

# ***Beaverhead Conservation District***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, August 17, 2023

### **Call to order**

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on August 17, 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, Sean Lewis, and JS Turner.

**Conference Line:** Caitlin Overland

**Absent:** Tom Miller, Kelly Rowe, Jessica Murray, and Meg Smith

*Motion to excuse absences by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, motion carried.*

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

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

### **Summary of Finances.**

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

**CLOSED SESSION:** Discussion of pending litigation with attorney (Brozell v. BCD). Sealed Minutes.

**NRCS** – Sean gave updates on office staffing. Matt may be leaving in October, there is a soil conservationist position open, they finally heard on the admin assistant -they took a different job because it took too long for NRCS to decide.

### **310 Business**

#### **Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger**

- BCD 2308 Complaint, Kidd Creek/Red Rock River  
It is a violation but when we went to do the site visit it had already been destroyed. We talked to the contractor that has been working on a big project near it but they don't know when it happened or why. We talked to the adjacent landowner and he didn't know it was there. It's on the road right of way so no one owns the property. The contractor said he would smooth out the weir since he already has equipment in the area.

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

- BCD 2311 Complaint, 5 small dams on Odell creek that leads into Wyman Creek, and then Wise River.  
Lots of discussion about working being done by hand and what counts as a project, JS broke out the rule book and it says anything that affects the stream is a project regardless of by hand or not. Beaver Dam Analogs are very beneficial for many reasons and although the project is good it does fall under the 310 law and requires a permit. After visiting with DNRCs 310 team, we confirmed that they do need a permit but we could waive the need for a permit if we wanted it would just need to be in our 310 rules. More discussion will be had at the next meeting about BDAs and 310 permits.

## Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach has been working on getting a lot of contracts ready for DEQ, DNRC, and FWP grants. He is also working on the watershed restoration plan and has a grant from DEQ to get it finished. He has also been working on the forest collaborative and planning a tour near Butte.
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for August by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harris, motion carried.*

## Administrator Report

- We have had 2842 inspections so far this year and 875 of them were high risk. We have done 155 decontaminations; these range from full mussel fouled deacons to plant removal deacons. We are up to 12 mussel boats, our last one was the Tuesday before the meeting. It was a great find, a kayak with sand in the bottom that had mussel shells in it. The inspectors are doing great and this week we celebrated them by bringing out pizzas, sodas, sweatshirts, and flashlights.
- I have been getting ready for SET training, working on the contract for the Sagebrush Partnership employee, and doing legal research to update our model rules.

## Old Business

### New Business

- Model Policy Updates  
I started rewriting our 310 policies but found out that DNRC is coming out with new ones so I will wait until theirs come out and make sure they match our policies. We will have a form to fill out for requests and copies.
- DNRC report- Hailey Graf (Attached)  
There was not a funding forum in our area so DNRC has agreed to come to our meeting next month and give a funding forum presentation and a chance to meet the new DNRC CARDD CDB specialist for our area out of Missoula.

## Upcoming Events

- Next meeting date- September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Area 6 Meeting – September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- October meeting will be one week late on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Public Comment

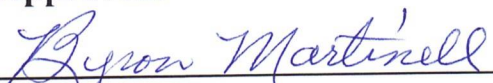
- No public in attendance.

## Adjournment

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm*

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

## Approved:

  
Byron Martinell, Chairman