

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on August 22, 2024 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Rich Nordquist, Jerry Meine, Harris Wheat, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Kelly Rowe, Zach Owen, Jess Fields, Emma Fullerton, Jack Bazemore, Chris Brozell

Absent: Billiette Brooks, Meg Smith, Dori McNeill, JS Turner
Motion to excuse absences by Carl 2nd Tom, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Dillon Martini was unable to make the meeting

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma has 4 new cheatgrass contracts for helicopter spraying at \$35/acre and some road spraying.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore is getting ready for his first Beaverhead County Fair, setting up an estate planning workshop and a full day applicators training for 6 credits.

Range Committee – Dori and Meg were unable to attend but Meg will get with Jess and Dori and work on planning a fall range tour or seminar.

Education and Outreach Coordinator Position- Jaime Cottom and Marti Laknar applied, interviews will be Tuesday August 27th.

Motion to allow the hiring committee to make the final decision on hiring by Carl 2nd Jerry motion carried.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2418 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Bill Kemph, Red Rock Springs Roadside Ditch (borrow ditch), 3 headgates and 11 sites.
No headway was made, a water use agreement has not been drafted. We should put in wording to allow public access in the 310 permit. Matt talked to his higher ups and the law says that anything manmade can be bypassed according to the highwater mark law.
- BCD 2421 Harris Wheat, Beaverhead River, Beaver Dam Removal
We discussed beaver conflict management practices but they would not work for this project.
Motion to Approve following Matt's emailed recommendations by Tom 2nd Rich, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2422 Chad and Taylor Mussard, Beaverhead River, Irrigation Sump Maintenance Permit and BCD 2423 Chad and Taylor Mussard, Beaverhead River, Irrigation Ditch Maintenance Permit. Turned in the day before the meeting, tabled till next month.

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2410 Raffety Violation, Big Hole River Near Notch Bottom, Replaced Headgate and altered rocks in the diversion – 2 applications have been turned in for the headgates and there will be a site visit on September 5th along with the Kalsta site visit.
- BCD 2420 Erik Kalsta, Big Hole River, Emergency Diversion Repair
- BCD 2424 Raffety, Big Hole River upper south side, headgate replacement and diversion

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach gave an update on the letter of noncompliance from DNRC and all of our sponsored grants from the Big Hole.
- *Motion to send Zach to the MWCC Fall Tours by Tom, 2nd Harris, Motion Carried.*
- *Motion to apply for a water smart grant by Tom, 2nd Harris, Motion Carried.*
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for August by Tom 2nd by Jerry, motion carried.*
- *Motion to accept Rowe Excavation's Bid for the Grasshopper project by Tom, 2nd Carl, Motion carried.*

Administrator Report

- There have been 9 mussel boats so far, over 3,000 Inspections, 1,159 High Risk Inspections – Jerry asked about coverage for Henry's Lake and island park, Jess will ask FWP.

Old Business

- Area 6 meeting- Zach and Jess are going and the supervisors will check their calendars, Jess will send a reminder one week before the registration deadline.

New Business

- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

Public Comment – Chris Brozell stayed calm until the end of the meeting, a timer was started when he started talking, he spoke for 8 minutes and 11 seconds. His concerns are the Red

Rocks Springs Ranch project taking away public access, he was informed that the CD has no say on stream access or water rights. His next concern was the rock dam that is being made to keep water out of the Red Rock River, he filed a complaint last year and it was investigated but we were unable to find the culprit after talking to contractors and land owners surrounding it, we had the contractor that had a neighboring project remove the rock dam. Apparently, the dam is back and Chris would like us to prosecute Dave Adams for the rock dam but Dave said he didn't do it last time we talked to him and why would he want the dam there since it keeps the water away from his water rights. Chris was glad to see that we do have concerns over the Red Rock Springs Ranch Project

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Upcoming Events

Next meeting date – September 19th 6 pm

Area 6 Meeting – September 24th 10 am

Estate Planning – September 25th

Approved: Byron Martinell

Byron Martinell, Chairman