



Stillwater Conservation District

Po Box 48 * 334 North 9th Street Columbus MT

406-322-5359 ext 101 * sharon.flemetis@mt.nacdn.net

November 12th, 2024 Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by: **Bob** at **12:08pm**

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

Supervisors Approved Absent:

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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from **October 1st, 2024 Meeting:** **Steve**
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.*

None

REPORTS

Robert "Bob" Van Oosten – Planning board approved new by-laws as it is now also the zoning & Board of adjustment. Twisted R Ranch subdivision has received a variance for wells.

Butch Behrent – Watershed Meeting 11/13/24 at 6pm

Noel Keogh– Watershed meeting is a potluck dinner

Steve Story – Missed the River Council Meeting

Ben Walker– None

Nate Jones – None

Darryl Thompson – None

Sharon Flemetis – None

Celeste Barnett – None

Any Other Invited Guests – None Present

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Presented by Sharon Flemetis

Motion to approve: Steve Seconded: Nate

Discussion: Bills have been submitted to NRCS but we haven't received the reimbursement, so they haven't been paid. Quick Books is currently down, subscription needs renewed but the cost has gone up. **Noel amends the motion to include paying warrants Seconded: Nate Vote: Approved**

Motion to purchase QuickBooks Subscription: Ben Seconded: Steve

Discussion: Look for software that would allow us to keep our accounting on our hard drive as QB is updating to an online only model in 2025 **Vote: Approved**

GRANT UPDATES

EWP- Construction is done on all projects; still waiting on NRCS reimbursements to pay contractors & engineers their final payments. Board may contact NRCS to ask why reimbursements are being held. Fromberg landowners are unhappy with the project. CCD is still inserting themselves into the issue even though they have no jurisdiction over EWP; it's causing a problem.

Mendenhall – Working on Final Report

Forestry Armstrong Creek – Just prior to the meeting our Admin received a call from the Ranger, The Ranger has had numerous requests from CCD and now from DNRC to see our Good Neighbor Agreement. They cannot give it to them without it being redacted. She will be telling them to request it from us. We have reservations about releasing the financial information in order to protect the integrity of the bidding process. There is no reason for CCD or NRCS to have this contract or have anything to do with the project. Project is sponsored by SCD & funded by the Forest Service. Ongoing issues with CCD inserting themselves into our projects. We need an outside party to look over the design and information to assess if it is feasible.

ARPA Danford/ARPA Orchard- Danford is in Construction; Orchard should be ready for bid next month with deadline for completion 12/31/2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the City/County Planning Board-

**Motion to appoint Ben Walker to the City County Planning Board: Butch
Seconded: Steve Discussion: None Vote: Approved**

Tree Store – We have launched an online newsletter to provide info about Tree Sales and other SCD activities. We have several subscribers so far. We have launched an online tree store. All of our tree sales will be online this year to streamline the process. People who do not wish to shop or pay online can come into the office to place their order via the iPad and pay with cash or check.

Wix POS Card Reader- Card reader needed in order to facilitate in office sales via credit card. Many people prefer to pay this way and can be used for trees, landowner maps, future workshops.

Motion to purchase card reader hardware: Ben
Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved

Thank You Cards- For donations to the Area Meeting, signed by all board members and staff.

Ditch Users Luncheon – Still working on date

2025 Soil Symposium – Sharon requests to go this year, will apply for a grant to pay fees.

Motion for Sharon to attend Soil Symposium: Noel
Seconded: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved

Legal Matter – We have been asked for a Declaratory Ruling on Permit #23-066. As per our Model Rules the request has merit and hearing needs to proceed. 1st step is to appoint a hearing officer

Motion to appoint Ben Walker as the hearing officer: Steve
Seconded: Noel Discussion: None Vote: Approved

DNRC Procedure Clarification – This matter was resolved prior to the meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Area Meeting – Everything went well, financials were included in the financial report.

Gallatin CD Visit – Still working on a rescheduled date

Storage Shed – Ben Walker has donated a 20' metal Conex, he will insulate it prior to delivering it, a pad out back will need to be made for it to sit on, Nate Jones offered to help with that. We are very thankful for the much-needed storage.

Rain Barrel Workshop – Will be held in the Spring.

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Rec'd	Decision
24-039	Circle T	Stillwater	Bank Stabilization	10/23/24	Motion: Approve with the modification of a 12' riparian buffer of un-mowed

					vegetation Noel Second: Butch Discussion: Interested to see how the PALS hold up Vote: Approved
--	--	--	--	--	---

VIOLATIONS/COMPLAINTS

#23-052V Judy Krone – No Report

#23-064V Montana Rail Link & #23-070V Montana Rail Link – No Report

Save The Dates

November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day

November 19-21 – MACD Convention

November 28, 2024 – Thanksgiving

December 2, 2024 - Site Inspections

December 3, 2024 – Monthly Board Meeting

December 25, 2024 – Christmas

January 1, 2025 – New Years Day


January 2, 2025 - Site Inspections

January 7, 2025 – Monthly Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Butch SECONDED: Nate

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 2:20pm

Minutes Approved on:

Minutes Approved By  Date: 12/3/2024

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.