Greenwalt	14	-	-
Paul Parson	14	-	-
Art Pencek	14	-	-
Bob Schroeder	14	-	-
Sidney Wills	Absent	-	-

The next Missoula Conservation District meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.**