

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

The Gallatin Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on July 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm. John Venhuizen called the 310 meeting to order at 4:13 pm. Supervisors present: Sherwin Leep, Mike Hansen, and Bob Logar. Staff: Mary Hendrix Excused absence: Jason Camp, Bill Wright and John Schutter

Those present: Chris Mahony-NRCS, David Moser-MFWP, Mike Rotar-RESPEC and Matt Johnson-RESPEC
Guests present: Alex Fox, Mace Mangold, Jeff Prescott, and Troy Benn

Public Comments on District 310 Permitting Business: None

310 Inspection Reports: Decision

Inspection Date: 7/11/2017	Application Number: GD20-17
Applicant:	Adam Johnson, Big Sky Community Organization
Landowner:	Not available
Perennial Stream:	Unnamed
Type of Project:	Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction
Purpose:	To construct a bridge at a stream crossing as part of a recreational trail construction project
Description:	The bridge will allow trail users (hikers and bikers) to safely cross the stream. Construct bridges at one stream crossing with a bridge measuring 25 feet in length. Construction phasing includes 1) install temporary crossing, 2) install grade reversals and straw wattles, 3) excavate and set bridge abutments & construct bridge, and 4) seed disturbed area and install erosion control blankets (if necessary)
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval as proposed Waive 15-Day waiting period
Inspection Comments:	Project as proposed will have very little effect on stream.
Discussion:	M Rotar: This is more of a wetland alteration. It is questionable for a 310, but good that they went through the process. D Moser: The trail sees 40,000 user days. S Leep moved to approve as proposed and a 15-day waiver; M Hansen seconded; motion carries
Board Decision	Approved as proposed 15-Day waiting period waived

Inspection Date: 7/12/2017	Application Number: GD21-17
Applicant:	Tench Coxe (Americus, LLC)
Landowner:	Tench Coxe (Americus, LLC)
Perennial Stream:	Ben Hart Creek
Type of Project:	Excavation (Pools/Habitat)
Type of Project:	Fish Habitat
Type of Project:	Improvement to Existing Structure
Type of Project:	Wetland Alteration (expansion)
Others:	Improvement of Wetland and Fish & Wildlife Habitat; Placement of Fill; Pond (improving existing)
Purpose:	To increase emergent wetland area and improve fish and wildlife habitat in a pre-existing instream pond
Description:	The project will expand the area of emergent wetland vegetation at the site. The project will include pond bank sloping and construction of wetland benches that will replace open water and upland around the pond. Wetland sod will be transferred to the pond edge from expansive existing wetlands adjacent to the sites. The pond will be temporarily drawn down six feet to complete the work proposed. Sod will be salvaged in a checkerboard fashion.
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval as proposed
Inspection Comments:	None

Continued on page 2

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

Inspection Date:	7/11/2017	Application Number:	GD23-17
Applicant:		Justin Kamerman	
Landowner:		Alex Hudson	
Perennial Stream:		Rey Creek	
Type of Project:		Bridge/Culvert/For Construction	
Purpose:		To install a bridge for access to east bank of Rey Creek	
Description:		A bridge constructed of a modified semi-trailer deck to be placed on both stream banks, making both sides of the property accessible.	
Inspection Recommendations:		Approval as proposed	
		Waive 15-Day waiting period	
Inspection Comments:		Final location to be determined in the field, within a segment of channel a couple hundred feet in length that we visited.	
Discussion			
M Rotar:		This project is at Rey Creek south of the interstate in the Madison Valley. There are two other bridges on the property and they did a really good job on both.	
M Hansen:		Does the semi-trailer deck used for bridges have enough strength to hold vehicles?	
M Rotar:		Yes, but I think they will be driving side-by-side or light truck vehicles on these bridges.	
M Hansen:		Inspection comment states final location varies. Why?	
M Rotar:		Based on the site inspection, there is a 50'-60' section that would be appropriate for bridge placement.	
M Hansen:		moved to approve as proposed and a 15-day waiver; S Leep seconded; motion carries	
Board Decision		Approved as proposed	
		15-Day waiting period waived	

Inspection Date:	7/11/2017	Application Number:	GD24-17
Applicant:		Ethan Severson	
Landowner:		Gallatin Airport Authority	
Perennial Stream:		East Dry Creek	
Type of Project:		Irrigation Structure	
Purpose:		To divert irrigation water into an underground pipeline that would replace an irrigation ditch inside the airport operations area	
Description:		Install a horizontal screen structure in the creek that would be connected to an underground pipeline and clean willows and debris from ditch banks for 300 linear feet downstream of new screen box area.	
Inspection Recommendations:		Approval as proposed	
Inspection Comments:		None	
Discussion			
M Rotar:		This is on the west end of the airport. 300'	
Board Decision		Approved as proposed	

