

**STILLWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Columbus Fire Department (944 E. Pike Ave. Columbus, MT)**  
**July 12th, 2022 at 6:00PM**

Meeting called to order by Will Downs at 6:09pm

**Supervisors Present:** *Will Downs, (Chairman) , Noel Keogh (supervisor), Robert Van Oosten (Vice Chairman), Butch Behrent (Treasurer)*

**Supervisors Absent:** *Kenneth Kem, Steve Story, Krist Walstad (NRCS)*

**Others Present:** *Sharon Flemetis (EWP Project Manager), Garrett Larson (NRCS) Jessica Leuthold (Carbon cd), Keri Bilbo (NRCS), Robert Molacek (State Conservation Engineer), Tyler (NRCS Engineer), Bryan Giordano (FWP area 5, biologist), Jason Garber (Bureau Stream Permitting Coordinator)Kylie Ballbach*

*Will opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation for all dedication and support that has been and continues to be given to all the families and businesses affected by this tragic 500 year flood. A special thanks was given to both Sharon and Garrett.*

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting: *Noel*

Seconded: *Bob*

Discussion: *none*

Vote: *approved*

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion to approve payment of bills as listed: *Noel*

Seconded: *Bob*

Discussion: *member asked will the EWP help pay for time spent on EWP inspections as the damage that occurred has resulted in a significant increase of permits needed to rebuild our communities.? As the financial spokesperson, Sharon confirmed that a plan is being placed. No other questions or comments, discussion closed.*

motion to approve, Sharon to propose plan at future meeting: *Noel*

Seconded: *Bob*

Vote: *approved*

**REPORTS**

**Robert "Bob" Van Oosten-** *nothing to report*

**Butch Behrent –** *SVWC Fundraiser is Aug 11th, tickets are still available.*

**Will Downs –** *nothing to report*

**Garrett-** *Cedar and Mark have been keeping up with the daily work loads while I have been more focused on the flood relief and EWP. They have been alternating taking Sawyer, the intern out in the field. have him installing the new vehicle tracking system and card reader that the department recently received, as well as other projects.*

**Noel Keogh-** *nothing to report, missed last meeting.*

**Sharon Flemetis-** *Lindsay with the Watershed please contact her if the districts need anything. She is willing to help however possible. There is new funding for both Stillwater and Carbon Conservation that will be for funding water quality projects. This means cleaning up anything in only the water, if there is a possibility of having a negative impact on water quality.*

**Public Comment (3 Minute Limit)**

## 310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

APPL. #	Name	Stream	Project	Received	Approved/denied
22-018E	Terry Finley	Stillwater	temp fix riprap to protect structure	6/14/2022	<i>275 approved with modifications. M: Noel / S Bob / Noel Withdrawal *Discussion: must stick with the 90 day deadline for submission and approval.. M: Noel / S: Bob / passed</i>
22-021E	Lynn Messenger	Fishtail	Riprap repair to prevent further damage	6/16/2022	<i>275 approved with modifications-key rip rap needs to be keyed in. M: Bob / S: Noel / passed</i>
22-022E	Rodney Goodell	Rosebud	Bank Stabilization	6/16/2022	<i>275 approved with modifications--must complete another site visit for proper modifications on the 310 permit.. M: Noel / S: Bob / Passed 6/27/2022</i>
22-023	Steve / Cindy Merriam	Stillwater	Bank Stabilization, debris removal and protection	6/21/2022	<i>310 denied- Incomplete application M: Bob / S: Noel / passed</i>
22-093E	Murphy Mills Asset	Horse Creek	Diversion repair	7/11/2022	<i>275 approved M: Will / S: Bob / Passed 7/11/2022</i>
22-094E	Murphy Mills Asset	Rosebud	Rip rap repair	7/11/2022	<i>275 approved M: Will / S: Bob / Passed 7/11/2022</i>
22-025E	Judith Degele	Stillwater	River took water well	6/21/2022	EWP reviewed
22-027E	Beartooth Ranch, Butch	Stillwater	Rd and levee washout to hayfield	6/21/2022	EWP reviewed
22-028E	Beartooth Ranch, Butch	Stillwater	Headgate Replacement	6/21/2022	EWP reviewed
22-030E	Gerald / Tammy Frye	Rosebud	erosion created foundation damage, Electric exposed	6/22/2022	EWP reviewed
22-031E	Jon Skiles / Circle T Sub	Stillwater/ Rosebud	2000 cuyd angular rip rock placed at Rosebud Cr to protect homes from being destroyed	6/22/2022	EWP reviewed
22-032E	Dennis / Laurie Sticka	Stillwater	River bank build up	6/22/2022	EWP reviewed
22-056	Stillwater Mine	Stillwater		6/28/2022	EWP reviewed
22-059	Buffalo Jump	Stillwater	Rip rap added	6/23/2022	EWP reviewed
22-062E	Stacy Biel	Stillwater	Well and septic tank compromised, water damage to garage, trenches dug to divert water	6/22/2022	EWP reviewed
22-055E / 22-064	Lloyd Joines	Stillwater	Bank erosion threatening house	6/29/2022	EWP reviewed
22-075E	Shane Ditch Co	Stillwater	Repair headgate and diversion wall	6/22/2022	EWP reviewed
22-085	Noel Keogh	Stillwater	Riprap for bridge stabilization	7/7/2022	EWP reviewed
22-086	Noel Keogh	Stillwater	Replace blocks and lower end of bridge	7/7/2022	EWP reviewed
22-088E	Setab Corp. Deborah DePietro	Fishtail Creek	Bridge repair, rip rap	7/5/2022	EWP reviewed
22-096	Stillwater Mine				EWP Reviewed

