

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2017

The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on May 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm. Jason Camp called the 310 meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Supervisors present: Sherwin Leep, Bill Wright, John Venhuizen, John Schutter, Mike Hansen, Bob Logar and Loren Blanksma. Staff: Mary Hendrix.

Those present: Justin Meissner-NRCS, Chris Mahony-NRCS, David Moser-MFWP, and Mike Rotar-RESPEC. Guests present: Elena Evans-MACD and Laura Demmel-NACD.

Elena Evans thanked the Board for agreeing to host this year's MACD Convention. The Convention will be at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman November 14-16. M Hendrix and she went on a site visit prior to the CD meeting and felt that the venue will work well for the event. M Hendrix asked if any Supervisor would consider being on a Convention Committee. B Wright, S Leep, and J Venhuizen agreed to serve on it. E Evans asked that the Convention Committee consider the following items: an opening speaker; someone to sing/recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem; field trip possibilities; sponsors and vendors; auctioneer; other speakers and ideas for breakout sessions. The keynote speaker for the final night dinner has been arranged. DNRC will pay for the speaker fees and MACD will provide for the lodging and air/transportation costs. MACD will also contract with the hotel for food and meeting space; secure transportation for field trips; and incur all auctioneer costs. The staff and MACD Board will be on hand to provide input on speakers and breakout sessions; registration and other duties during Convention. She provided the board with the Draft MACD & SWCDM P&L, Balance Sheets, IRS tax forms including 990s. The final board approved financials will be provided at the Spring Board Meeting in Helena June 12-14.

310 Inspection Reports: Decision

Inspection Date: 5/9/2017	Application Number: GD010-17
Applicant:	Scott Jones
Landowner:	Sue and Carol Vanderlinder
Perennial Stream:	Thompson Spring Creek
Types of Projects:	Channel Alteration; Fish Habitat; and Channel/Stream Habitat Restoration
Purpose:	To restore channel geomorphic and hydraulic function as well as native aquatic habitat to approximately 3,510 linear feet of Thompson Spring Creek and the surround floodplain and natural wetland corridor. As part of this Phase II watershed corridor restoration effort, a small feeder spring (575 LF) and a historic pond drain ditch (484 LF), located on the uppermost reach of property immediately north of Hamilton Road are also proposed channel/habitat restoration
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments:	Project looks good

Discussion

M Rotar: This is Phase 2 of the project where they are narrowing up Thompson Creek. They may go deeper and more narrower moving forward.

B Wright: Are there any pools?

M Rotar: There are some pool excavations, but mainly this is a narrowing project.

B Wright: Are there any other solutions to accommodate fisheries like a stilling pool?

D Moser: They will still need to dredge stilling pools.

S Leep: Are there cattle pastures?

M Rotar/D Moser: There are horses, but they have not seen any cattle. The riparian area looks fine.

J Venhuizen: It would be better to flush sediment to the Gallatin River versus dredging.

J Venhuizen: Move to approve; M Hansen – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approved as Proposed

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Inspection Date: 5/9/2017 Application Number: GD011-17
Applicant: Peter Kahn, Costco Wholesale Corporation
Landowner: Dan Alexander, Cutthroat Partners LLC
Perennial Stream: Unnamed Drainage
Types of Projects: Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction; Bank Stabilization/Alteration; Channel Alteration; Commercial Structure; Wetland Alteration; Placement of Fill; and Pond
Purpose: Currently, Costco has outgrown the size and capacity of its existing Bozeman warehouse and would prefer to stay at the current location versus moving to new, larger location. The purpose of the project is to expand the existing Costco building to meet business demands. This retail expansion requires additional parking to meet City of Bozeman zoning requirements.
Inspection Recommendations: Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments: None

Discussion

M Rotar: The project area is the north side of Costco on the backside that you would not normally see. The north side has nice a wetland with a couple of detention ponds that will be impacted. The plan is to add a couple of meanders move the stream and landscape the area. They had purchased mitigation credits from the Army Corp of Engineers.
B Wright: Would the setback distance from the stream impact the neighbor to the west who might want to build?
M Rotar: Possibly. It would be contingent on the property purchase.
M Hansen: Move to approve as proposed, but note on permit letter about potential impacts due to setback distance; J Schutter – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approved as proposed

