

Beaverhead Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

Call to order

Byron Martinell called to order the regular meeting of the Beaverhead Conservation District at 6:00 pm on October 17, 2024 in the NRCS office.

Roll call

The following persons were present: Byron Martinell, Rich Nordquist, Jerry Meine, Harris Wheat, Carl Malesich, Tom Miller, Zach Owen, Marti Laknar, Emma Fullerton, Jess Fields, Dori McNeill, and Jack Bazemore **Public:** Chris Brozell
Absent: Billiette Brooks, Meg Smith, JS Turner, and Kelly Rowe
Motion to excuse absences by Carl 2nd Tom, Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chris Brozell would like his exit removed from the minutes.

Motion to amend the minutes by Tom 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the September minutes as amended by Harris 2nd by Carl, motion carried.

Summary of Finances.

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

NRCS – Garrett Vasa- He is able to do a direct hire for the soil con and range con positions in Sheridan and Dillon, the Equip Deadline is October 25th, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) deadline is December 27th.

Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership – Emma is working on contracts for cheatgrass spraying by helicopter, the contracts are signed but fires keep stealing the helicopters.

Beaverhead County Extension – Jack Bazemore is working on a pesticide class for November 12th from 5-7 and the Stockman's association dinner

Range Committee –Meg was unable to attend. Dori met with Jess and discussed her roll with the district, she is thinking of some worthwhile workshops.

Education and Outreach Coordinator – Marti Laknar is working on getting locally grown vegetables into schools and creating a program for the summer garden management. She is working with culinary teachers to use local grown produce and meat. She toured Gallatin CD's Garden and education program and met with locals from the college and community to discuss

large scale composting. She toured a compostable straw manufacturer in Dillon and brought the owner Anthony Jaber to the meeting to talk about his compostable straws and how they're made.

310 Business

Beaverhead – Matt Jaeger

- BCD 2212 Double C Ranch Holdings, Pond after photos
- BCD 2418 Red Rock Springs Ranch, Bill Kempf, Red Rock Springs Roadside Ditch (borrow ditch)
A public comment was submitted by Chris Brozell as a portage request, Jess talked with DNRC and they said that districts have no control over portage and Brozell was informed of this.
- BCD 2426 Dragging Y Cattle, Dunlap Creek, Replace Failing Diversion
Tom makes some suggestions on wing walls, Luke accepted the suggestions
Motion to Approve pending Matt's review by Jerry 2nd Harris, motion Carried.
- BCD 2428 William (Bill) Totten, Clapham and Bassette Ditch, Violation, Diverting water into a newly constructed pond.
Jess call Bill and he said that it flows out of and back into a ditch, the board would still like a site visit. There is a lot of spring creeks in the area and we need to do our do diligence.
- BCD 2429 Heath Martinell, Headgate Replacement, Big Sheep Creek
Motion to approve by Tom, 2nd Jerry, Motion carried
- BCD 2430 Pete Hansen, Headgate Replacement, Red Rock River
Motion to approve by Jerry, 2nd Harris, Motion carried

Big Hole - Jim Olsen

- BCD 2420 Erik Kalsta, Big Hole River, Emergency Diversion Repair
Motion to approve by Rich, 2nd Carl, Motion Carried.
- BCD 2431 Jay Hahncamp, Irrigation dam and Culvert removal, Big Hole River, Violation- application coming

Beaverhead Watershed Grants

- Zach gave an update on the letter of noncompliance from DNRC and working with the county attorney to get us back into good standing. Zach is also working projects on Moose Creek, Red Rock, Elkhorn, and Grasshopper.
Motion to approve Watershed finances for October by Tom 2nd by Rich, motion carried.

Administrator Report

- There have been 9 mussel boats so far, 3545 Inspections. We are closing the station on October 27th and then Jess will be doing exit interviews on October 28th. The fall partner meeting is October 29th and 30th in Great Falls.

Old Business

- No Supervisor elections needed.

New Business

- MACD Convention – November 19-21
Motion to send Jess, Marti, and any supervisors that are interested to convention in Great Falls by Tom 2nd Harris, Motion Carries.
- McCone CD Resolution 24-02: NACD encourages NRCS to return some hiring responsibilities back to individual states
Motion to support by Carl 2nd Rich, motion carried.
- Gallatin CD Resolution 24-01: Support Reducing the Use of Neonicotinoids in Montana
Motion to abstain by Carl 2nd Rich, motion carried.
- Richland CD Resolution 24-04: Managed Aquifer Recharge Potential in Montana
Motion to support by Carl 2nd Rich, motion carried.
- Sheridan CD Resolution 24-03: MTDOT/BNSF Invasive Species Cooperation
Motion to support by Tom 2nd Harris, motion carried.
- DNRC report- Catey Bauer (Attached)

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

Upcoming Events

MACD Convention – Nov 19-21

Next meeting date – December 12th 6 pm

Strategic Planning Meeting December 12th 5pm

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Fields

Approved: Byron Martinell
Byron Martinell, Chairman