

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:03 pm on May 16, 2024 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Rich Nordquist, Jerry Meine, Harris Wheat, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Billiette Brooks, Kelly Rowe, Matt Jaeger, Zach Owen, Jess Fields, Jack Bazemore, Dori McNeill, Tyler Barrus, Robert VanDaren, and Ty Traxler
Absent: JS Turner, and Meg Smith

Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Sara was unable to attend but her update was provided in the meeting packet.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma was unable to attend but her update was read aloud by Jess, her update included spray contracts and an orientation trip to Salt Lake City. Emma's Rent contract for the Mary Innes School building was sent to the supervisors via email and everything looks good. There is \$590+ for deposit and \$202+ for rent each month, Jess talked to pheasants forever and our contract can cover \$1,200 of the rent.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore found some conservation district files from the late 1950s and early 60s that he will be bringing by.

Range Committee – Jess gave an update on Sustainable Ranching Workshop and lunch quote of \$1015. Dori is getting her feet under her and we appreciate her expertise joining the board next year as an associate supervisor. Jess will register Carl and Jerry for the workshop.
Motion to approve finances for Youth Conservation Days by Billiette 2nd Tom, Motion Carried

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2305 JB Anderson, Blacktail Creek, Flooding Remediation and Restoration, Extension

Kelly Rowe with Rowe Excavating presented the permit to be extended because the work has not been completed and they are waiting on the Army Corps permit before work can begin. There are three options of how to proceed, number 1 extend the permit for a short amount of time so the work gets done in a quick and timely manner. Number 2 require a new permit because it has been a year and a half since the emergency happened, with this we can assess a fine per day until the new permit is in place. Number 3 is a mix of 1 and 2, extend the permit for a short time and if it's not done then assess a fee and require a new permit. The board brought up that if the permitting process with the Army Corp had started in May of 2023 when the 310 permit was issued, they would have had plenty of time to get an Army Corps permit and complete the project in Fall or Winter of 2023 when the willows are dormant. The ideal time to do this project for best results is when the willow clumps are dormant during Late October to Early June. The decision was made that this project would need to be completed with 15 days of the meeting for best results or wait until October/November. Ideal conditions are important for this project because it is not on JB's property and the landowner has been vocal about wanting this done right. The board would like JB fined because he was given grace when it came to filing the emergency permit a month late but he continued to ignore the 310 law and the board recommendations. We understand that setbacks happen but this is a 3-week project max and he was given 6 months of good weather to complete the project or hire someone to complete it. He waited until the end of April 2024 to contract with someone to do the work. The board is willing to extend the permit for 15 days because it is in the landowner's best interest and Kelly will call the Army Corps of engineers to try to get the 404 permit rushed. If the project cannot be completed within 15 days, JB will be fined \$1,000 and will have to apply for a new permit to complete the work. The fine does not absolve JB of having to complete the work and additional fines will be assessed if the work is not completed by December 1, 2024.

Motion to extend for 15 days from Monday May 20th and if the project is not done within 15 days, fine JB \$1,000 and have him apply for a new permit to finish the work, if the new application is not in with 90 days and the work completed by December 1 another fine may be assessed by Carl 2nd by Harris, motion carried.

- 2401 Diamond O, Tyler Barrus, Stream Restoration, Beaverhead River, Amendment Tyler Barrus and Ty Traxler presented the permit and want to get amendment because they did more engineering work and determined some of the plans needed to change specifically the W weirs. The board also had some suggestions in the team member report from the original permit that Tyler wanted to incorporate. Rob VanDeren attended the meeting as a member of the public and neighboring land owner and was concerned on how this will affect other landowners. After fully hearing the plans, Rob's concerns were addressed. There are too many changes to the permit to approve as an amendment and a new permit will be required.

Motion to approve bank work appendments and require a new permit for diversions and headgates by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2410 Raffety Violation, Big Hole River Near Notch Bottom, Replaced Headgate and altered rocks in the diversion – Jim Olsen talked to Matt Raffety and he will be submitting a 310 permit and then the board will vote on next steps.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach gave updates on current grants and a possible bank restoration project. Zach talked to the board about sponsoring dinner for the Wildlife Speaker Series.
- *Motion to approve a \$600 budget for Dinner for the Wildlife Speaker Series by Billiette 2nd Tom, Motion Carried*
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for May by Tom 2nd by Carl, motion carried.*

Administrator Report

- There have been 6 mussel boats so far, including 2 that were headed to Flathead Lake.
- *Motion to apply for the FY 25 Admin Grant for the full amount by Billiette 2nd Tom, Motion Carried.*

Old Business

New Business

- Spring Board Meeting 6/12
- Liability Insurance- Cyber Coverage was removed and auto coverage price increased, overall the policy price went down.
- *Motion to donate \$50 to the Montana Biocontrol Project by Carl 2nd Billiette, Motion Carried.*
- MACD Dues – Every district is paying a flat rate of \$4,000, meaning ours doubled in price but DNRC is paying for \$3,500 of it out of our Admin Grant.
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Adjournment

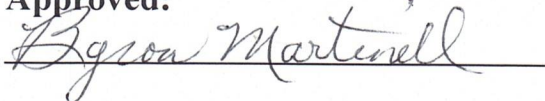
Meeting Adjourned at 8 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Upcoming Events

- Poindexter Weed Pull – May 28th
- BWC Fisheries Meeting – May 28th 6pm
- Sustainable Ranching Workshop- June 4-5
- Wildlife Speaker Series – June 13th 6pm
- Next meeting date – June 20th 6 pm

Approved:



Byron Martinell, Chairman