Inspection Date: 5/9/2017 Application Number: GD012-17
Applicant: Troy Dorrell
Landowner: Troy Dorrell
Perennial Stream: Middle Creek
Types of Projects: Bank Stabilization/Alteration
Purpose: To prevent bank erosion which could jeopardize the bridge.
Inspection Recommendations: Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments: Riprap placement is fairly limited and within the contraction zone of the bridge (approximately 20' upstream).

Discussion

M Rotar: The project area is on Middle Creek north of Airport Road. The high water is coming in through the abutments of the riprap. Water is undercutting the riprap on the east side and it needs to be reworked (20' of riprap).
B Wright: Move to approve as proposed; S Leep – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approved as proposed

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Inspection Date: 5/9/2017 Application Number: GD013-17
Applicant: Tench Coxe (Americus LLC)
Landowner: Tench Coxe (Americus LLC)
Perennial Stream: Ben Hart Creek
Type of Project: Bank Stabilization/Alteration; Channel Alteration; Channel Alteration; Excavation (Pools/Habitat); Fish Habitat; Wetland Alteration (expansion); Placement of Fill; and Restoration of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Purpose: The purpose of the project is to restore the channel to its natural width, depth, and sinuosity, including reestablishment of woody riparian vegetation. This action will greatly improve trout habitat through the subject reach. The project will also expand the area of emergent wetland vegetation at the site.
Inspection Recommendations: Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments: None

Discussion

M Rotar: This is the continuation of work on Ben Hart Creek. The narrowing of the channel is moving sediment adequately.
D Moser: Different gradient on the creek that helps move the sediment. He suggested that it might be good to monitor multi-year projects such as Thompson Spring Creek and Ben Hart Creek to see if they are still working.
S Leep: Are there grazing management in place?
D Moser: Yes
B Logar: Move to approve as proposed; M Hansen – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Approved as proposed

Inspection Date: 5/10/2017 Application Number: GD014-17
Applicant: Walt Sales
Landowner: Walt Sales
Perennial Stream: Gallatin River
Type of Project: Flood Protection; and Channel Alteration
Purpose: Protect the loss of property in pasture, crops, housing, and critical infrastructure (Interstate, railroad, and county road).
Inspection Recommendations: Did not take action on the permit as proposed because the extent and nature of the proposed action was not clearly defined at this time.
Inspection Comments: We did extensively discuss potential options with Walt while standing next to the subject breach location. Walt may take some type of action in the next several days, at which time we told him he could submit an emergency 310 application that would describe what was done and when we (inspection team) could go look at the work. A pore permanent solution will likely be necessary at this location, however, the design and permitting for that will not be possible until spring runoff flows subside. Walt will be in touch with the CD.

Discussion:

Applicant may submit an emergency 310 if any work is done; otherwise, he may wait until the spring run-off subsides.
B Wright: Move to place on hold due to the lack of information and what applicant plans to do; S Leep – Seconded; Voted: Motion carries

Board Decision – Move to place on hold

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310 New Business:

Longmire Court Holdings, LLC; Pond on property discussion

D Moser: This project was a bridge permit on Bridger Creek. There is controversy about flooding on Bridger Creek. A borrow for the bridge is a pond that is on a bend about 20' from Bridger Creek. It is not appropriate to place a pond that close to the creek. If the pond were breeched, sediment would be an issue. Channel migration may necessitate a 310 in the future. If a future 310 application submits, it would be difficult to support it due to prior bad decisions.

B Logar: How large is the pond? D Moser/M Rotar: About an acre

Thank you for the good heads-up.

Jurisdiction Questions

a. Bridger Creek: John Carpenter property.

