



Stillwater Conservation District

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December 3rd, 2024 Minutes

Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room (334 N. 9th Street, Columbus, MT)

Meeting called to order by: Bob at 6:08 pm

Supervisors: Robert Van Oosten (*Chairman*), Noel Keogh (*Vice Chairman*), Butch Behrent (*Treasurer*), Steve Story (*Secretary*), Ben Walker (*Urban Supervisor*), Nathan Jones (*Urban Supervisor*),

Supervisors Approved Absent: Darryl Thompson (*Associate Member*)

Others Invited: Sharon Flemetis (*District Admin*), Celeste Barnett (*310/Volunteer Coordinator*), Garrett Larson (NRCS)

Guests: Clinton Giesick, Aimee Bailey, Jerry Knox

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from **November 12th, 2024** Meeting: **Ben** **Seconded: Nate**
Discussion: None **Vote: Approved**

Public Comment

* 3 Minute Limit * The Public will conduct themselves in a professional manner or be asked to leave.*

Public Comment by Jerry Knox representing the Danford Ditch occurred from 6:10-6:26. He wanted clarification on why the Danford Ditch is being told they are out of compliance on their EWP Project. He was informed that the Emergency work done by the ditch required permitting by not just Carbon Conservation District, but they also need 318, USACE, and Floodplain after the fact permits. SCD must have copies of all of these permits in order to stay in compliance. SCD provided him clarification on the differences between the 2 grants the ditch has received, EWPP and ARPA. He will work on getting those permits and providing them to SCD.

REPORTS

Robert "Bob" Van Oosten – Reported on MACD Convention; it was interesting; he also attended the MT Salinity meeting, and they are concerned for the future of their DNRC funding. He attended the following meetings and provided the information distributed for

the Supervisors and Staff to read: Supervisors guide to compliance, accountability, & succession, & 310 violation workflow. He also attended business meetings and the banquet; he noted the convention was well attended by NRCS but not by districts. He also met with DNRC during convention about the forestry grant.

Butch Behrent – None

Noel Keogh– None

Steve Story – None

Ben Walker– Planning Board was cancelled

Nate Jones – None

Darryl Thompson – Absent

Garrett Larson– NRCS is working on 68 applications including ventenata, tree thinning, high tunnels, and CSP. Unsure if they will be able to fund all of them as the new budget has not been released.

Sharon Flemetis – Will be unavailable and on vacation 12/16/2024 thru 12/20/2024

Celeste Barnett – None

Any Other Invited Guests – None present

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Presented by Sharon Flemetis

Motion: **To accept report & pay warrants - Nate** **Seconded:** **Noel**

Discussion: Still wanting an audit and actively searching for an affordable and available accountant **Vote:** **Approved**

GRANT UPDATES

EWP- Letter to CCD Board requesting to receive notice of any future permit applications for EWP projects. Board signed and it will be sent.

Mendenhall – Construction & final report submitted, waiting on reimbursement

Forestry Armstrong Creek – have the 60% design, have an upcoming meeting to discuss

ARPA Danford/ARPA Orchard- Danford is in construction. Orchard bid package is being created hoping for spring construction before irrigation is needed.

2025 Grant Opportunities – SCD has been made aware of the possibility of funding available for planning grants for ditches with issues. There is no guarantee of funding, the funding agency (RRG) will rank the applications and decide. We've been calling ditches to make them aware and putting them in touch with the Engineer who is organizing the requests as needed.

Motion: **To sponsor future RRG Ditch Planning grants if they are awarded – Nate**

Seconded: **Ben** **Discussion:** None **Vote:** **Approved**

NEW BUSINESS

Declaratory Ruling Hearing Date -

Motion: To hold the hearing January 7th, 2025 at 5:00pm - Nate Second: Noel

Discussion: Clarified that this is of significant interest to the public and we will proceed accordingly, will have a larger location available if it seems it will be needed.

Vote: Approved

Newspaper Interviews December 13th - Nate & Bob can be available

Board Meeting Training December 11 at 5:30-7:30 Civic Center- Ben, Bob & Nate will attend

Consent Agenda/Governance Calendar- Process of using a consent agenda was explained and discussed, also discussed the benefits of using a governance calendar to keep continuity. Bob noted that they had training on this at Convention and the few districts that use it do like it. It's a time saver and any item can be removed from the consent agenda by a supervisor for any reason. We will try it the next few months and see if we like it.

OLD BUSINESS

Ditch Users Luncheon- Motion: To book the date of 1/23/25 and plan the event - Nate

Second: Ben

Discussion: Black Beard Construction Offered to Donate the catered lunch; we will ask R Heart Catering to cater it.

Vote: Approved

Gallatin CD Visit - Postponed til spring

Storage Shed - Has arrived at 406 Excavating's shop, they will insulate it and put in a wooden floor; plan on placing behind the USDA building in March when the ground is thawed, and it can be properly leveled; CHS Art Department does not want to do a mural so we will leave it as is for now.

Rain Barrel Workshop - Plan for spring; still acquiring barrels; will approach local business for possible location.

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Rec'd	Decision
24-040	Lane	Stillwater	Bank Stabilization	11/6/24	Unavailable for site visit, will present in January.
24-041	BTR	Stillwater	Riprap Repair	11/7/24	Motion to Approve - Nate Second: Noel Discussion: None Vote: Approved; Butch Abstained

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VIOLATIONS/COMPLAINTS

#23-052V Judy Krone – Will have update at next meeting

#23-064V Montana Rail Link & #23-070V Montana Rail Link – Will have update at next meeting

Save The Dates

December 25, 2024 – Christmas

January 1, 2025 – New Years Day

January 6, 2025 - Site Inspections

January 7, 2025 – Monthly Board Meeting

January 20, 2025 – MLK Day

January 23, 2025 – Ditch Users Luncheon

January 30, 2025 - Site Inspections

February 4, 2025 – Monthly Board Meeting

February 17, 2025 – Presidents Day

February 27, 2025 - Site Inspections

March 4, 2025 – Monthly Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Nate SECONDED: Noel

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:36pm

Minutes Approved on:

Minutes Approved By *Nate* Date: 2/4/2024

310 Applications must be received by 12pm seven days prior to the meeting and have been inspected to be reviewed. Agenda items must be submitted to the CD Office by Noon the Monday before the scheduled meeting. Agendas are available at the CD Office upon request and at stillwatercd.org once finalized. All meetings of the CD are open to the public. Meetings may be recorded by the district for note taking purposes and then will be destroyed once minutes are approved. Once approved the minutes will be available at stillwatercd.org and the County Clerk and Recorders Office.