

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on May 18, 2023 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Jess Fields, Zach Owen, Matt Jaeger, and Kelly Rowe

Conference Call: Jessica Murray and Chris Hrish

Public: JB Anderson, Carly, Anderson, and TJ Reynolds.

Absent: Tom Miller, JS Turner, and Meg Smith

Motion to excuse absences by Billiette 2nd by Harris, motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the April minutes by Harris 2nd by Carl, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Sean was unable to attend, no new updates on the Administrative Assistant, an engineer will not be hired as there was no applicants, another district conservationist position is opening at the Dillon office and the Sheridan Office.

Range Committee – Jessica Murray

- 406 Grazing Academy, we did not have any applicants but the workshop filled up.
- Range Tour – If anyone is interested in going Jessica Murray is already going and willing to carpool. She is hoping to start a range tour in Beaverhead County.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2220 Angela Howell, Sump box After Photos
Lots of disturbed ground, Jess will make sure they seeded or sodded.
- BCD 2305 JB Anderson, Blacktail Creek, Emergency Cleanup, Willow planting, waive waiting period
Lots of discussion on how best to go about this project. It was suggested that a professional engineer do the project simply because it wouldn't be on JB's shoulders if the project failed, the engineer would be the one fixing it. TJ Reynolds liked this idea the best and JB said he would look into it. Everyone agreed on interlaying the uprooted

willows and then putting gravel on top of them, then after it settles adding willow sticks for replanting. The board reminded JB that he would need a 404 permit and a flood plain permit.

Motion to approve with modifications and landowners' signature by Jerry 2nd Harris, motion Carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2222 Big Hole Watershed, Beaver Mitigation, After Photos
The board is concerned about how it will be removed each year.

- BCD 2209 Paul Cleary, Blacktail Creek, Extension
No discussion as it was only an extension for a bridge permit.
Motion to approve by Billiette 2nd Rich, motion Carried.

- BCD 2303 Tom Kambich, Birch Creek, Beaver Dam
The beaver dams will be back if the beavers are not trapped or removed in some way.
The 30-Day waiting period was waived.
Motion to approve with modifications by Billiette 2nd Harris, motion Carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach spent 3 days in Salmon at the High Divide Workshop. Mostly covered how small towns are working on recreation and community development issues. He surveyed the Elkhorn Hotsprings NRCS snow course for the last time this year. Met with a DNRC hydrologist to talk about possible real-time stream gage stations in the Centennial, to better track US government water compacts (refuge). More weirs are being ordered for the Red Rock irrigation project so He's been talking with Lima Water Users a lot this month. he finished our BLM cooperative agreement proposal. Put in a proposal to the FWP Future Fisheries grant program to get match funding for the Grasshopper mine tailings project DNRC is mostly funding.
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for May by Billiette 2nd by Carl, motion carried.*

Administrator Report

- The Watercraft Inspection Station has found 10 mussel boats this year, there was only 6 last year. Everything is running smoothly down there and night inspection start next week.
- Our MACD Dues were much higher than expected but we got it sorted the mill levy is lower than it is listed at.

Old Business

- Insurance- Chris from Rocky Mountain Insurance called it to talk about the insurance policy quote, we decided we don't need Inland Marine coverage. We decided not to vote on it until next meeting so everyone can read over the policy more thoroughly. A question came up later about coverage against suggesting things that don't end up working.

New Business

- DNRC report- Hailey Graf (Attached)

Upcoming Events

- 5th Grade Outdoor School – May 26th, 2023
- Next meeting date- June 15th, 2023
- Wildlife Speaker Series – July 27th 5:30 pm

Public Comment

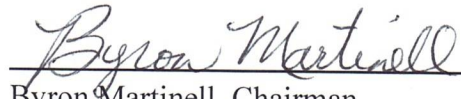
- No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Byron Martinell", is written over a horizontal line.

Byron Martinell, Chairman