M Rotar visited the site with Mr. Carpenter. A large tree on the neighbor's property leaned into Bridger Creek for many years. Mr. Carpenter considered it a hazard and felled it last fall. It now spans across the creek. With the spring runoff, he became alarmed that the tree could accumulate debris and cause flooding. He decided on a wait and see position and there has been no update since the site visit.

b. Bear Creek: Dave Golsner property. Barbed wire fencing that demarcates property lines often clog with debris. Is this jurisdictional? No, the District does not have jurisdiction in this matter.

c. West Paw Ditch: Non-jurisdictional

d. Maynard Border Ditch: Mike Delaney property. Letter sent to Mr. Delaney advising that a 310 application is required prior to the start of project.

e. Mill Creek

M Rotar: He visited Street Ditch and Roy Callentine Ditch off Mill Creek. There was no activity on Roy Callentine Ditch, but he observed rocks that appeared moved manually to divert water at Street Ditch. He did not have the opportunity to visit Crail Ditch.

If a complaint is regarding the amount of water diversion, they should contact the DNRC Water Rights office. People moving rocks should have a maintenance permit with the CD. Maintenance on weirs down the ditch is fine without a permit.

310 Old Business: None

Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business: None

Guest: Laura Demmel, the Northern Plains Representative with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), stopped by to introduce herself to the Board. She is one of three representatives to NACD from Montana (the other two being Steve Hedstrom-Judith Basin CD and Dean Rogge-Garfield CCD). She resides in Bozeman and looks forward to establishing new relationships with Conservation Districts.

The 310 Meeting adjourned at 6:11pm

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Meeting reconvened at 6:29 pm. Guest Paul Gaffney was present.

Cost Share Program

Paul Gaffney presented on his fuel reduction cost share application. Requested funds will be used to remove downed trees in a ½-acre size project. Slash placed in piles to be burned later this fall. B Logar asked if there were any structures in the project area and P Gaffney replied that there were no buildings, only a bridge. S Leep made the motion to approve the cost-share application for \$650; B Logar seconded; Voted: motion carries.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from April 2017 were reviewed. S Leep said that under "**310 New Business:** *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.*" should be corrected to the jurisdiction of Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks through a 124 permit. S Leep moved to approved the amended minutes; B Wright seconded; Voted: motion carries

Executive Session: Entered 6:51 pm. Out of session: 7:41 pm

New Business

a. Request for Youth Camp Sponsorship

The District had sponsored Ms. Lawrence last year and thought she gave a good presentation on her experience.

J Schutter made the motion to sponsor her again this year; S Leep seconded; Voted: motion carries

b. MACD Convention GCD Committee

Tour ideas:

1. Potato producers tour
2. Conservation easement tours
3. Stream reconstruction project

Vacant MACD Area 6 Director

M Hansen had agreed to represent SW Montana as a MACD Area 6 Director. Other Area 6 Directors are Gary Geim (Twin Bridges) and Daryl Stutterheim (Wilsall).

c. Youth Education Coordinator job duties

M Hendrix suggested that maintenance duties be outsourced to allow the Coordinator to devote more time to creating a program and implementing them. She also asked if any Supervisors would be willing to be part of an E&O Center Committee. J Venhuizen and B Logar agreed to be on the committee. J Venhuizen asked if the Committee could meet with Coordinator on Friday May 19.

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John S made the motion to award the mowing contract to Shawna Taylor; B Logar seconded. Voted: motion carries

d. Committees: E&O Center; Convention; Others: Discussions held throughout the meeting.

e. MRCDC River Rendezvous donation

This year's River Rendezvous will tour the St. Mary's Diversion from both the US and Canadian sides. M Hansen asked the board if they would be interested in donating \$50 towards refreshments for this tour. B Wright made the motion to donate \$50; J Venhuizen seconded. Voted: motion carries

Old Business

a. Annual Work Plan

M Hendrix asked if the District might apply for a BSWC member to help build capacity by implementing annual work plan goals. This person should report to Supervisors. Application due date is June 30. J Schutter made the motion to apply for a BSWC member; S Leep seconded. Voted: motion carries

b. Verizon cell phone

The Board approved the District to purchase a cell phone at the last meeting; however, the costs were not discussed. M Hendrix asked for assistance from B Wright. He researched phones and presented at the meeting. Phone purchase can be up to \$400 with a 5MB package.

c. Extension quarter position

The Board asked M Hendrix to contact Brad Bauer on the status of the Shared Extension employee.

