

# ***Beaverhead Conservation District***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, April 20, 2023

### **Call to order**

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:10 pm on April 20, 2023 in the NRCS office.

### **Roll call**

**The following persons were present:** Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Tom Miller, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, JS Turner, Jessica Murray, Jessica Fields, Zach Owen, Matt Jaeger

**Absent:** Meg Smith and Kelly Rowe,

### **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

*Motion to approve the March minutes by Harris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, motion carried.*

### **Summary of Finances.**

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for April by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harris, motion carried.*

**NRCS** – Sean gave updates on new employees coming soon, local working group, and upcoming program deadlines,

### **Range Committee – Jessica Murray**

- 406 Grazing Academy – June 6-8 Anaconda/Deerlodge, Montana  
*Motion to approve 4 \$200 scholarships for farmers and ranchers to attend the 406-grazing academy by Billiette, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom, Motion Carried.*

### **310 Business**

- BCD 2304 Max Yates, Red Rock River, Install Sump box for pivot, waive 30 day waiting period  
*Motion to approve with modifications by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> Carl, motion Carried.*  
Discussion at the site visit led to the site being moved up to the headgate for better waterflow.

### **Big Hole - Jim Olsen**

### **Beaverhead Watershed Grants**

- Zach has been working on the Landscape Conservation Design project, and the Wilderness Study Area group. He did the Elkhorn snow survey course for NRCS and is

working with the High Divide Collaborative on their spring workshop, which he will be attending next week in Salmon, ID. He's been talking with the engineer who helped with the Grasshopper mine tailing project to plan for this summer when those grant funds show up. He also helped the Big Hole Watershed Committee submit another grant application for the Elkhorn Mine & Mill cleanup projects they've been working on. He met with BLM, and we're going to submit a proposal for another cooperative agreement.

- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for April by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom, motion carried.*

## **Administrator Report**

- The watercraft inspections station has found 3 mussel boats. Cliff Billings has left the station and Dylan Vanderschaaf replaced him. WIS is running smoothly and the hot water wash unit is working but waiting on one side to be replaced. It did not work from the beginning but is under warranty.
- The ARPA grant we have is looking for another project that has a direct nonpoint source pollution reduction. Matt mentioned the Ryan Cypher place and possibly narrowing the creek, Jess will check with Autumn Coleman and see if the money could be used there. The project is not TMDL listed.

## **Old Business**

- MACO insurance (liability, auto, omissions and errors)- Payne West insurance was not able to create a plan for districts, Mountain View has not been overly helpful in finding a policy, Western Horizon out of Bozeman could not make a plan for districts. Rocky Mountain Insurance is now working on creating an insurance plan (other districts quotes are around \$4,000-5,000 depending on revenue).
- Increasing Employee Health Stipend
- *Motion to increase the employee health stipend to \$400 by Billiette, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich, Motion Carried (\$390 permissive health stipend, \$10 district)*

## **New Business**

- Upcoming events supplies, soil, pots, tote for plant this not that, coffee and juice for working group meeting and weeds partner meeting
- Admin Grant Application. If the funding bill passes, we may get the full ask if not we will get roughly \$10,000 depending on what funding DNRC receives,
- *Motion to ask for \$45,000 from the Admin Grant to hire another employee by Harris, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, Motion Carried.*
- DNRC report- Hailey Graf (Attached)

## **Upcoming Events**

- Seed Day – April 25<sup>th</sup> 9am - noon, 1-4pm
- Youth Conservation Day – April 27<sup>th</sup> 10am

- Weeds Partner Meeting – May 4<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm
- Plant this not that at the library (Adults) – May 9<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm
- Plant this not that at the library (Kids) – May 11<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon
- **Local Working Group – May 11<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm**
- Poindexter Weed Pull – May 16<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30 pm
- Next meeting date – May 18<sup>th</sup> 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School – May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Wildlife Speaker Series – July 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm

### **Public Comment**

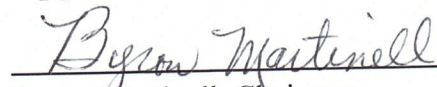
- No public in attendance.

### **Adjournment**

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm*

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

### **Approved:**

  
 Byron Martinell, Chairman