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

Inspection Date: 7/11/2017	Application Number: GD25-17
Applicant:	Gary & Merrilyn Mattson
Landowner:	Gary & Merrilyn Mattson
Perennial Stream:	Bill Smith Creek
Type of Project:	Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction
Purpose:	Driveway crossing of Bill Smith Creek to access building site
Description:	Place 42-inch squash culvert in creek bed, fill over culvert with road base. Culvert length is 40 feet.
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval as proposed Waive 15-Day waiting period
Inspection Comments:	Project is appropriate as proposed. Recommend countersinking (embedding) culvert 6" into existing streambed.
Discussion	
M Rotar:	This is an access to a private building site. There is a deep channel and a small riparian area. The channel is 3'-4' wide at the bottom. A bridge would have been nicer, but a culver can work here.
D Moser:	This probably not a fish-bearing stream. They will need to bring in 6' – 8' of fill to put over the culvert.
S Leep	moved to approve a proposed + Inspection Comments and a 15-day waiver; B Logar seconded; motion carries.
Board Decision	Approved as proposed + Inspection Comments 15-Day waiting period waived

Inspection Date: 7/11/2017	Application Number: GD26-17
Applicant:	Teresa Ax
Landowner:	Teresa Ax
Perennial Stream:	Middle Creek
Type of Project:	Other: Property line fence replacement
Purpose:	Replace four fence posts and span vertical PVC posts attached to a top wire across the creek to give animals a visual of a fenced area. The PVC posts will not impact the creek and allow water and debris to freely flow. 30'50' span.
Inspection Recommendations:	Approval with modifications Waive 15-Day waiting period
Inspection Comments:	Fencing materials should be maintained approximately 2' above existing ground level to allow high flows to access floodplain on an annual basis.
Discussion:	None recorded, minute taker on official phone call
M Hansen	moved to approve as proposed + Inspection Comments and a 15-day waiver; S Leep seconded; motion carries.
Board Decision	Approved as proposed + Inspection Comments 15-Day waiting period waived Follow-up inspection

Inspection Date: 7/11/2017	Application Number: GD27-17
Applicant:	Sundance Springs Residential Owners Association (Mario Parisio)
Landowner:	Sundance Springs Residential Owners Association (Mario Parisio)
Perennial Stream:	Unnamed irrigation lateral in the Sundance Springs Subdivision
Type of Project:	Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction
Purpose:	To install a culvert within an unnamed irrigation lateral within the open space of Sundance Springs Subdivision
Inspection Recommendations:	Withdraw
Inspection Comments:	Project is determined to be non-jurisdictional
S Leep	moved to withdraw application due to project not a project; B Logar seconded; motion carries.
Board Decision:	Not a project

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

Inspection Date:	7/18/2017	Application Number:	GD30-17
Applicant:		Jeff Prescott	
Landowner:		Peter and Suzan Scott	
Perennial Stream:		Unnamed Tributary to the Gallatin River	
Type of Project:		Bridge/Culvert/Ford Construction	
Type of Project:		Road Construction/Maintenance	
Type of Project:		Wetland Alteration	
Type of Project:		Placement of Fill	
Purpose:		Construct a driveway to access the Prescott property from Glacier Mountain Lane	
Description:		The proposed driveway will be constructed within and immediately outside (east) of the Prescott right-of-way easement, which requires crossing an unnamed tributary to the Gallatin River. The driveway will cross the unnamed tributary and its adjacent wetland fringe and permanently impact a total of 0.007 acres of jurisdictional wetland and non-wetland waters of the U.S. The wetlands within the project area will be filled a 3-foot diameter metal culvert installed for the driveway to cross over the channel.	
Inspection Recommendations:		Approval with modifications	
Inspection Comments:		Limited detail provided so we recommend 6" culvert embedment below existing ground/channel bed. Also, 1' clear cover recommended. Bend in culvert proposed may be problematic/prone to plugging, constructability, etc. Would like to know if working in wet or if dewatering is proposed. Ensure contractor re-seeds following construction as stated.	
Discussion:			
M Rotar:	Will this be a straight culvert?		
J Prescott:	Yes		
M Johnson:	Are there plans to dewater?		
J Prescott:	They are not planning on dewatering.		
D Moser:	Do all the prep first then do the project quickly.		
J Prescott:	We will pull the existing culvert first then put in the new culvert.		
M Johnson:	6' culvert?		
D Moser:	DEQ 318: If the contractor follows everything, you should be fine		
B Logar:	One foot clear cover?		
M Johnson:	Recommend incorporating into project. One foot over the top of the culvert.		
B Logar:	approved with modifications + inspection comments (removing the bend in the culvert + dewatering); S Leep seconded; motion carries.		
Board Decision:		Approval with modifications + Inspection Comments	

310 New Business: RESPEC Contract Renewal & Hourly Rates

M Hendrix mentioned that she is in contact with Don McIntyre and Laurie Zeller. She will update the board at the next meeting.