Grants/Agreements/Contract Report

NRCS: Justin Meissner

The National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) focus in Gallatin County will remain in the Camp/Godfrey Creek area. They will work on winter-feeding next to the creek, nutrient management, AFO/CAFO and others.

Camp Creek 223 Grant

The RCAC grant presentation will be held in Billings on June 5. It will be held at the LedgeStone Hotel. He asked if a Supervisor would be available to either travel with him to Billings or present over the phone. B Logar mentioned that he will already be in Billings that day and could meet J Meissner there.

Well-Testing Cost Share Program: None

Staff Report: Written Report & Questions

AIS Meetings: Rebecca Ramsey with the Ruby Valley Watershed asked if Gallatin CD would host AIS meetings. M Hendrix asked B Bauer if he would be interested in having one in Bozeman. He mentioned

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that he could and had a contact for someone in Big Sky. The Board agreed to have one in the Conference Room at the District Office, date TBA.

10 Year Permit: What is required for a 10-year permit? Need to reapply with a 310 application every ten years. Need to send reminder letters when permits are soon to be expired.

218: Keep Social Security? As PERS participants, the Administrator and District could opt out of paying social security taxes. M Hendrix stated that she would prefer to keep paying social security taxes, as it is more than just retirement benefits and could affect future District employees as well. The Board agreed to sign the referendum.

Administrator Training: Bi-annual administrators training to be held in Helena June 14-16. M Hendrix would like to attend, however, conflicts with the next Board Meeting. The Board agreed that the administrator should attend the training and the next board meeting rescheduled to June 20.

Permissive Mill Levy for health benefits: Advised the Board about Permissive Mill levy for health benefits and upcoming webinar.

Need signatures:

1. Authorized signature letter for Manhattan Bank before I can order two line checks.
2. Supervisor signature on handbook for new employee

CD Reports: Planning Boards

L Blanksma reported that he had attended a meeting on April 25, 2017. They discussed a zone map amendment on Jackrabbit and Durstan Road. Applicant purchased a 12 ½ acre parcel zoned rural residential and wants it rezoned commercial. This is outside Four Corners zoning. Two to three people expressed opposition to it. Eastern boundary has a dry ditch and has a 100' set back. He supported it; three others voted against it. Commissioners voted against it.

He missed the May 9 meeting where they discussed the budget. He mentioned that the Planning Department was looking to hire an outside consultant for \$75,000 to review and modify the growth policy. Approved \$20,000 for study.

The next meeting after that cancelled. Future meeting scheduled for June 13.

B Logar reported that he had attended a Manhattan City-County Planning Board Meeting on May 17, 2017. There were three items under New Business.

1. Sign permit on Wooden Shoe Lane for Outdoor Power Sports. Committee approved the permit, as the size of sign to building was adequate.

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2. Conditional use permit for a duplex at the edge of town; Triangle Branch Street Duplex. The lot size is 9000 square feet; duplex lot size is 12,000 square feet. The committee did not act on it; the applicant will re-evaluate and resubmit it.
3. Rural minor subdivision exemption on Central Park Road (1 mile to Manhattan). Applicant was asking for a boundary re-alignment to fit septic system on their property.

NRCS Reports: None

Accounting

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

Treasurer's Report

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

CD Seminars/Workshops Ideas

1. Fire Interface workshop in August or September 2017. B Logar mentioned that he knew Pat McAlvey who would be a great presenter. He will contact Pat.
2. A Water Mitigation workshop can be held at any time of the year.
3. Conservation Easement workshop. Would like to consider that at another time.

Correspondence and Handouts: None

Public Comment on District Business: None

Adjournment of Meeting

J Camp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and everybody seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Minutes approved by Jason Camp, Chairman

Date