

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20th, 2025

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on February 20, 2025 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Harris Wheat, Rich Nordquist, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Marti Laknar, Emma, Jess Fields, Matt Jaeger, Jack Bazemore, Kelly Rowe, Paul Bramlett, Tom Wolfe, Bill Kempf, Scott Davis, Dori McNeill, Jason Rose, Garrett Vasa, Sean Claffey, JS Turner, and Jeff Slotta

Absent: Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, and Meg Smith,

Motion to excuse absences by Tom 2nd Harris, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve the January minutes by Tom 2nd by Rich, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

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

FWP – Tom Wolfe and Paul Bramlett – WIS updates, site leads will have a big part in training this year, the Snake is still mussel infected and Idaho is still trying to eradicate them.

NRCS – Garrett Vasa- Funding freezes have not affected contracts in BVHD county and they will be unfreezing soon

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma Fullerton- Working on estimating eradication costs for cheatgrass, separated out into watersheds to apply for funding more simply.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore precision agriculture and beef production workshop April 16th 10:30 am – 2 pm, master gardener had 40 people attend, there is a county wide meeting to discuss efforts in BVHD county

Range Committee – Meg reached out to the radio station to make room for an and would like Jess to create the ad.

Education and Outreach – Marti Laknar has applied for grant funding for 3 native plant gardens and is working on 2 more grants, a realtor workshop for 310 permitting and so many more workshops.

Motion to apply for the planning, project, and pollinator grant for the community garden by Tom, 2nd Carl, motion carried.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2416 JB Anderson, Blacktail Creek, Mandatory Stream Restoration from Flooding mitigation
Harris, Marti, and Matt did an after inspection, Tom also looked at the property, despite recent freezes the creek is staying in its banks and the minimal flooding that is happening is where it should be.
Harris motions that the project is complete and the violation process is complete, 2nd by Tom, motion carried.
- BCD 2418 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Bill Kempf, Red Rock Springs Roadside Ditch (borrow ditch), A portage request was submitted by Chris Brozell, Sky Jones (county attorney) wrote a letter on behalf of the CD stating that the portage request is being denied until the project is complete and final, at that point another portage request can be submitted.
- BCD 2428 William (Bill) Totten, Clapham and Bassette Ditch, Violation, Diverting water into a newly constructed pond. Jess and Matt have both called and not gotten anywhere. Ryan, one of the neighbors, allowed Matt to view the pond and it looks like its in a ditch but they cannot be for sure from 300 yards away and would still like to view it. If nothing else it is a water rights violation.
- BCD 2501 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Public Mile of Borrow Ditch Restoration, Kidd Creek
After the new plans were submitted and the site visit was completed the board is happy with the application.
Motion to approve with modifications by Tom 2nd Harris, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2502 Craig Hansen, Beaverhead River, Stream Restoration
The board discussed who will be doing the work and if they have done similar projects before or if they need extra guidance. Wade Hansen is doing the work and they believe he is fully capable.
Motion to approve with modifications by Harris 2nd Tom, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2503 and 2504 Dan Greenslade, Red Rock River, Sump box for Pivot, tabled until Spring.
- BCD 2508 Jeffrey Slotta, Culvert, South fork of White Creek
Motion to approve with modifications by Tom 2nd Harris, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2509 Karen Ward, Complaint, Sump Rehabilitation, Blacktail Deere Creek
A 310 permit was submitted in December and approved, the permit was only for the temporary sewage pipe across the creek, we have no jurisdiction over the complainant's concerns. They should have applied for a DEQ permit but are trying to get this done quickly without too much cost. The board suggests a courtesy letter to the applicant to inform them of the complaint, Jess will work on drafting one.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2431 Jay Hahncamp, Irrigation dam and Culvert removal, Big Hole River, waiting for an application
- BCD 2505 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Lost Trail Quad, Big Hole

- BCD 2506 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Elk Creek Quad, Big Hole
- BCD 2507 Southern Montana Telephone, Utilities Boring, Big Hole Battlefield Quad, 2505, 2506, 2507 lack details, we need depth under the creek and distance from the creek
Motion to table until more information is received by Tom 2nd Harris, motion carried.

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

Motion to approve Watershed finances for February minus HGL by Harris 2nd by Tom, motion carried.

Elkhorn grants are waiting on Sky Jones's (County Attorney) review of the request for proposals, Stone Creek is waiting on the contractors to be available at the same time, Grasshopper is waiting on SHPO review

Motion to request documentation for the HGL invoice by Harris, 2nd Tom, Motion Carried.

Administrator Report

- Watercraft Inspection Station Hiring – Interviews
February 25th 9 am-noon, 2-3 supervisors (Billiette, Tom, Rich)
February 23rd 3 pm, 2-3 supervisors (Billiette, Tom, Rich)

Old Business

New Business

- Sustainable Ranching Workshop
Motion to sponsor Jess making Lunch (\$500 in ingredients) by Tom 2nd Carl, Motion carried.
- Motion to adopt the strategic plan by Carl 2nd Harris, Motion Carried.
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Upcoming Events

Next meeting date – March 20th 6 pm

Sustainable Ranching Workshop – March 25th-26th

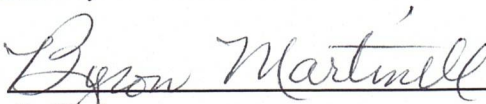
County Wide Meeting April 3rd, 4-H Building, noon

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved:



Byron Martinell, Chairman