

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:12 pm on January 16, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Rich Nordquist, Billiette Brooks, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Marti Laknar, Emma, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Jack Bazemore, Meg Smith, JS Turner, Kelly Rowe, Sky Jones, Bill Kempf, Scott Davis, Cody Hankinson, Cameron W., Nolan Salix, Dori McNeill, Jason Rose, and Garrett Vasa

Absent: Harris Wheat

Motion to excuse absences by Carl 2nd Jerry, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the December minutes by Carl 2nd by Tom, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for January by Billiette 2nd by Tom, motion carried.*

NRCS – Garrett Vasa- No updates, currently working on contracting.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma is making a work plan for the coming year that is separated out by watersheds. Helicopter didn't work out this year because it has to coexist with controlled burns and it was too dry to burn, hopefully they can spray in the spring. Setting up a meeting with all of the partners in Mid-February to plan cheatgrass spraying.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore moved into a new office in the treasurer building, applied for a \$25,000 grant to create a trailer for livestock related emergencies, planning master gardener classes, precision agriculture and beef production workshop April 16th 10:30 am – 2 pm.

Range Committee – Pat Fosse and partners are planning a Range Seminar the last week of March, Jess scheduled youth conservation day for April 24th and booked the rolling rivers, Meg wants to do summer tours.

Education and Outreach Coordinator – Marti Laknar is working on the farm to school for schools and early childhood coalition, working on the garden series and hoping to have a

farm to table feast at the end of growing season, Got permission to plan a native and indigenous garden behind the museum as it ties into their displays, Winter squash is the harvest of the month.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2416 JB Anderson, Blacktail Creek, Mandatory Stream Restoration from Flooding mitigation
Kelly gave updates on progress; The project is done and after photos have been submitted, BCD would like an after visit.
- BCD 2418 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Bill Kemph, Red Rock Springs Roadside Ditch (borrow ditch)
A public comment was submitted by Chris Brozell as a portage request, Cameron W. came to give suggestions and Bill Kemph was there to give his ideas. Jess will work with the county attorney to draft a letter to Brozell.
- BCD 2428 William (Bill) Totten, Clapham and Bassette Ditch, Violation, Diverting water into a newly constructed pond.
Jess keeps calling Bill and leaving voicemails but not getting a response. Matt will try to call Bill and schedule something.
- BCD 2501 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Public Mile of Borrow Ditch Restoration, Kidd Creek
Everyone was in agreeance that they needed a site visit and public review before trying to approve the application. Site visit was scheduled for January 23rd from 9:30-noon. Jess will draft up some advertisement for the Dillonite.
- BCD 2502 Craig Hansen, Beaverhead River, Stream Restoration
No design was submitted so the decision was made to table the application until a design is submitted.
- BCD 2503 Dan Greenslade, Red Rock River, Sump box for Pivot
No design was submitted so the decision was made to table the application until a design is submitted.
- BCD 2504 Dan Greenslade, Red Rock River, Sump box for Pivot
No design was submitted so the decision was made to table the application until a design is submitted.
- Site Visits will be February 13th after 9:30.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2431 Jay Hahncamp, Irrigation dam and Culvert removal, Big Hole River, Violation- Jay's ex-wife has gotten involved and it is her property so she will work on a solution, Jim asked we postpone the fine until next month.
- BCD 2434 Garrison Big Hole River Ranch, Lower existing headgate, Big Hole River
Motion to approve with modifications by Billiette, 2nd Tom, Motion carried

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Marti and Jess have taken over and are working to straighten everything out. Jess is working with Sky Jones to get the letter of noncompliance resolved. Marti is working on all the current projects including grasshopper and stone creek, Jess is sitting on the BCC board and working on procurement for them along with finding funding.
Motion to approve Watershed finances for January by Billiette 2nd by Tom, motion carried.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station 2025 contract and Inspector Wages
Motion to adopt the contract and approve wages of \$17/hr for new inspectors, \$19/hr returning inspectors, and \$21/hr for the site lead by Billiette, 2nd Tom, motion carried.

Old Business

New Business

- Election of associate supervisors and officers
Motion to elect Byron as chairman, Carl for Vice Chairman, Jerry for Treasurer, Dori, Meg, JS, and Kelly for associate supervisors by Tom, 2nd Billiette, Motion Carried.
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

Public Comment - No public in attendance by the end of the meeting.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting date – February 20th 6 pm

Strategic Planning Meeting February 20th 5pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved: Byron Martinell
Byron Martinell, Chairman