310 Old Business: Irrigation Blocks. Who makes them for the District. S Leep thought that the District no longer sells this product. Asked to have content redirect interested buyers to a known source in the county.

The 310 Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

The Business Meeting convened at 6:29 pm. Guest present: Annika and Martin Lawrence

Annika and her dad, Martin Lawrence, stopped by to thank the District for sponsoring her to attend the Montana Youth Camp held this year in Two Dot. She really enjoyed herself and learned a lot.

Grants/Agreements/Contract Report

We were not funded for the Watershed Management Grant. There were 13 applications asking for \$281,000 and they funded around \$100,000. Do we want to proceed with the application for a Big Sky Watershed Corp person? The board decided not at this time.

Consensus Agenda

- a. June Meeting minutes
- b. Staff Reports

M Hansen moved to approve the consensus agenda; S Leep seconded; motion carries

Financials reports were taken out of the consensus agenda due to changes. The updated financials were reviewed. M Hansen moved to approve the financials; B Logar seconded; motion carries.

New Business

Old Business

Well-Testing Cost Share Program: None

Staff Report: Written Report & Questions

CD Reports: Planning Boards

B Logar mentioned that there were three new business items on the Manhattan City Planning Board meeting.

1. Sewer pre-application: Jefferson Island LLC. The conservation easement allows one more home, but it would be built in the floodplain and it doesn't meet septic requirements. The applicant is asking if the town would support running a sewer line two miles to the building site. They would be willing to pay a substantial portion of the cost.
2. Exemption claim: The applicant is looking to subdivide 1 ½ acres from their 20 acres to their children. The board moved to approve this.
3. 116 Branch Street: The applicant is looking to subdivide 15,000 square feet from their 31 acres to give to his daughter to build a modular duplex. The board moved to approve this.

MACD District Director Report-M Hansen provided a written report:

Met with Lewis & Clark Conservation District on 7/13 from 8:30 to 11:15 AM at Dearborn Community Center.

Discussed MACD for about an hour near the end of the meeting. Broad discontent across several board members, but not consistent. Each of three voiced different issues ranging from strong dislike of Elena, disagreement with the lobbying approach to problems with MACD leadership and the Executive committee.

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

The L&C CD, in my estimation will not support MACD in the near future and is beginning to take an active role in the alternative to MACD being promoted at the District Summit in Lewistown just prior to the MACD Convention.

From what I know and understand, I would not recommend GCD jumping on the Summit bandwagon at this point.

NRCS Reports

- Water year to Date Precipitation; % of Normal (as of 7/19/2017)
 - Gallatin; 111%
 - Madison; 118%
 - Jefferson; 111%
 - Yellowstone; 122%

- Programs
 - Contracted one additional National Water Quality Initiative Application
 - Review; Pivot, and wheeline pipeline, irrigation control structure, pump, variable speed motor to convert irrigation system from flood irrigation to sprinkler. Located on Camp Creek
 - One 2017 CSP application preapproved
 - Three 2018 CSP renewals (Fall 2017)

- National Water Quality Initiative
 - Sampling events
 - June 7-8; completed
 - July 18-19; completed
 - August 21-22; planned
 - September 18-19; planned

- General
 - Attended MSU Post Farm Tour
 - Camp Creek 223 grant; anticipate work to begin in mid August
 - Photo monitoring for 223 grant set up with MSU extension; Adam Zigler
 - To date; completed 8 HEL determinations since the 1st of the year
 - Fire-wise workshop @ Cottonwood Fire Station

Accounting

Invoice, deposit and the credit card statements were reviewed. M Hansen made the motion to pay invoices; S Leep seconded; motion carries

CD Seminars/Workshops Ideas: None

Other Events

Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum would like to present at the next board meeting. The Supervisors agreed.

Gallatin Conservation District Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

Rebecca Mayfield Ramsey asked if the District would host a wrap-up presentation of the Channel Migration Study during the first week of December in Three Forks. The Supervisors agreed, but suggested that the meeting be held in the District conference room from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, date TBA.

The Lower Gallatin Drought Forum will host a meeting in the District conference room August 15 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Stacey Barta with DNRC asked if the District might be interested in hosting the Montana Youth Camp in 2019. M Hendrix contacted the Lions Camp at Hyalite Lake and has tentatively reserved June 25th (afternoon) to June 28th, 2019.

MACD Convention: The Employee Organization (EO) event Wednesday, November 15th will be a “Tailgate Party.” M Hendrix asked if anyone had any tailgate appropriate games and S Leep volunteered two corn-hole games for use at the event. Also, the live auction item per Area will be a “Travel Case” for “Love you to the Moon and back” theme.

Correspondence and Handouts

Kick Start Real Change flyer

Adjournment of Meeting

J Venhuizen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and everybody seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm. The next scheduled board meeting will be Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Minutes approved by Jason Camp, Chairman

Date