

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Call to order

Carl Malesich called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:15 pm on October 26, 2023 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Carl Malesich, Jerry Meine, Tom Miller, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Kelly Rowe, JS Turner, Zach Owen, Jess Fields, Jim Olsen, Matt Jeager, Dan Greenslade, and Scott Jones. **Conference Line:** Jessica Murray

Absent: Byron Martinell, Billiette Brooks, and Meg Smith

Motion to excuse absences by Tom 2nd by Rich, motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the September minutes by Harris 2nd by Jerry, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Sean was unable to attend, Equip Deadline is Tomorrow.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2316 Lance Jensen, Culvert, West Fork of Little Sheep Creek
There was a lot of discussion on the culvert because the board would have preferred a better flow angle but he was attaching the culvert to another culvert that was already installed. We will be sending out a violation let because this was a violation but as long as the work discussed in the permit is completed in a timely manner no fines will be assessed.
Motion to find Lance Jensen in violation for completing work without a permit by Tom 2nd Rich, motion carries
Motion to approve 310 permit pending modifications by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2319 Dan Greenslade, Bridge, Red Rock River
Dan and Scott came to the meeting to get suggestions on the bridge, it is a used bridge that will replace the existing bridge that the propane guy refuses to drive over, discussion was had to make sure the footings are secure and the bridge is high enough.
Motion to approve with modifications by Tom 2nd Harris, motion carried.
- BCD 2321 Vince Benjamin, Culvert, West Fork of Little Sheep Creek
The landowner lives in Alaska and will not be doing work on the permit until Spring. We were able to look at the culvert site but have some suggestions for the landowner. Matt

will call the landowner and discuss possible better sites for the culvert and ask questions. Permit is tabled until next month.

- BCD 2322 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Restoration Complaint, Kidd Creek, Brozell Overland Legal advised tabling the complaint until a determination can be made on the lawsuit.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2318 Rob Stewart, Beaver Dam Removal, Willow Creek
Jim was at the meeting and is familiar with the site, the only discussion was that the debris removed needs to be burned.
Motion to approve with modifications by Jerry 2nd Harris, motion carried.
- BCD 2320 Patricia and Gerald Jones, Beaver Dam Removal, Warm Springs Creek, emergency
Jim was at the meeting and is familiar with the site, some supervisors have also seen the site, they are very large beaver dams and have been cleaned up and piled for burning, the only discussion was that the debris removed needs to be burned within 2 years.
Motion to approve with modifications by Tom 2nd Rich, motion carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach gave updates including working with CVA and the Western Landowners Alliance on a Climate Smart Proposal for NACD. Attending the area6 meeting and the sustainable ranching seminar. The Red Rock weir grant and parks grant expire at the end of the year so he is trying his best to get them spent. HGL (formerly spectrum) was hired as the engineer for the Grasshopper Creek Project. He's looking for a company to fly LiDAR if it's not too late in the season. There is a request for quotes in the paper for engineering for Stone Creek.
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for October by Tom 2nd by Harris, motion carried.*

Administrator Report

- We have had 3452 inspections this year and 1024 of them were high risk. We have done 212 decontaminations; these range from full mussel fouled deacons to plant removal deacons. We are up to 14 mussel boats. We beat the 2020 record for most inspections in a year. The station is closed for the year and stat will be provided at the December Meeting. Bonus? Admin Funds so far \$17,549.29
Motion to give inspectors a \$300 bonus for staying on all year by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.
- Emma Fullerton was hired for the IAG Coordinator position and will start November 1st
- Jess is having a baby in March and will be working from home for a couple weeks once the baby comes.

Old Business

- Strategic Planning – DNRC is now requiring all districts to have a long-range plan and annual work plan to apply for grants. They are also offering a planning grant to cover the

cost of strategic planning; we didn't get out quote in time to apply this year but there is another grant cycle in February we will be applying for. The planning will take place during our meetings and it will happen over 4 meetings then we will have a board approved plan at the end.

New Business

- NACD Donation (\$150 last year)
Motion to donate \$200 to NACD by Jerry, 2nd Tom, Motion Carried
- Resolution 23-01: A resolution to coordinate reuse of used infrastructure materials (Petroleum County CD)
Motion to vote for resolution 23-01 by Harris 2nd Rich, Motion Carries
- Resolution 23-02: Natural Water Bodies and Land Preservation Disclosure (Missoula CD)
Motion to vote for resolution 23-02 by Harris 2nd Rich, Motion Carries
- Resolution 23-03: Irrigator Water Rights (Roosevelt CD)
Abstain from voting on Resolution 23-03 unless enough information is given at convention to have an informed vote.
- Resolution 23-04: Support for Removing Conservation Leasing from the BLM's proposed Public Lands Rule BLM-1004-AE92 (Phillips CD)
Motion to vote for resolution 23-04 by Harris 2nd Rich, Motion Carries
- Resolution 23-05: Resolution to Support the Governor's Recommendation to Exclude Grizzly Bear Encroachment into Eastern Montana (Valley County CD)
Motion to vote for resolution 23-05 by Harris 2nd Rich, Motion Carries
DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

Upcoming Events

- Convention
Motion to pay mileage and Hotel for Byron and Jess to attend convention by Jerry, 2nd Tom, Motion Carries
- Next meeting date- December 14th, 2023

Public Comment

- No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:

Byron Martinell

Byron Martinell, Chairman