

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on April 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm. The 310 Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by Jason Camp. Supervisors present were Sherwin Leep, Bill Wright, John Venhuizen, Michael Hansen, and Loren Blanksma. John Schutter and Bob Logar were absent.

Those present: Justin Meissner-NRCS, Chris Mahony-NRCS, David Moser-MFWP, Brad Bauer-Extension, Matt Johnson-RESPEC, Mike Rotar-RESPEC, and Peter Brown-GVLT. Guests present: Elyse End, David & Holly Jessen, Bill Skinner, Tom Hughes, Buddy Drake, and Kathryn Kelly.

310 Inspection Reports: Decision

Inspection Date: 4/11/2017	Application Number: GD009-17
Applicant:	Elyse End
Landowner:	Elyse End; David & Holly Jessen; Tim Crawford; Cowan & Skinner Ranch Co
Perennial Stream:	Story Creek
Types of Projects:	Channel Alteration; Excavation/Pit; Fish Habitat; Wetland Alteration; Dredging; Placement of Fill; and Pond
Purpose:	Maintenance project to remove silt in the Story Spring Creek channel that has accumulated since it was reconstructed and narrowed in 2011. The accumulated silt in the channel was removed down to the armored cobble base to provide high quality trout habitat and increase stream velocities to transport incoming sediment to the East Gallatin River. Excavated silt would be placed in borrow ponds along the stream floodplain and off-site trout pound on the End Property.
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments:	This is an artificial system that will need to be maintained and dredged every 5 to 10 years to maintain pool depth. Benefit to larger ecosystem is unknown. Decrease temperature could be a benefit to the Gallatin River.

Discussion

M Johnson: There is history in the reach with neighbors working together. The last project in 2011 narrowed the channel to increase velocity. Since then, there has been significant fill in the creek. The upstream irrigation diversion head gate is no longer in use.

D Moser: He wondered about the philosophical benefits of the continual maintenance of streams.

B Drake: He mentioned that the correct width to depth ratio produces high velocity to move sediment in streams.

E End: Approached by state in 2010. Story Creek was 10-15 feet wide; shallow with very few fish. They were encouraged to reduce the creek to provide fish spawning habitat. Neighbors worked together and submitted application in 2011. The creek was narrowed to 6-10 feet. They saw a 5-8 degree temperature drop in the water and saw many rainbows and browns return. The next two years were very hot and the creek had a flush of weeds that began to catch sediment.

T Hughes: The system was working well before the weeds exploded in the creek. There is a lot of sediment loading in the creek by cattle upstream.

B Wright: Could you use a larger sediment catch basin? If you have a trap area, it could capture sediment there instead of having to dredge the whole stream.

B Skinner: Maybe they could re-use the fill pond on his property.

J Meissner: Perhaps upstream ranchers could use NRCS help with programs that move cattle away from riparian areas.

S Leep: Move to approve; M Hansen – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approved as Proposed

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Inspection Date: 4/11/2017 Application Number: GD005-17
Applicant: Jeremy Olson, PE—Gaston Engineering
Landowner: Greg Reyes
Perennial Stream: Baker Creek Overflow
Types of Projects: Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction; Road Construction/Maintenance; Water Well/Cistern;
New Residential Structure; Wetland Alteration/Utilities
Purpose: Residential living unit along Baker Creek; construct a residential living unit, on-site septic
and well, along with driveway(s) necessary to access the home. Utilize an existing culvert
crossing to provide access to proposed home site.
Inspection Recommendations: Not a project

Discussion

D Moser: Original application had bridges, but new application changed to use existing culverts. The road to the home site did not cross any perennial streams maybe the overflows. The home site is not in the 100- year flood plain.

B Wright: Move to declare not a project; S Leep – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Not a project

Inspection Date: 4/13/2017 Application Number: GD006-17
Applicant: NorthWestern Energy
Landowner: NorthWestern Energy
Perennial Stream: Madison River
Types of Projects: Temporary Construction Access; Utilities
Purpose: To install a temporary access to the entrance of the outlet pipe in Hebgen Dam to
facilitate the rehabilitation of the pipe.
Inspection Recommendations: Approve as proposed
Inspection Comments: Proposed plan is a good approach to minimize disturbance to bed and banks of channel.

