

# *Beaverhead Conservation District*

## *Meeting Minutes*

Thursday, July 20, 2023

### **Call to order**

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on July 20, 2023 in the NRCS office.

### **Roll call**

**The following persons were present:** Byron Martinell, Jerry Meine, Billiette Brooks, Tom Miller, Rich Nordquist, Jess Fields, Zach Owen, Kelly Rowe, Pat Fosse, Meg Smith

**Absent:** Carl Malesich, Harris Wheat, and JS Turner

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

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

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

### **Summary of Finances.**

- *Motion to approve summary of finances for July by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom, motion carried.*

**NRCS** – Sean was unable to attend.

**Range Committee** – Jessica Murray, Meg Smith

- Pat Fosse came and asked for suggestions for pasture walk and fieldtrips around Dillon for her Range class. Dave Scott, Jerry Meine, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller were all suggested along with Matt Jones for soil testing.

### **310 Business**

#### **Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger**

- BCD 2308 R & D Ranch Complaint, Chris Brozell, Red Rock River/Kidd Creek  
Looks like it might be a violation, it is a silt trap from the looks of it. We will do a site visit next week with Jason Rose.
- BCD 2309 Ross Hansen Ranch, Emergency, redirect water to headgate, Red Rock River  
Project was straight forward and there was no discussion. Site Visit Next Week.  
*Motion to approve pending Matt's site visit by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry, motion Carried.*
- Jim Pilon came in to ask about a 310 permit for an old river channel that has not had water in it for years. Matt will do a site visit to see if it needs a 310.
- Mussard's were doing some work on their ditch without a permit, Kelly will reach out to them and remind them that they need a maintenance permit.

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

## Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach has been waiting on grant contracts, stone creek nutrient wetland, Red Rock River Irrigation Improvement grant has two weirs that the Ditch rider would like replaced but have yet to convince the land owner. Wildlife speaker series will be catered by the college, Tom Miller is donating \$500 towards the dinner.
- *Motion to approve Watershed finances for July by Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, motion carried.*
- *Motion to donate an additional \$500 to the wildlife speaker series dinner by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom, Motion Carried.*

## Administrator Report

- The watercraft inspection station has had 2222 inspections this year and 693 were high risk. The inspectors have done 134 decontaminations, and found 10 mussel boats. For July we averaged 36 inspections per day.
- Jess would like to be part of the Montana Conservation Districts Employee Organization Involvement and attend the SET training in Fort Peck on August 27-29<sup>th</sup>.
- *Motion to pay time and mileage for Jess to be an Area Representative for MCDEO by Billiette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, Motion Carried*
- *Motion to pay time and mileage for SET Training by Billiette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, Motion Carried.*

## Old Business

- Sagebrush Partnership Employee
- The hang up was a vehicle so the decision was made not to have a vehicle for the first year then if the position is going well and the employee is trustworthy, we will work on getting a vehicle for the second year.  
*Motion to hire a sagebrush partnership employee for cheatgrass management without a vehicle by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> by Billiette, motion carried.*

## New Business

- Employee Reviews  
*Motion to Give Jess a \$3/hr raise and Zach a \$2/hr raise with \$3,000 bonus each by Jerry 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, Motion Carried.*
- Personnel Policy Updates  
*Motion to approve employee definitions and sick leave payout in the personnel policy by Billiette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry, Motion Carried.*
- Employee Appreciation (pizza, soda, sweatshirt, flashlight)
- *Motion to buy pizza and soda for two days of employee appreciation by Billiette 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich, Motion Carried.*
- Natural VS Irrigation Sloughs

All sloughs were natural in the beginning and therefore fall under 310 jurisdiction because of a lawsuit in Bitterroot. Anything that was once natural is considered jurisdiction no matter if it was made into a ditch later on.

- January-June Mileage
- Comment Period for the Draft Drought Management Plan
- DNRC report- Hailey Graf (Attached)

### **Upcoming Events**

- Wildlife speaker series- Depot theater July 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm
- Next meeting date- August 17th, 2023
- Jess will not be here for the scheduled October meeting; meeting will be moved back one week. The meeting will be October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comment**

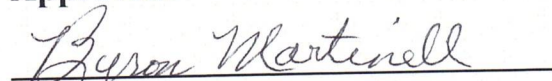
- No public in attendance.

### **Adjournment**

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm*

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

### **Approved:**



Byron Martinell, Chairman