## OLD BUSINESS

### Follow Up 310 Applications/Complaints

Big Ditch Complaint- *Permit approved and sent to Army Corps of Engineers for 404 permit. **Get update***  
Italian Ditch/Old Mill Ditch Complaint – *Army Corp of Engineers still has it pending. Marena (USACE) is in contact with the Ditch President to get an application submitted to all agencies as soon as possible. **Get update***

## GRANT UPDATES

RRGL Mendenhall Ditch intake and Drop Structure. *Bid in the summer, work starts in the fall. Invoice signature needed.*

223 Grant- Water Quality *Invoice 001 – payment received. – Invoice 002 – needs signature*

## NEW BUSINESS

Rob Molacek with DNRC presents facts about document revision for EWP and answers questions about the EWP flood relief program.

- Break down of total contribution amount to be dispensed if EWP is approved:
  - ◆ 75% of total fund amount for construction cost
  - ◆ 25% Sponsor of construction cost
  - ◆ 7.5% Technical Assistance
  - ◆ Still in process of finalizing agreement
  - ◆ Conservation District coordinates ALL agreements and permissions with landowner with the exception of final acceptance and construction for the program.
  - ◆ financial concerns as many great questions lead to more clear understanding of program specifics.

motion to approve and sign proposed revised first draft: **Bob**

Seconded: **Will**

Abstained: **Butch and Noel**

Discussion:

- concerns about timelines, restrictions and staffing if we move forward with the program.
- Will proposes Sharon be transferred to full time for the EWP program for both Stillwater and Carbon(Carbon to meet 7/13/22). Then Stillwater will hire a temporary person to handle permits and other daily duties of the position, as Jessica took the full time position with Carbon Conservation. This could help relieve financial concerns in the district.
- Noel asks if there are any other alternatives? Sharon responds that she is actively seeking other funding opportunities for flood relief.

motion to transfer Sharon to the EWP project: **Bob**

Seconded: **Will**

Abstain: **Noel**

Withdraw: **Butch**

Discussion:

- Due to verbage

Motion for Sharon to focus her time on the EWP program: **Bob**

Seconded: **Will**

Abstained: *Butch and Noel*

Discussion: *no*

vote: *approved*

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) put on the table for discussion. Suggestions for agreements, fees or regulations to be included on MOU were welcomed. Sharon to draft an MOU and present at the next board meeting. If MOU between landowner and conservation district is approved Bryan mentioned Fish, Wildlife and Parks will have to take over the permitting process. The permit owners would then need to apply for 124 permits via FWP.

Motion to move forward on Sharon creating an MOU for the board to vote on at the next meeting: *Bob*

Seconded: *Will*

Abstained: *Noel*

Discussion:

- reservations of financial accountability
- If Sharon takes on EWP projects FWP would have to be responsible for permits. This would be 124 permits instead of 310, only for the EWP program.

Motion to move forward on Sharon creating the MOU and fee schedule for the board to vote on at the next meeting: *Bob*

Seconded: *Noel*

Abstained: *Butch*

Vote: *approved*

### **Stillwater CD- SAVE THE DATE:**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> -SCD Board Meeting**

**August 2nd – SCD Board Meeting**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: *Will*

SECONDED: *Noel*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:08 pm

Approved on