Discussion

M Rotar: Applicant has been rehabilitating the dam. They built a new spillway; rehabilitated the pipe under the dam that is about 100 years old. They are using super sacks and building a temporary access road to finish working on the pipe.

B Wright: How large is the outlet pipe? Answer: about 12'

M Hansen: Move to approve as proposed; S Leep – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approve as proposed

Inspection Date: 4/11/2017 Application Number: GD007-17
Applicant: West Gallatin Canal Company
Landowner: Doug Black
Perennial Stream: Gallatin River
Type of Project: Irrigation Structure
Purpose: Replace and repair water return structure above the measuring weir flume.
Inspection Recommendations: Approved with modifications
Inspection Comments: Place a coffer dam along edge of right bank of river. Suggest using sand bags or super sacks
to isolate work area from main flow of river.

Discussion

M Rotar: Main diversion of canal in the Gallatin River; it is about 100 years old; will replace the floor and walls with concrete.

S Leep: Move to approve with modification & 15-day waiver; M Hansen – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approve with modifications & 15-day waiver

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Inspection Date: 4/11/2017	Application Number: GD008-17
Applicant:	James Yocum
Landowner:	Trudy Brence
Perennial Stream:	Tributary of Baxter Creek
Type of Project:	Irrigation Structure
Purpose:	To replace dam and head gate damaged by automobile accident.
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval with modifications
Inspection Comments:	Wood structure, work in dry as much as possible. Sandbags + pump: pump away from creek. Recommend notch in board to pass fish.

Discussion

D Moser: Old structure; applicant unsure if they were going to use wood or concrete; he recommended wood; requesting a 15-day waiver because the water will be turned on April 28th.

M Hansen: Move to approve with modifications & 15-day waiver; S Leep – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approve with modifications & 15-day waiver

310 New Business:

- a. 310 permit jurisdiction in Bozeman city limits
Inside the 1949 boundaries, the 310 jurisdiction falls to the county commissioners. Rick Hickson, City Engineer may be the contact person. CORRECTION: 124 Permit through MT FWP

B Bauer suggested that the Watershed Council could help with public relations and education on 310 permitting in Bozeman.

- b. Follow-up inspections for 2016 season
A tentative date of October 19th (date of October board meeting) has been scheduled. Locations should be selected at the September board meeting.

310 Old Business: None

Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business: None

310 Meeting adjourned at 5:33pm

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Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from March 2017 were reviewed. S Leep made the motion to approve the minutes; M Hansen seconded; Voted: motion carries

Guest: B Bauer mentioned that Emily Lockard had resigned. That position, Agriculture Specialist, will be posted next week. They hope to fill that position by July 1. There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) money with the county. It is currently at legal review and he hopes to receive it by the end of the month.

He requested one person from the GCD board to be on the hiring committee. M Hansen agreed to be on the committee.

As Chairman with the Watershed Council, he is willing to do some outreach and education on 310s in Bozeman. He may contact the County Commissioners and the City Engineer, Richard Hickson.

New Business:

a. Youth Education Coordinator Job Description

Added to job description: "Up to 20 hours" a week

S Leep made the motion to accept the job description with the change; B Wright seconded;

Voted: motion carries

Job Opening was posted locally on April 5, 2017 for 24 hours. There were no applications submitted.

E&O Center:

B Bauer mentioned that Dara Palmer could help with plant identification; Toby Day, MSU Extension Horticulture specialist designed xeriscape plantings; and C Mahony installed irrigation lines. They could be resources to the new Youth Education Coordinator.

b. FY 2017-2018 Budget

Change to budget: From Contracted Services to Payroll Expense-MSU Shared Employee \$11,000.00.

