



Stillwater Conservation District

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April 2nd Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting called to order by: **Robert Van Oosten at 6:07 pm.**

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

Supervisors Approved Absent: Noel Keogh (*Vice Chairman*)

Others Present: Sharon Flemetis (*District Admin*), Celeste Barnett (*310/Volunteer Coordinator*), Garrett Larson (*NRCS*), Walter Clapp, Jackie Coffin

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Motion to approve **revised** minutes from 02/06/24 Meeting: **Nate**

Seconded: **Ben**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Approved**

Motion to approve minutes from 03/20/24 Special Meeting: **Ben**

Seconded: **Nate**

Discussion: none

Vote: **Approved**

Public Comment (3 Minute Limit)

Walter Clapp asked the board to consider the information he previously sent in an email.

He reserved the rest of his time for the D4 Properties 310 application discussion.

Reports

Robert "Bob" Van Oosten – No Report

Butch Behrent – Watershed Meeting 4/7 in Fishtail at 6pm, 8/7 will be the get-together.

Steve Story – No Report

Darryl Thompson – No Report

Noel Keogh- Approved Absent

Ben Walker- No Report

Nate Jones – No Report

Garrett Larson- Ventenata program is wrapping up, this is the last sign-up year for it. Had 18 Fire Mitigation sites and is hoping to double that next year.

Sharon Flemetis – No Report
Celeste Barnett – No Report

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Presented by Sharon Flemetis

Motion To Approve Reports & Pay Warrants: **Nate**

Seconded: **Steve**

Discussion: None

Vote: **Approved**

Walter Clapp requested a copy of the approved financial reports & received them.

GRANT UPDATES

EWP- Two projects away from being completed in Stillwater County. Have several projects still in Carbon County. FWP wanting changes on Bartlett Canal, other projects still waiting on engineering, permits, & weather.

Mendenhall – On Phase II – Drop Structure 1, have invoices that need reimbursement from DNRC. Waiting on pipe.

Forestry/ERLA – EWP project on hold until Forestry approval.

EC – Identified 18 Debris Sites. Would like to hand off grant funds to the RATT Team, they are willing to hire the contractor for the project and handle the financials, SCD will help with coordination as needed.

Motion to release remainder of the EC Funds to the RATT Team: **Steve**

Seconded: **Nate** **Discussion:** None **Vote:** **Approved**

ARPA Danford – We will have the bond in tomorrow from the contractor & can then sign the notice to proceed. Want to have construction finished before the ditch needs the headgate.

ARPA Orchard– Received a letter from the landowner’s attorney & DNRC along with the SCD are pushing the engineer to complete the design.

Admin- Signed & executed, awaiting receipt.

NEW BUSINESS

310 Completion Form – Form based on an example from DNRC, will help us get photos of completed projects and we will only need to inspect at the Board’s discretion.

310 Extension Request Form - Have just been requesting an email for extensions, this gives us more specific info to present to the Board with extension requests.

OLD BUSINESS

NRCS TA Funding – Received the amended agreement, \$12,000.00 for Stillwater and \$76,000.00 for Carbon to complete EWP projects Technical Assistance needs.

Conservation Days – Working on our plans, will be visiting the site soon.

Rain Barrel Workshop- Getting close to setting a date. Sharon will be taking a vacation day and personally attending another CD’s workshop.

New File Cabinets Update- We found 3 cabinets we would like, and 360 Office Supply gave us the best price, which includes delivery and installation.

Motion to purchase the cabinets presented: **Nate** **Seconded:** **Steve** **Discussion:** None **Vote:** **Approved**

Personnel Related Issue – Chairman Closed Meeting for Discussion and Guests Were Asked To Leave

Meeting was re-opened at 7:35pm, Walter Clapp & Jackie Coffin re-joined the meeting, Garrett Larson did not.

310 APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

| APPL. # | Name | Stream | Project | Rec'd | Decision |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| #23-088 | D4 Properties | Rosebud | Bank Stabilization Riprap | 12/15/2023 Tabled 1/9 Tabled 2/6 Tabled 3/5 | Motion To Approve with Modifications: Ben Second: Nate Discussion: Chairman Closed Meeting for Discussion and Guests Were Asked To Leave Vote: Approved Walter Clapp asked for the remainder of his time, he stated that meetings should only be closed for privacy and actual litigation strategy not because of threat of litigation. He would like the SCD to be more transparent. |
| #23-013 | Midnight Canyon | Stillwater River | Bridge repair | Extension request Tabled 3/5 | Motion to deny due to new engineered plans: Steve Second: Nate Discussion: None Vote: Approved |

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|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| #23-017 | Mike Kinsey | Yellowstone River | Bank Stabilization | Extension request – hasn't done project yet | Motion to approve 1 year extension: Nate Second: Ben Discussion: none Vote: Approved |
| #23-029 | Noel Keogh | Horseman Creek | Bank Stabilization | Extension Request – part of the permit done but not the Riprap needed at 191 Nye Rd | Motion to approve 1 year extension: Butch Second: Nate Discussion: none Vote: Approved |
| #24-02 | Beth Schultz | W Fork Stillwater | Bank Stabilization Riprap | 3/19/34 | Motion to approve with modifications: Nate Second: Steve Discussion: none Vote: Approved |
| #24-04 | Don Beer | Whitebird Creek | Walking Bridge | 3/21/24 | Motion to Approve: Butch Second: Nate Discussion: none Vote: Approved |
| #24-05M | Big Ditch | Yellowstone River | Maintenance | 3/25/24 | Motion to approve a 5 year maintenance permit: Steve Second: Butch Discussion: none Vote: Approved |
| #24-03M | Cove Ditch | Yellowstone River | Maintenance | 3/25/24 | Motion to approve a 5 year maintenance permit: Nate Second: Ben Discussion: none Vote: Approved |

UNRESOLVED COMPLAINTS & VIOLATIONS

#23-052V **Judy Krone** – Delivered a letter to the Sheriff's office to be served to her today.

#23-064V Montana Rail Link & #23-070V Montana Rail Link – To be inspected after May 15th

#22-034 Ms. Peck – Noel, Sharon, Celeste & Bryan visited her site. Work was done well and only suggestion was to plant some willows at the toe. We will ask her to send in a new application for an after the fact permit.

#22-073C Al Hogan – Need to close out this complaint, we have no proof just the word of the neighbor.

Motion to close due to no new complaints: Steve Seconded: **Nate** Discussion: None **Vote: Approved**

Save The Dates

May 2, 2024 - Site Inspections

May 7, 2024 – TREE PLANTING WITH THE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

May 7, 2024 - Monthly Board Meeting 6pm

May 14, 2024 – CONSERVATION DAY

May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day

May 30, 2024 - Site Inspections

June 4, 2024 - Monthly Board Meeting 6pm

June 19, 2024 – Juneteenth

July 2, 2024 - Monthly Board Meeting 6pm

July 4, 2024 – Independence Day

August 1, 2024 - Site Inspections

August 6, 2024 - Monthly Board Meeting 6pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING: Butch

SECONDED: Nate

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:32pm

Minutes Approved on:

Minutes Approved By _____ Date: _____

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 Records Office.