J Venhuisen asked if we are planning to have an annual banquet. J Meissner mentioned that Broadwater CD just held an Ag Appreciation Day Dinner with 300 participants. They involved 4-H and FFA. He suggested GCD contact Denise Thompson for more information.

c. Annual Work Plan: Postponed

d. Montana Flex Account

M Hansen made the motion to close the Manhattan Bank Montana Flex Account; J Venhuisen seconded; Voted: motion carries

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e. Two signatures on the Manhattan Bank Checking Account

The auditors recommended two signatures for checks. Mary Hendrix to order 2 line checks. M Hansen made the motion to approve two signatures on checks and to place order for new checks; S Leep seconded; Voted: motion carries

e. March Health Insurance Premium: No action to be taken

f. 2017 MACD Convention

Valley County Conservation District withdrew hosting the 2017 MACD Convention in Glasgow. Elena Evans, Executive Director-MACD called to ask if GCD would be willing to step in and host. After much discussion, B Wright made the motion to assist MACD and host the 2017 Convention in Bozeman; J Venhuizen seconded; Voted: motion carries

g. Verizon cell phone

B Wright made the motion to purchase a District cell phone; S Leep seconded; Voted: motion carries

Old Business

a. Dues

The Board is still awaiting a detailed financial report from MACD prior to paying dues. The report should be from the most recent fiscal year with categories itemized.

Grants/Agreements/Contract Report

NRCS: Justin Meissner: Camp Creek Proposal

The project area will be on Camp Creek Road and Norris Road. This is within the NWQI Watershed. He asked if the District would consider sponsoring a 223 grant to help offset some of the costs that the landowner will incur. The 223 grant will pay for nutrient sampling, flow meters and staff time.

M Hansen made the motion to sponsor the 223 grant with a 5% admin fee; J Venhuizen seconded; Voted: motion carries

He also asked if it would be feasible to purchase three more flow meters for Godfrey Creek and Jim Beck's time. He charges \$20/per hour + mileage.

M Hansen made the motion to purchase three flow meters and to hire Jim Beck for installation /monitoring; J Venhuizen seconded; Voted: motion carries

Well-Testing Cost Share Program

M Hendrix asked if the District paid 50-50 for the well-testing cost share. J Venhuisen said that the District pays up to \$40.00 per applicant.

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Cost Share Program

Kathryn Kelly presented her weed spraying cost share application. This will be used to mitigate weeds on Gabriel Ditch. Contractors working on the Axtell property had removed vegetation and weeds are going to be a problem. She is planning to hire John Huyser to spray. He will use either an ATV or with a backpack sprayer. They would like to start this project no later than mid-May. S Leep made the motion to approve the cost-share application; J Venhuizen seconded; Voted: motion carries.

Staff Report: Written Report

CD Reports: Planning Boards

L Blanksma reported that he had attended a meeting in January where the Churchill Subdivision development was discussed. This was denied.

On April 11, he attended a meeting where there was discussion on the Longhorn Subsequent Minor was postponed. The Genesis Business Park: Applicant wanted to put in a coffee shop on 1.78 acres and asked if the zoning could be changed from residential office to neighborhood services. The Planning Board will make a recommendation to approve the change.

NRCS Reports

Chris Mahony gave an annual Civil Rights Review to the Board.

Snowpack Report

Gallatin	87%
Jefferson	100%
Madison	104%
Headwaters Missouri	92%

Applications: There was a contract review today and they have 5-6 contracts totaling \$900,000:
2 RCPP for \$220,000
3 NWQI for \$510,000
1 Drought for \$155,000

They are working on upcoming programs including irrigation improvement, flow meters, cover crops, and intensive grazing to name a few.

With the departure of E Lockard-MSU, is it possible for the ¼ position MSU/GCD employee assist small acreage landowners? He is willing to help-out in the interim and as a backup.

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Accounting

M Hansen made the motion to payment of invoices; reviewed deposits and credit card statements. S Leep seconded; Voted: motion carries

Treasurer's Report

M Hansen made the motion to approve the P&L, Balance Sheets and Deposit Detail; J Venhuizen seconded; Voted: motion carries

CD Seminars/Workshops

B Wright attended the Mega fires screening in Bozeman and mentioned that there was a large turnout. He thought that it might be a good idea for the CD to host a "Fire Safe" workshop. J Venhuizen mentioned adding an urban forestry interface component.

Correspondence and Handouts: None

Public Comment on District Business: None

Adjournment of Meeting

J Camp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and everything seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Minutes approved by Jason Camp, Chairman

Date